

the acoustic or auditory nerve, which arises from the posterior part of the brain. (Fig. 21, c.)

92. The ears never exceed two in number, and are placed, in all the vertebrates, at the hinder part of the head. In a large proportion of animals, as the dog, horse, rabbit, and most of the mammals, the external parts of the ear are generally quite conspicuous; and as they are, at the same time, quite movable, they become one of the prominent features of physiognomy.

93. These external appendages, however, do not constitute the organ of hearing, properly speaking. The true seat of hearing is deeper, quite in the interior of the head. It is usually a very complicated apparatus, especially in the superior animals. In mammals it is composed of three parts, the external ear, the middle ear, and the internal ear; and its structure is as follows: (Fig. 19.)

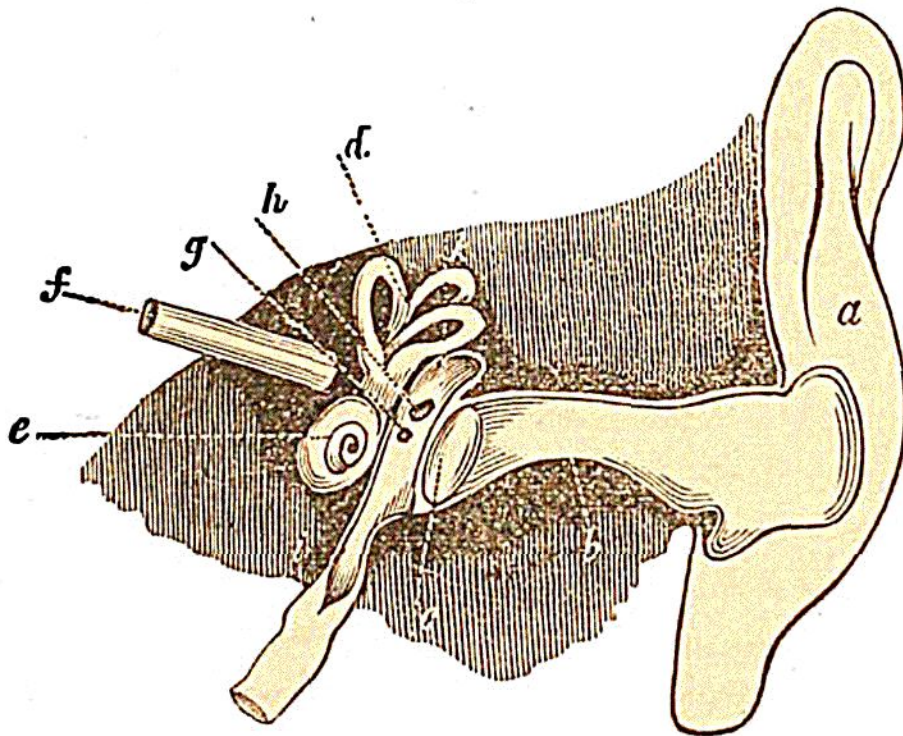


Fig. 19.

94. The external ear, which is popularly regarded as the ear, consists of the *conch*, (a,) and the canal which leads from it the *external auditory passage*, (b.) The first is a