

course, is single, likewise; there is, also, a small bone, connected with the last, and called the *shuttle bone*. To the cannon bone are joined, behind, and on the side, two much shorter and very slender bones, which are rudiments of the other metacarpal bones. They have been termed the *styloid*, or *splint bones*; and are generally united by ossification with the cannon bone. The scapula of the horse is very narrow, and placed very nearly in a straight line with the humerus; which latter bone is very short, and scarcely descends below the line of the chest. The thigh-bone is also unusually short. The muscles, which extend the joint, and throw the thigh backwards, in kicking, are particularly powerful. This is the natural defensive action of the horse: and its force is increased by a particular process with which the bone is furnished, and which has the form of a strong curved spine, situated on the outside, and opposite to the lesser trochanter,* giving to the muscles the advantage of a long lever. The cervical vertebræ have only short spinous processes, that they might not interfere with the motions of the neck. In the vertebræ of the back, on the other hand, these processes are remarkably long, especially at the part where the shoulder rests; their projection constituting what is called the *Withers*.

§ 7. *Pachydermata*.

FROM the horse we pass, by a natural transition, to the *Pachydermata*, a small group of animals interesting by their peculiarities, and by their being remnants of a very extensive tribe, which formerly inhabited the earth, but have now almost entirely disappeared. Although they feed upon grass, they do not ruminate, nor are they cloven-footed. They are, for the most part, huge and unwieldy animals, with thick integuments, rendered tough by a large mass of condensed cellular substance, which forms the chief defensive armour of

* This process has been termed the *processus recurvatus femoris*.