

exhibited. The branch in question comes from the superficial division of the external plantar, but it is joined at its point of bifurcation by a large twig from the deep division.

Very few cases occur in which the plantar nerves deviate from the ordinary course. In the *Ornithorhynchus* we find the external plantar entering the foot upon the outer side of the os calcis, apart from the internal plantar. Again, in the *Echidna* the internal plantar gives off a branch which enters the foot by a similar route and replaces the superficial part of the external plantar nerve.

So constant, indeed, are these nerves in their relations that Ruge has been induced to make the generalisation that all those muscles which lie superficial to the deep division of the external plantar nerve are contrahentes. So far as I am aware this rule fails to apply to the foot in only two cases, viz., the *Dasyurus viverrinus* and *Dasyurus hallucatus*, in both of which the nerve passes under cover of one of the abductors of the minimus. The great objection to this method of classifying the adductors, however, is that it is incapable of being extended to the hand. In the Manus the deep division of the ulnar nerve passes inwards under cover of the flexor brevis minimi digiti, and also under (or through) the opponens minimi digiti, both of which, therefore, according to this generalisation would be looked upon as contrahentes or adductores.

*Intrinsic muscles of the human hand.*—The fact that abduction and adduction takes place in the human hand with reference to the middle digit constitutes the chief difference between the disposition of the intrinsic muscles of the Manus and pes in Man. The descriptions given of the short muscles of the thumb in works upon human anatomy are very misleading and at variance with the homologies of these muscles. The nerve supply is of itself sufficient to lead us to suspect this. In these text-books a single adductor pollicis and a flexor brevis pollicis, consisting of a superficial, and deep head, are described. The adductor and the deep head of the flexor draw their nerve filaments from the deep division of the ulnar, whereas the superficial head of the flexor is supplied by the median nerve. Bischoff many years ago pointed out the fallacy of this description, and insisted that the so-called adductor pollicis is in reality the adductor transversus (the homologue of the transversalis pedis), and that the so-called deep head of the flexor brevis is the adductor obliquus. These two muscles, which form a continuous muscular stratum, are separated from each by the entrance into the palm of the radial artery. But an inner or deep head of the flexor brevis is also present. This muscular slip, however, is not always described, and when it is noticed it has a different name applied to it, viz., the "interosseus volaris primus" of Henle. I entirely agree with Bischoff in his views upon the short muscles of the thumb; indeed, I had arrived at similar conclusions before I read his paper upon this subject. From a number of dissections made by Mr. Sheridan Delepine in the Practical Anatomy Rooms of the Edinburgh University, I am led to believe that the minute inner head of the flexor brevis pollicis is a constant muscular slip. It is quite invisible from the palmar aspect of the hand, and is best exposed from the dorsal aspect