

Variations in Crural Plexus.—In none of the birds which I have dissected, with the single exception of *Eudypetes chrysocome* from Tristan, does the first lumbo-sacral nerve contribute in any way to the formation of the crural plexus.

In *Spheniscus minor* the crural plexus is formed by the second and third lumbo-sacral nerves alone. The fourth nerve, which in all the other species forms part of the crural, in this species joins the sciatic plexus.

In *Aptenodytes* the branch to the abdominal muscles, which is derived from the second lumbo-sacral nerve, and is usually distributed separately, unites with the first lumbo-sacral nerve and forms a portion of the latter.

The Sciatic Plexus.

The anterior division of the fifth lumbo-sacral nerve (fig. 2), so soon as it passes from the intervertebral foramen, receives a large communicating branch from the fourth, and then unites with the sixth, seventh, and eighth lumbo-sacral nerves to form the sciatic plexus.

Thus formed the sciatic plexus gives origin to the sciatic nerve.

The Sciatic Nerve.

The sciatic nerve (15) is formed by the union of a portion of the fourth with the whole of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth lumbar nerves. It escapes from the pelvic cavity through the sciatic foramen. Having reached the thigh, the nerve divides into two parts—a superficial and a deep. The superficial portion lies between the biceps and the adductor longus, the deep between the latter and the adductor magnus muscles. The deep portion at once breaks up into branches for the supply of the semi-membranosus (16) and adductor longus (17) muscles.

(A) *The superficial portion* of the sciatic nerve, after giving off a number of twigs for the supply of the biceps femoris (18), breaks up into the following branches:—

(a) A *cutaneous* branch (19) which extends downwards along the back of the calf of the leg, as low as the sole of the foot. It gives off branches to the skin as it descends.

(b) A branch of supply to the outer head of the *gastrocnemius* (20).

(c) A branch to the superficial portion of the *flexor perforatus digitorum* and *plantaris* (21).

(d) A long slender branch (22) which extends downwards along the whole length of the calf, lying between the flexor perforatus and the inner head of the gastrocnemius. Immediately above the ankle joint this nerve passes forwards beneath the tendon of insertion common to the anterior and inner heads of the gastrocnemius, and having gained the front of the metatarsus, descends as far as the sole of the foot, to be distributed to the skin in that region. About the middle in length of the tibial segment of