

muscle in the *Cuscus*, and contains a great number of tendinous fibres in its composition.

The abductors of the little toe are only two in number—one inserted into the base of the fifth metatarsal, and the other partly into the outer sesamoid bone, and partly into the extensor tendon at the base of the minimus.

The dorsal interossei are dorsal in position, and can best be inspected upon the dorsal aspect of the foot. The first or abductor indicis agrees in almost every respect with the corresponding muscle in *Cuscus*. The second, as in *Cuscus*, is apparently absent, but an examination of the inner head of the flexor brevis medii, shows that it has in reality coalesced with it, as this fleshy slip extends upwards between the metatarsals to the dorsum of the foot, so that when viewed from this aspect it seems to be the absent muscle, whilst viewed from the sole, it gives the observer the impression of its being the flexor. The third is a single-headed prismatic muscle, which takes origin from the dorsal surface of the contiguous bases of the third and fourth metatarsals. At the distal extremity of the interosseous space in which it lies, it ends in a tendon which bifurcates to be inserted into the adjacent sides of the bases of the first phalanges of the medius and annularis. Clearly, then, it acts as an approximator of these digits. This muscle therefore corresponds with the same muscle in *Cuscus*, except in its not being supplied with a separate abducting slip for the medius. The fourth dorsal interosseus is a very remarkable muscle. It is not nearly so dorsal in position as the others, still it can readily be seen between the metatarsals from this point of view. It consists of two well-marked fleshy slips. Of these one arises from the plantar aspect of the base of the metatarsal bone of the minimus, and is inserted into the summit (*i.e.*, centre) of an exceedingly powerful tendinous arch which is attached by its extremities to the adjacent sides of the bases of the proximal phalanges of the annularis and minimus. The second slip springs from the plantar surface of the base of the fourth metatarsal bone, and is inserted into the inner end of the tendinous arch (*i.e.*, that extremity which is fixed to the outer aspect of the root of the annularis). This compound muscle therefore resembles the corresponding muscle of *Cuscus*, in so far as it consists of an approximating and an abducting part—the first acting by drawing the minimus and the annularis towards each other, and the second acting by drawing the annularis away from the middle line of the foot.

Dr. Young, in his able paper upon the intrinsic muscles of the Marsupial hand,<sup>1</sup> describes a somewhat similar condition in the manus of the Wallaby. He says:—"The second and third dorsal interossei have a somewhat remarkable arrangement. On their dorsal aspect they closely resemble the corresponding structures in the human hand. They appear as bicipital muscles, springing from the contiguous surfaces of adjoining metacarpal bones; the fibres converge inferiorly to a common insertion, the plane of which is much more palmar in position than is that of the origin. Turning next to

<sup>1</sup> Journal of Anatomy and Physiology, vol. xiv. p. 154.