



signated, from the intricacy of its winding passages, the *labyrinth*. It is seen at (s v κ) in Fig. 390, in connexion with the tympanum; but in Fig. 394, it is represented, on a very large scale, detached from every other part, and separated from the solid bone in which it lies imbedded. It consists of a middle portion, termed the *vestibule* (v,) from which, on its upper and posterior side, proceed the three tubes (x, y, z,) called, from their shape, the *semicircular canals*; while to the lower anterior side of the vestibule there is attached a spiral canal, resembling in appearance the shell of a snail, and on that account denominated the *Cochlea* (κ.) All these bony cavities are lined with a very delicate membrane, or *periosteum*, and are filled with a transparent watery, or thin gelatinous fluid, which is termed by Breschet, the *perilymph*.*

Within the cavity of the *osseous labyrinth*, now described, are contained membranes having nearly the shape of the vestibule and semicircular canals, but not extending into the cochlea. These membranes, which compose what has been termed, for the sake of distinction, the *membranous labyrinth*, form one continuous, but closed sac, containing a fluid,† perfectly similar in appearance to the perilymph, which surrounds it on the outer side, and intervenes between it and the sides of the osseous labyrinth, preventing any contact with those sides. In Fig. 395, which is on a still larger scale than the preceding figure, the osseous labyrinth is laid open, so as to show the part it encloses, and

* *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, xxix. 97. It has also been called the *Aqua labyrinthi*, and the *fluid of Cotunnus*, from the name of the Anatomist who first distinctly described it.

† De Blainville has termed this fluid "la vitrine auditive," from its supposed analogy with the vitreous humour of the eye.