

posterior fibres are inserted into the integument immediately behind the anus, and the intermediate fibres are inserted into the aponeurosis of the abdominal muscles, close to the lateral margin of the anus.

Action.—This muscle, acting in conjunction with its fellow of the opposite side, will diminish the size of the abdominal cavity, by elevating and approximating the abdominal wall to the vertebral column. As remarked by Gervais and Alix, it also acts as a superficial levator ani.

Relations.—This muscle at its origin lies between and separates that of the levator coccygis from that of the semi-tendinosus. As it passes downwards to its insertion it rests against the ischio-pubo-coccygeus.

Nerve supply.—Several twigs from the anterior divisions of the coccygeal nerves.

2. *Obliquus abdominis externus.*

Le grand oblique, Vicq d'Azyr, 1774, p. 490, No. 1.

Aeusserer schräger Bauchmuskel, Merrem.

Der äussere schiefe Bauchmuskel, Wiedemann, p. 79.

Der äussere schräge Bauchmuskel, Tiedemann, p. 296, No. 1.

Grand oblique, Cuvier, vol. i. p. 217.

Muscle oblique externe de l'abdomen, Meckel, vol. vi. p. 18, No. 1.

Obliquus abdominis externus, Selenka, vol. vi. p. 102, No. 25.

Obliquus abdominis externus, Owen, p. 30.

Le grand oblique, Gervais and Alix, p. 17.

Attachments.—The external oblique is a broad flat muscle, which *arises* by means of seven digitations from the outer surfaces of the vertebral segments of the last seven ribs, and by means of a delicate aponeurosis from the whole length of the lower border of the pubic bone. Each costal digitation is attached to the rib immediately below the uncinat process, and to a small extent to that process itself. From this extensive origin the muscular fibres pass obliquely backwards and downwards, and are *inserted* as follows. The anterior or costal fibres of the muscle are inserted into the lateral margin of the sternum from the facet for the reception of the third sternal rib backwards to the posterior extremity of the bone, while the posterior or pubic fibres end on a stout aponeurosis which completes the abdominal wall.

Action.—As observed by Tiedemann, this muscle aids in respiration by approximating the sternum to the vertebral column, and diminishing the capacity of the thoracic and abdominal cavities.

Relations.—The muscle interdigitates with the serrati antici major et minor. Superficially it is in part concealed by the aponeurotic origin of the semi-membranosus, while its deeper surface rests upon and conceals the ribs and intercostal muscles in front, and the rectus abdominis behind.

Nerve supply.—Twigs from the intercostal nerves.