

form an inverted V, each of whose branches send out a rib from its external face. There were thus six pairs of ribs which seemed to originate at the base of the skull. The distance which separated anteriorly the two homologous ribs was the greater as it rose from the first to the sixth ribs. There was no trace of the cervical vertebrae, except some rugosities echeloned along the base of the skull, which seemed to continue the direction of the spinal column. The cavity of the skull was completely closed. The brain, although much softened, seemed well formed. The cavity of the rhachis was also closed. The bulb presented an exaggerated length; the basilar measuring 27 cm., more than half of the length of the interior base of the skull. The channel of the rhachis opened with the skull cavity into the lower part of this channel, at the level of the seventh dorsal. We did not observe any visceral deformity. This malformation must have been the result of coalescence, during the first stages of embryonal life, of a part of the rhachidian and cranial cavities. The channel of the rhachis could not form itself posteriorly in the upper part in consequence of its fusion with the occiput. We thus explain the spreading of the first six dorsal vertebrae and the almost complete disappearance of the cervical. The absence of the neck behind and on the sides accounts for suberabundance of integuments and their laxity in the upper part of the body. This de-