

instruments of progression by their greater length and muscularity, compared with the generality of quadrupeds. The only exceptions to this rule occur in those mammalia which are constructed expressly for leaping, such as the *Kangaroo* and *Jerboa*, where, however, the hind legs are employed almost solely for that mode of progression. The *Quadrumana*, which come nearer to the human form than any of the other tribes, have the lower limbs comparatively weak. In almost all other quadrupeds the disproportion is still greater, the thigh being short, and almost concealed by the muscles of the trunk, and the remainder of the limb being slender, and not surrounded by any considerable mass of muscles.

The articular surfaces of the knee joint are broader, and admit of greater extent of motion in man than in quadrupeds: hence the leg can be brought into the same line with the thigh, and form with it a straight and firm column of support to the trunk; and the long neck of the thigh bone allows of more complete rotation. The widely spread basin of the pelvis effectually sustains the weight of the digestive organs, and they rest more particularly upon the broad expansion of the iliac bones: in quadrupeds, these bones, having no such weight to support, are much narrower.

The base on which the whole body is supported in the erect position is constituted by the toes, and by the heel, the bone of which projects backwards at right angles to the leg. Between these points the sole of the foot has a concavity in two directions, the one longitudinal, the other transverse, constituting a double arch. This construction, besides conferring strength and elasticity, provides room for the convenient passage of the tendons of the toes, which proceed downwards from the larger muscles of the leg, and

dent purpose of bringing the fore limbs nearer to each other, that they might more effectually support the anterior part of the trunk. In Man, on the contrary, the thorax is flattened anteriorly, and extends more in width than in depth; thus throwing out the shoulders, and allowing an extensive range of motion to the arms.