

because they are associated with the eighth cranial nerve. In this way the floor is divided into two upper and two lower portions each of which presents a slight depression termed a fovea, of which, therefore, two are superior and two inferior. Each inferior fovea is A shaped, with the apex upwards, between the two limbs of which lie the chief nuclei of origin for the ninth, tenth and eleventh cranial nerves. Between each inferior fovea and the mesial longitudinal groove is the nucleus of origin of the twelfth cranial nerve. Immediately above the strie acusticae, and on each side of the mid line is a rounded projection termed the eminentia teres. This is produced by the nuclei of the sixth and seventh cranial nerves, of which the latter is the deeper. The superior fovea is situated above and external to this, while towards the upper angle of the floor is a tiny, segmented patch under the ependyma. In each lateral angle of the floor are situated the nuclei of origin of the eighth cranial nerve.

Each lateral boundary of the fourth ventricle is formed from above downward by the superior cerebellar peduncle, the inferior cerebellar peduncle, the nucleus cuneatus and the nucleus gracilis.

The roof of the fourth ventricle is formed by the following from above downwards—

(1) The superior medullary velum, which is a thin lamina occupying the upper angle of the roof. From its upper surface emerge the two trochlear nerves. This lamina passes into the cerebellum.

(2) The cerebellum itself.

(3) The inferior medullary velum which is a thin lamina emerging from the white matter of the cerebellum.

(4) The remainder of the roof is formed by the pia mater lined with ependyma, and exhibits a small choroid plexus of blood vessels projecting into the cavity. This portion of the roof is perforated by one or more openings through which the cerebro-spinal fluid escapes into the subarachnoid space.

The Cerebellum.

This consists of two lateral lobes connected in the mesial plane by the vermis, so termed from its segmented appearance. The convolutions of the cerebellum are closely packed together like the leaves of a book and are therefore termed folia. These are collected into groups by deeper fissures, and have been given more or less fanciful names, which are merely of interest as such and possess no clinical significance. They are therefore a burden on the memory. On examining the mesial section of the vermis it presents a characteristic appearance, which has been aptly termed the tree of life, from its elaborate branching arrangement.

The cerebellum possesses superior, middle and inferior peduncles. The two superior connect it with the cerebral hemispheres, the two inferior with the medulla and spinal cord, while the middle peduncle forms the superficial transverse fibres of the pons, and connects together the two lateral lobes of the cerebellum.