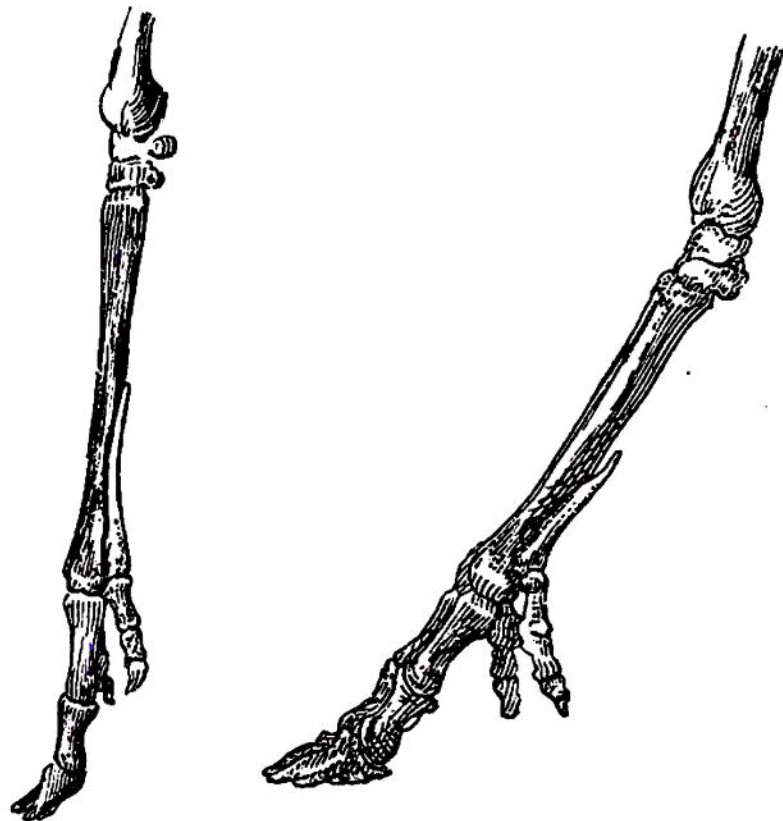


In ruminants there is a cannon bone, but the foot is split into two parts, and this must add to its spring or elasticity. I am inclined to think that there is still another intention in this form ; it prevents the foot sinking in soft ground, and permits it to be more easily withdrawn. We may observe how much more easily the cow withdraws her foot from the yielding margin of a river, than the horse. The round and concave form of the horse's foot is attended with a vacuum or suction as it is withdrawn ; while the split and conical shaped hoof expands in sinking, and is easily extricated.

In the chamois and other species of the deer



The left hand figure represents the bones of the foot of the antelope ; the right, those of the rein-deer.