

mesial longitudinal groove. External to the upper half of each pyramid is an oval eminence, half an inch long, termed the olive. No fewer than seven of the cranial nerves make their appearance round this structure. For example the sixth, seventh and eighth appear between it and the pons in that order from within outwards; the ninth, tenth and eleventh nerves emerge behind it; while the numerous rootlets of the twelfth make their exit between it and the pyramid. Below the level of the olive the direct and indirect cerebellar tracts may be distinguished. The latter is next to the pyramid, and when traced upwards disappears under the olive. It is continued upwards in the substance of the medulla, and enters the cerebellum through its superior peduncle. The direct cerebellar tract inclines upwards behind the olive, and enters the cerebellum through its inferior peduncle.

Dissection.—Split the cerebellum by a mesial section and turn the halves aside in order to get a good view of the posterior aspect of the medulla and the floor of the fourth ventricle.

It will be observed that the posterior aspect of the medulla also possesses a mesial longitudinal groove, but this exists only in the lower half, as the upper half opens out to form the floor of the fourth ventricle. On each side of the posterior mesial longitudinal groove is a well marked tract termed the funiculus gracilis. This is the continuation of the postero-internal sensory tract of the spinal cord, and ends above in a swelling produced by the nucleus gracilis. Immediately external to each funiculus gracilis is another well defined tract termed the funiculus cuneatus. This is a continuation of the postero-external sensory tract of the spinal cord, and ends above in a swelling produced by the nucleus cuneatus. It may be stated here that a fresh relay of sensory fibres springs from the nucleus gracilis and the nucleus cuneatus, and after decussating, is continued upwards towards the hemisphere as the fillet.

Immediately external to the funiculus cuneatus is an elongated band of neuroglia tissue which comes to the surface at this point. Beyond this again is the direct cerebellar tract which has been already studied from the front. At the upper end of each lateral aspect of the medulla is the prominent inferior peduncle of the cerebellum which connects the latter with the medulla and spinal cord.

The Fourth Ventricle.

This is a diamond shaped space situated on the dorsal aspects of the pons and medulla, one half of the floor being formed by each. It also possesses lateral boundaries and a roof. The upper end of the cavity is continuous with the aqueduct while the lower end is prolonged into the central canal of the spinal cord which also tunnels the lower half of the medulla.

The floor is bisected by the mesial longitudinal groove, while it is crossed transversely about its middle by the striae acousticae, so called