

(Fig. 43) there are two flat and broad bones, one of which, the ulna, (*d*), presents a long point, anteriorly. The bones of

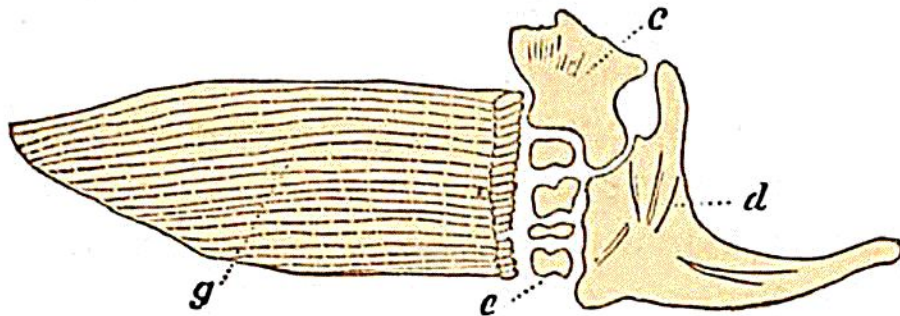


Fig. 43.

the carpus are represented by four nearly square little bones. But in these again there are considerable variations in different fishes, and in some genera they are much more irregular in form. The fingers are but imperfectly represented by the rays of the fin, (*g*), which are composed of an infinitude of minute bones, articulated with each other. As to the humerus and shoulder, their analogies are variously interpreted by different anatomists.

178. The form of the members is so admirably adapted to the special offices which they are designed to perform, that by a single inspection of the bones of the arm, as represented in the preceding sketches, one might infer the uses to which they are to be put. The arm of man, with its radius turning upon its ulna, the delicate and pliable fingers, and the thumb opposed to them, bespeak an organ for the purpose of handling. The slender and long arm of the sloth, with his monstrous claws, would be extremely inconvenient for walking on the ground, but appropriate for seizing upon the branches of the trees, on which these animals live. The short fingers, armed with retractile nails, indicate the lion, at first glance, to be a carnivorous animal. The arm of the stag, with his very long cannon-bone, and that of the horse, also, with its solitary finger enveloped in a hoof, are organs especially adapted for running. The very slender and greatly elongated fingers of the bat are admirably con-