assertion more often made than that the retroverted unfixed uterus becomes replaced, *i. e.*, anteverted, when the genu-pectoral posture is assumed and the vaginal orifice opened up. This is an undoubted error. The uterus really moves farther from the pelvic outlet, and becomes more retroverted. From the former fact the fundus of the retroverted uterus is not felt through the posterior fornix, but it has not become replaced, as the bimanual will show." "The genu-pectoral position is awkward and inconvenient, and only useful in ovarian congestion and replacement of the *gravid* retroverted uterus," but even in the latter he believes the genu-pectoral position *alone* does no good, the use of the volsella being necessary to draw down the cervix.

Skene's tubes in the wall of the female urethra are figured, and are described as the representations of Gaertner's canals. This is the opinion held by Skene, Kocks, and Bohm, but Max Schüller considers them to be the ducts of a pair of glands he has found in the upper part of the urethra; recently Carl Reider has traced the remains of Gaertner's ducts in the uterine and vaginal walls, but he does not appear to have made out their continuity with Skene's tubules. It seems probable that the tubules are not parts of Gaertner's ducts, as, if they were, they should terminate in the vagina, and not in the urethra.

The work throughout contains much that is speculative and even more that is theoretical, but it is well abreast of the science of the present day, and cannot fail to suggest even where it fails to convince. As an exposition of anatomical details in their relation to obstetrics and gynæcology, it has no rival in the English language, and we may predict that it will for years to come occupy the position of a standard work of reference on these subjects.

The Surgical Treatment of Tumours and other Obscure Conditions of the Bladder. By WALTER WHITEHEAD, F.R.C.S., and BILTON POLLARD, M.D., F.R.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill.

THIS most useful and interesting pamphlet was written with the view of corroborating Sir Henry Thompson's observations on the digital exploration of the bladder through a perinæal section, as a means of diagnosis in obscure cases, and for the purpose of giving relief, especially in cases of tumour. After a careful description of the operation, the authors give minute

details of 10 cases which have fallen under their observation and treatment, with the results. Of these, 8 were males and 2 females. In 4 males and 2 females a tumour was found and removed; in the others no tumour was found. All of these recovered from the operation, which is not therefore a very dangerous one; but only 4 males can be said to have been permanently benefitted, as the others died within three months from uræmia or phthisis. Both females recovered completely. As these numbers are too few for statistical purposes, the authors have added in an appendix notes of all the cases of tumour of the bladder with which they were acquainted, a list which will be found most useful for reference, and which shows that the results of median urethrotomy in these obscure and difficult cases will compare favourably with those of any other major operation.

The Non-Bacillar Nature of Abrus-Poison, with observations on its Chemical and Physiological Properties. By L. A. WADDELL, M.B., Surgeon I. M. S., Offg. Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, Calcutta. Calcutta, 1884.

THE observations recorded in this excellent monograph were made in Calcutta and under the immediate superintendence of Dr. Koch, who was then prosecuting his investigations on cholera at Calcutta. They may be received therefore with greater authority than the author can lay claim to, although in the style of work and its presentation, great scientific ability are shown, and a promise of eminence is given.

The seeds of the abrus or Indian liquorice plant, are used hypodermically in India for poisoning cattle, and also occasionally for committing murder. The effects of the poison are somewhat different from those of ordinary chemical poisons, chiefly in respect that the symptoms do not show themselves for some hours after administration. Several observers have recently asserted that the symptoms are due to the action of bacteria, which are stated to be present in the seeds of the plant and to multiply in the wound after injection, afterwards penetrating to the blood and so producing the general symptoms of poisoning.

The present author, after a very careful series of observations and experiments, comes to the conclusion that there are no bacteria in the seeds, and that their action is not due in any sense to micro-organisms. Bacteria may be present in the wound, but they are secondary or innocuous. If large doses