A farther approach to the higher classes, is observable in the number of cervical vertebræ, which is almost constantly seven; as we shall find it to be in the mammalia. The articulations of the vertebræ are similar to those of serpents, inasmuch as they consist of ball and socket joints. In that of the occipital bone with the first vertebra of the neck, we find that nature again reverts to the simpler form of a single condyle projecting from the body of the occipital bone, instead of lateral condyles proceeding from its leaves, as we noticed was the structure in the batrachia. The caudal vertebræ are always numerous, and the tail is compressed vertically, which is the form most favourable for progression in water. They are remarkable, also, for having inferior spinous processes attached to the bodies by cartilages; a structure analogous to that which we have seen in fishes.

The number of ribs differs in different species of Sauria: they are always articulated to the extremities of the transverse processes of the vertebræ, of which they appear to be continuations. Processes of this description also occur in the neck, attached to the transverse processes of the cervical vertebræ; and these have been regarded as *cervical ribs*. Their presence are impediments to the flexions of the neck: whence arises the difficulty which the crocodile appears to have in bending the neck, while turning round upon the animal he is pursuing. In the thorax, the ribs are connected with a broad sternum; but there are other ribs, both before and behind, which have no such termination, and therefore bear the name of *false ribs*.

The pelvis consists chiefly of the iliac bones, which, as in the batrachia, pass backwards to form the articular cavity for the thigh bone. Two small and slender bones extend forwards from the pubic bones, on the under side of the body, apparently for the purpose of supporting the abdominal viscera.* The bones of the extremities are very perfectly formed, approaching in their shape and arrangement very

* They appear to be analogous to the marsupial bones peculiar to a family of mammalia.