

prove acceptable to some, would probably be objected to by other anatomists. The facts being stated, such views may be based upon them as may occur to different morphologists.

Thus defined the lumbo-sacral nerves are thirteen in number.

The anterior division of the first lumbo-sacral nerve, in respect of its distribution, closely resembles the last dorsal nerve. It extends downwards, parallel to the anterior division of the last dorsal nerve, and breaks up into branches which supply the muscles and skin of the anterior abdominal wall. This nerve has no connection with either the last dorsal or the second lumbar nerve in any species except *Eudypetes chrysocome* from Tristan, and hence takes no share in the formation of the crural plexus.

The second lumbo-sacral nerve gives off a branch which passes downwards, parallel to the first lumbo-sacral nerve, which it closely resembles in its course and distribution. It is distributed to the muscles of the abdominal wall. Having given off this branch, the second lumbar nerve unites with the anterior division of the third and a portion of the fourth lumbar nerve to form the crural plexus.

The Crural Plexus.

The crural plexus (fig. 2) is formed by the union of a portion of the second with the whole of the third and one-half of the fourth of the anterior divisions of the lumbo-sacral nerves. These nerves unite to form a plexiform arrangement, from which two large nerves—the crural and obturator—are derived.

The Crural Nerve.

The crural nerve (1)¹ is formed by the union of branches from the second, third, and fourth lumbar nerves. It passes from the pelvic cavity in company with the crural artery and vein, and, having reached the inner side of the thigh, at once breaks up into a number of branches, which are distributed as follows:—

(a) A branch (2) enters the posterior border of the *sartorius* and supplies that muscle.

(b) Three branches (3, 4, and 5) are given off close together from the crural nerve, immediately after the latter has escaped from the pelvic cavity. They pass to the *rectus femoris*, *gluteus medius*, and *gluteus minimus* respectively, and enter the deeper surfaces of these muscles. The branch to the *rectus femoris* also supplies the *tensor fasciæ femoris*.

(c) Three or four twigs derived from the crural nerve (6) are distributed to the *extensor cruris* muscle, and along with these two branches pass off for the supply of the *gracilis* (7) and *ambiens* (8) muscles.

(d) The crural nerve also supplies a branch to the *pectineus*.

(e) A large *cutaneous* nerve (9), derived from the crural trunk, in addition to the

¹ The figures in brackets refer to the annexed diagram of the crural and sciatic plexus.