

the tendon of the flexor longus digitorum. In the sole it gives twigs to the flexor brevis digitorum, and then breaks up into cutaneous branches for the digits and web. These supply both sides of the hallux, of the index, and of the medius, and also the tibial side of the annularis. The external plantar nerve reaches the foot by passing over the outer side of the os calcis. Upon the fibular margin of the pes it divides into a minute superficial twig for the outer side of the minimus, and a large deep branch. Before dividing, the nerve trunk gives twigs to the abductor ossis metatarsi minimi digiti, the outermost belly of the flexor brevis digitorum, and the accessorius. The deep division turns inwards under cover of the superficial and deep flexors of the toes, and insinuating itself between the plantar and intermediate muscles divides into a large cutaneous and a small muscular part. The cutaneous nerve emerges at the lower border of the adductor minimi digiti and bifurcates to supply the adjacent sides of the minimus and annularis, whilst the muscular branch continues inwards under cover of the adducting muscles as far as the metatarsal of the index, where it breaks up into its terminal filaments. It supplies all the intrinsic muscles, with the exception of the abductor ossis metatarsi minimi digiti, which receives its nerve direct from the trunk of the external plantar, and the flexor brevis hallucis, which is probably supplied by the internal plantar nerve, although it is right to state that I have been unable to trace any nervous filament to this muscle.

A passage in Meckel's work upon Comparative Anatomy regarding the interossei in the pes of the *Ornithorhynchus* led me also to examine the corresponding muscles in the hand of this animal. He says:—"Dans l'ornithorhynchque, ils se comportent absolument de la même manière que les interosseux de la main; à cela pres qu'ils sont plus minces et plus grêles." I found the arrangement very different. Thus the plantar layer is only represented by a single minute thread-like muscle—the adductor minimi digiti. The dorsal interossei are also absent, but, in the intermetatarsal spaces, strands of tough fibrous tissue exist, and these may represent them. The intermediate flexores breves are well marked, each being composed of two fleshy slips with the exception of that for the minimus, which has only an inner or ulnar head.

*Echidna setosa* (Pl. IX. fig. 6).

The foot of the *Echidna* is pentadactylous, powerful, and somewhat peculiar in its form. The hallux is exceedingly short and stunted, and is provided with a short rounded nail which covers the entire dorsal surface of the digit. The index is considerably longer than the other toes, and is armed with a remarkably long curved claw. The succeeding digits gradually diminish in size as we proceed towards the minimus, and each is furnished with a claw similar in shape to that of the index, but of a size proportionate to that of the digit to which it belongs. The intrinsic muscles of this foot are very weakly developed, and many are absent. The stunted hallux is