

the foot have disappeared by suppression, and that the adductors of the hand are following their example.

The *dorsal layer* (fig. 4,  $d^2$  to  $d^5$ ) is represented by four dorsal interossei. These are arranged in a manner almost identical with that of the same muscles of the foot with the exception that the tendons of the common extensor replace those of the extensor brevis in the formation of the two radial expansions on the dorsal aspect of the second phalangeal joints, and that the second dorsal interosseus muscle does not extend upwards upon the carpus, but is confined entirely to the second inter-digital interval.

In both hand and foot the proper extensor apparatus of the digits is exceedingly weak. In the former there are only two small tendons sent by the extensor communis, to the medius and index, and in the latter two equally small tendons are given by the extensor brevis to the same digits. The dorsal interossei however make up for this deficiency. The annular digit is entirely dependent upon this group of muscles for the production of this movement.

*Intermediate layer* (fig. 4  $f^2$  to  $f^5$ ).—Under cover of the adductors we find five small muscles which without doubt represent the flexores breves. In this case, however, they possess no flexing action upon the digits, but are rather converted into extensors by being carried backwards through the interosseous spaces to join the dorsal interossei.

The flexor brevis pollicis consists of two very minute thread-like fasciculi which spring from the plantar aspect of the base of the rudimentary first metacarpal bone. They sink into the substance of the fibrous cord which prolongs this bone forwards, and in this way they gain an insertion into the radial aspect of the first phalanx of the index.

A small slip ( $f^3 r$ ), evidently the radial head of the flexor brevis indicis, takes origin from the outer side of the base of the index metacarpal, and at once turns backwards through the first interosseous space to join the first dorsal interosseous muscle. The ulnar head of the same muscle ( $f^2 u$ ) arises from the inner side of the base of the same metacarpal, and inclines backwards in the second interosseous space, to join the second dorsal interosseous muscle. This slip is so closely connected with the interosseous muscle that at first sight it appears to be merely a part of it.

The short flexor of the medius has disappeared altogether.

The flexor brevis annularis ( $f^4$ ) arises by two well-marked heads of which one springs from the outer side of the base of the fourth metacarpal bone, whilst the other, considerably longer, takes origin from the unciform bone. These soon unite, and the muscle is then directed through the third interosseous space to join the third dorsal interosseous muscle.

The flexor brevis minimi digiti ( $f^5$ ) is a small fleshy belly which arises from the base of the rudimentary fifth metacarpal bone, and then passes backwards between it and the fourth metacarpal to effect a junction with the fourth dorsal interosseous muscle.