

61. Greatly as the form, the arrangement, and the volume of the nervous system vary in different animals, they may all be reduced to four principal types, which correspond, moreover, to the four great departments of the Animal Kingdom. In the vertebrate animals, namely, the fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals, the nervous system is composed of two principal masses, the *spinal marrow*, (Fig. 9, c,) which runs along the back, and the *brain*, contained within the skull.* The volume of the brain is proportionally larger as the animal occupies a more elevated rank in the scale of being. Man, who stands at the head of Creation, is in this respect also the most highly endowed being.



Fig. 9.

62. With the brain and spinal marrow are connected the nerves, which are distributed, in the form of branching threads, through every part of the body. The branches which unite with the brain are twelve pairs, called the cere-

* The brain is composed of several distinct parts which vary greatly, in their relative proportions, in different animals, as will appear hereafter. They are—1. The medulla oblongata; 2. Cerebellum; 3. Optic lobes; 4. Cerebral hemispheres; 5. Olfactory lobes; 6. the pituitary body; 7. the pineal body. (See figures 9 and 21.) The spinal marrow is made up by the union of four nervous columns.