

CHAPTER XLVII.

THE SPINE.

ANATOMY.

LANDMARKS.

LEVELS OF CENTRES IN SPINAL CORD.

FRACTURES AND DIS- LOCATIONS.

OPERATIONS.

The spine is composed of thirty-three superimposed bones arranged as follows, viz.: Seven cervical, twelve dorsal, five lumbar, five ankylosed to form the sacral, and four, to form the coccyx. Each vertebra consists of a body, two pedicles and two laminæ, which, meeting behind, complete the neural arch and form, posteriorly, the spinous process, while, transverse and articular processes complete the structure of the vertebra. The spinous processes occupy the middle line, posteriorly, whereas, on either side, are the transverse processes. Between these two prominences there is a hollow in the skeleton, which, however, in the body, is filled with the dorsal muscles. The tips of the spinous processes correspond to the lower portions of the bodies of the vertebræ in the following manner, viz.: Each of the cervical, of the three upper and three lower dorsal and of all the lumbar spinous processes is about on the same level as the lower border of the vertebra to which the spinous process belongs; whereas, the dorsal spines, from the third to the ninth, correspond to the lower part of the vertebra, next below the one to which the spine belongs. Within the spinal canal is the *spinal cord* with its membranes, viz., the dura mater, the arachnoid and the pia mater; while, leaving its substance, are the roots of the spinal nerves proceeding to the intervertebral foramina.