

DORSAL NERVES.

Intercostal Nerves.—The anterior branches of the dorsal nerves are nine in number. Of these the first emerges from the intervertebral foramen corresponding to the intercostal space, which is bounded in front by the first or rudimental, and behind by the second, while the ninth nerve lies behind the ninth vertebral rib. The anterior division of the first dorsal nerve unites with those of the last two cervical nerves to form the large cord of the brachial plexus, along with which it is more particularly described. It furnishes no branch to the first intercostal space.

All the other intercostal nerves, with the exception of the last, pass outwards, lying on the internal intercostal muscles as far as the middle in length of the vertebral segments of the ribs. Here they pierce the intercostal muscles, and extending downwards under cover of the skin, terminate by supplying branches to the lateral and inferior thoracic walls, nearly as far as the inferior middle line of the body. The intercostal nerves, therefore, do not lie between the sternal segments of the ribs, but escape from the intercostal spaces before reaching them. As the nerves extend downwards they give branches to the intercostal muscles, as well as to the muscles of the abdominal wall.

The second intercostal nerve furnishes a branch to the brachial plexus.

The anterior branch of the last dorsal nerve extends downwards behind the ninth vertebral rib, and, after supplying a branch to the obliquus internus abdominis, terminates by being distributed to the other muscles of the abdominal wall. None of the intercostals give off lateral cutaneous branches as in the mammal, the place of these being taken by irregular branches supplied by the intercostal nerves, after they have escaped from the intercostal spaces.

LUMBO-SACRAL NERVES.

To avoid ambiguity, I include all the spinal nerves between the last dorsal and the first coccygeal in the category of lumbo-sacral nerves. Although not forgetful of the work of Gegenbaur and others in the determination of the exact limitation of the lumbar, sacral, and coccygeal portions of the avian vertebral column, yet so many difficulties are met with in regard to this limitation, whether the attempt be founded on a consideration of the arrangement of the spinal nerves, or on that of the relation which a variable number of vertebræ in different species bear to the pelvic bones, that it appears to me that it will conduce to the intelligibility of my description if I simply include the spinal nerves lying between the last dorsal vertebra and the first moveable coccygeal under the name of lumbo-sacral. By adopting this plan, first suggested by Mivart,¹ I shall avoid the adoption of any morphological views which, while they may

¹ Trans. Zool. Soc., vol. viii. pt. 7, 1874.