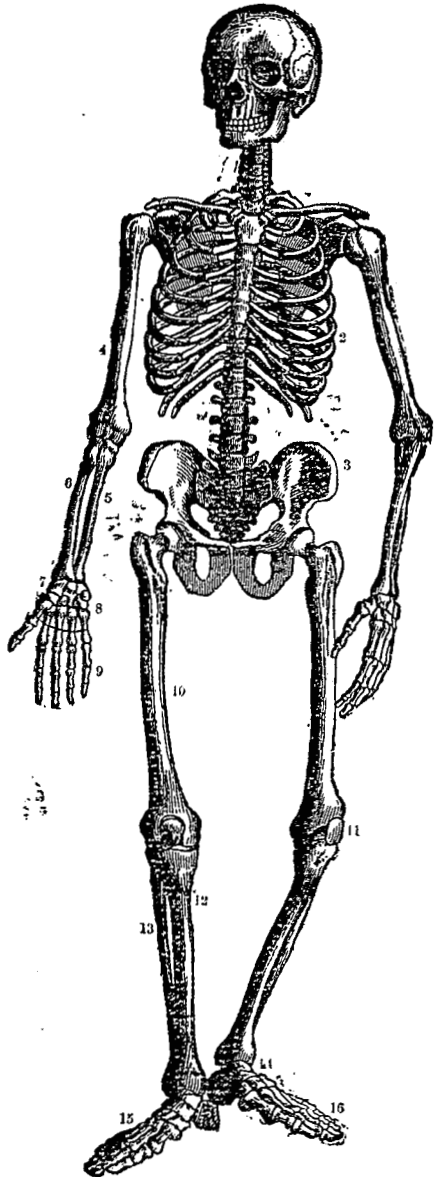


A GUIDE TO MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING.*

CHAPTER VI.—THE TRUNK.



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|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.—Frontal. | 5.—Ulna. | 9.—Phalanges. | 13.—Fibula. |
| 2.—Ribs. | 6.—Radius. | 10.—Femur. | 14.—Tarsal. |
| 3.—Ilium. | 7.—Carpal. | 11.—Patella. | 15.—Metatarsal. |
| 4.—Humerus. | 8.—Metacarpal. | 12.—Tibia. | 16.—Phalanges. |

THE bones of the trunk, or body, may be divided into those of the *thorax* and the *pelvis*.

By the *thorax* is meant the cavity which contains the heart and lungs, and the bones by which

* These articles are partially from the pen of the late Miss Alice Fisher and Mrs. Norris, and will eventually be published in book form being revised by the latter.

it is protected consist of the *sternum*, or breast-bone, which forms a sort of shield in front, and of twelve pair of *ribs*. Seven pair of these ribs are united by cartilages to the sternum, and are called the *true ribs*, whilst the remaining five pair, which are successively united to the lowest true rib, and to each other, are called the *false ribs*. These ribs, being joined to the spinal vertebræ, form the sides of the thorax.

A Nurse can do little more for a patient suffering from broken ribs than bestow upon him ordinarily careful Nursing. The ribs will be bandaged with a roller, generally a flannel one, or numerous strips of plaster suitable for the purpose, and the patient should be kept in bed, in order that rest and the proper position may be maintained, for with any undue movement or roughness the broken ends of the bone would be liable to lacerate the *pleura* (or membrane which covers the lungs), or perhaps to injure the lung itself. The Nurse must be careful to observe whether the patient experiences any sensation of pain upon taking a long breath, or coughing, or as a result of pressure upon any particular spot. She should also give attention to the character of the expectoration, and should remark any sign which may indicate injury to the lung.

THE PELVIS.

The pelvis, in grown-up persons, consists of two bones, called the *innominate* bones, which, with the *sacrum*, being so firmly knit together by cartilage and ligament as to admit of no movement whatever between them, form a basin or pelvis, which contains the lower part of some of the organs concerned in the digestion of the food, and other offices connected therewith.

Each innominate consists of three bones :—

The *ilium*, or haunch bone.

The *ischium*, or sitting bone ; and

The *pubis*, or share bone ;

These are separable in childhood, but become solidified together when maturity is reached. The rim of this basin may be distinctly felt where it forms the hips, and the body rests, in the sitting posture, on the rough prominences which constitute its lowest part. On either side it presents a deep cup, the *acetabulum*, in which the head of each thigh bone plays, the two forming the hip-joints.

You will easily understand that any injury to the bony structure of the pelvis will necessarily endanger, not only the very delicate organs contained in it, but others close by, and you must watch carefully for any symptoms of such danger. Retention of urine may prove laceration of the bladder. Injury to the bowel will cause intense and constant pain, which will be increased upon pressure, swelling of the abdomen, and inflamma-

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