The compound eyes are sometimes encompassed in a larger or smaller part of their circumference by a ring, somewhat swollen, and separated more or less distinctly from the remainder of the surface of the head; it is called the orbit (*orbita*), the successive parts of which may be called the anterior (*orbita anterior sive facialis*), inferior (*inferior s. genalis*), posterior (*posterior s. occipitalis*), superior (*superior s. verticalis*), and frontal (*frontalis*) orbits. An orbit is also often spoken of, where no ring is distinctly set off from the rest of the surface of the head; in this case a distinct color or some peculiar structure mark the nearest surroundings of the eyes.

The *oral parts* of Diptera, destined for sucking, are called the sucker or proboscis (*proboscis*). They are either inserted at the end of a more or less cylindrical prolongation of the head, called the snout (*rostrum*), or project from a wide aperture often occupying a great part of the under surface of the head, called the mouth hole (*cavitas oris*). The common, fleshy root of the oral parts is connected by a membrane with the border of the mouth. This membrane often has a fold, sometimes of a quite horny substance, and is then called the clypeus (*clypeus s. prælabrum*); it is either entirely concealed by the anterior border of the mouth and is then usually movable, or it projects over it as a ridge and is then usually immovable. The largest of the oral parts in most Diptera is the fleshy under lip (*labium*), consisting of the stem (*stipes*) and the knob (*capitulum labii*) formed by the two suctorial flaps (*labella*). Besides the under lip, the palpi (*palpi*) are most perceptible and must be noticed in the description of the species. The remaining oral parts are generally rather small and stunted, having the form of bristles or horny lancets; they are considered as being the tongue (*lingua*), under jaws (*maxillæ*), upper jaws (*mandibulæ*), and upper lip (*labrum*), the latter shutting the under lip from above. These parts are not easily applicable in distinguishing species.

The *thorax* of Diptera as well as that of other insects consists of three segments, the *prothorax*, the *mesothorax*, and *the metathorax*. But in the order of Diptera the development of the mesothorax exceeds so much that of the two other portions, that it forms by far the largest part of the whole thorax, and in the description of Diptera is exclusively designated with the latter name, while other names are given to the prothorax and metathorax, when some particular part of them is to be characterized. The protho-