

additional extent among those vertebræ which belong to the thorax or chest, by the mode of articulation between them and the ribs; each rib being united, not entirely to a single vertebra, but partially to two contiguous vertebræ, near their line of junction.

The flexibility of the spine is secured to the utmost requisite extent, by the great number of articulations or joints which it possesses, amounting to more than twenty; as well as by the elasticity of the substance constituting those joints: and the projecting parts or processes of the several vertebræ, which serve for the insertion of the muscles and tendons which are to move the whole, are differently disposed in the neck, the back, and the loins; so as to be accommodated to the degree and kind of motion required in each: thus the vertebræ of the neck admit of a lateral motion to a greater extent than those of the back; and the vertebræ of the back admit of flexion and extension to a greater degree than those of the neck; while the vertebræ of the loins, being intended for support rather than flexibility, have their processes so distributed, as to contribute principally to the former of those effects.

Thus far we have considered the conditions of the adult spine, and have seen that they are calculated most admirably both for flexibility and for strength. Let us now examine the same co-