

and for abnormal descent. It will be best, perhaps, to consider the latter condition first, for here the descent has been satisfactorily accomplished, but, for some reason, the normal position has not been attained; often it will be found that the testicle has actually travelled further than would be necessary for it to reach the scrotum. There is very little doubt that, in most cases of ectopia, the abnormal position of the testicle is due to some abnormality about the attachment of the lower end of the gubernaculum. It has been seen that this structure, normally, is connected with a number of structures in addition to the skin of the scrotum, and the abnormally descended testicle appears to be drawn into its unusual position by the action of one or more of these groups of fibres. Probably the attachment to the scrotum is weaker than it should be, and the testicle is displaced by the action of the stronger fibres.

For example, in perineal ectopia, it would seem that the testicle is drawn beyond the scrotum into the perineum by the action of the fibres of the gubernaculum which pass to this region, and which may be attached to the ischium; presumably this fasciculus is, in these cases, stronger, or at any rate has a stronger action than, that division of the gubernaculum which has a scrotal attachment. The abnormal arrangement of the gubernaculum may be verified at operations for ectopia testis.

Another possible cause of the ectopia is that the testis may be displaced to its unusual position by the pressure of a co-existing hernia. This is especially likely when the testicle is displaced either towards the anterior superior spine or into Scarpa's triangle. The occasional association of an interstitial hernia with a displaced testicle strongly suggests that the unusual position and arrangement of the hernial sac is due to some interference with the descent of the hernia by the testicle, and, if this is so, it would seem to be equally possible that in some cases the pressure of the hernia might have an effect in displacing the testicle.

The gubernaculum is likewise, in all probability, mainly responsible for the imperfect descent of the testicle, though it is likely that other factors also play a more or less important