

Not only so, but when the head of the pancreas embraces the common bile duct, should a gall stone pass down, it will almost certainly exercise pressure on the gland, and thus directly interfere with its function and with the discharge of its secretion.

The fourth portion is where the duct enters the wall of the second part of the duodenum and ends in the ampulla of Vater, into which small cavity the duct of Wirsung also debouches. This part of the common duct comprises all that portion of the canal contained in the thickness of the wall of the duodenum. It passes obliquely through the muscular coat of the intestine, and then dilates into a little reservoir underneath the mucous membrane, into which the main pancreatic duct also opens. This is known as the ampulla of Vater. This ampulla, a little oval cavity, may be well seen in a section of the wall of the duodenum, in the axis of the common duct. The opening of the common duct is above that of the pancreatic duct, and the two are separated by a little transverse fold of mucous membrane. The ampulla measures from six to seven millimetres in length, and from four to five in breadth, and with the termination of the two ducts, is surrounded by a thin layer of unstriated muscular tissue, forming a sphincter (Oddi).

The ampulla opens into the duodenum by a little round or elliptical orifice, which is the narrowest part of the bile channel. It is important to note that the length of the diverticulum of Vater may vary from zero to 11 millimetres, the average being 3.9 millimetres, according to Opie, who measured one hundred specimens. Viewed from the interior of the duodenum the ampulla forms a rounded eminence of the mucous membrane, known as the *caruncula major* of Santorini, the opening being seen at the apex of the caruncle. It is distant 8 to 12 centimetres from the pylorus. Above it there is constantly found a small fold of mucous membrane, which must be raised in order that the caruncle and its orifice may be clearly seen. Running downwards from the caruncle is a small vertical fold of mucous membrane known as the *frenum carunculae*. Above the *caruncula major* is found a smaller eminence, the *caruncula minor*, marking the termination of the accessory pancreatic duct, or duct of Santorini, which opens into the duodenum about three-quarters of an inch above the biliary papilla.

The mode of formation of the ampulla of Vater and the termination of the common and pancreatic ducts are liable to great variations.

Letulle and Nattan-Lorrier distinguish four types, to which may be added a fifth, recently shown by a dissection now in the Hunterian Museum.

The first type is the classical one described above. In the second type the pancreatic duct joins the common duct some little distance from