

functions ; but was probably attended with much advantage to the *Megatherium*, in relation to its habit of standing great part of its time on three legs, whilst the fourth was occupied in digging.

The pelvis being thus, unusually wide and heavy, presents a further deviation from other animals, as to the place and direction of the acetabulum, or socket which articulates with the head of the thigh bone (u). This cavity, in other animals, is usually set more or less obliquely outwards, and by this obliquity facilitates the movement of the hind leg ; but in the *Megatherium* it is set perpendicularly downwards, over the head of the femur, and is also nearer than usual to the spine ; deriving from this position increase of strength for supporting vertical pressure, but attended with a diminished capability of rapid motion.\*

From the enormous width of the pelvis, it

\* There is also a further peculiarity for the increase of strength in the manner in which that part, which, in most other animals, is an open space, called the *ischiatric notch* (Pl. 5, Fig. 2 c.), is nearly closed with solid bone by the union of the spines of the ischia with the elongated transverse processes of the sacral vertebræ, (a).

Further evidence of the enormous size and power in the muscles of the thigh and leg is afforded by the magnitude of the cavity in the sacrum, (Pl. 5. d,) for the passage of the spinal marrow : this cavity being about four inches in diameter, the spinal marrow must have been a foot in circumference. The extraordinary magnitude also of the nerves which proceeded from it to supply the leg, is indicated by the prodigious size of the sacral foramina.