

Articulations.—The vomer articulates with *six* bones: two of the cranium, the sphenoid and ethmoid; and four of the face, the two maxillæ and the two palatine bones; it also articulates with the septal cartilage of the nose.

The Mandible (Mandibula; Inferior Maxillary Bone; Lower Jaw).

The **mandible**, the largest and strongest bone of the face, serves for the reception of the lower teeth. It consists of a curved, horizontal portion, the **body**, and two perpendicular portions, the **rami**, which unite with the ends of the body nearly at right angles.

The Body (*corpus mandibulæ*).—The body is curved somewhat like a horseshoe, and has two surfaces and two borders.

Surfaces.—The **external surface** (Fig. 176) is marked in the median line by a faint ridge, indicating the **symphysis** or line of junction of the two pieces of which the bone is composed at an early period of life. This ridge divides below and encloses a triangular eminence, the **mental protuberance**, the base of which is de-

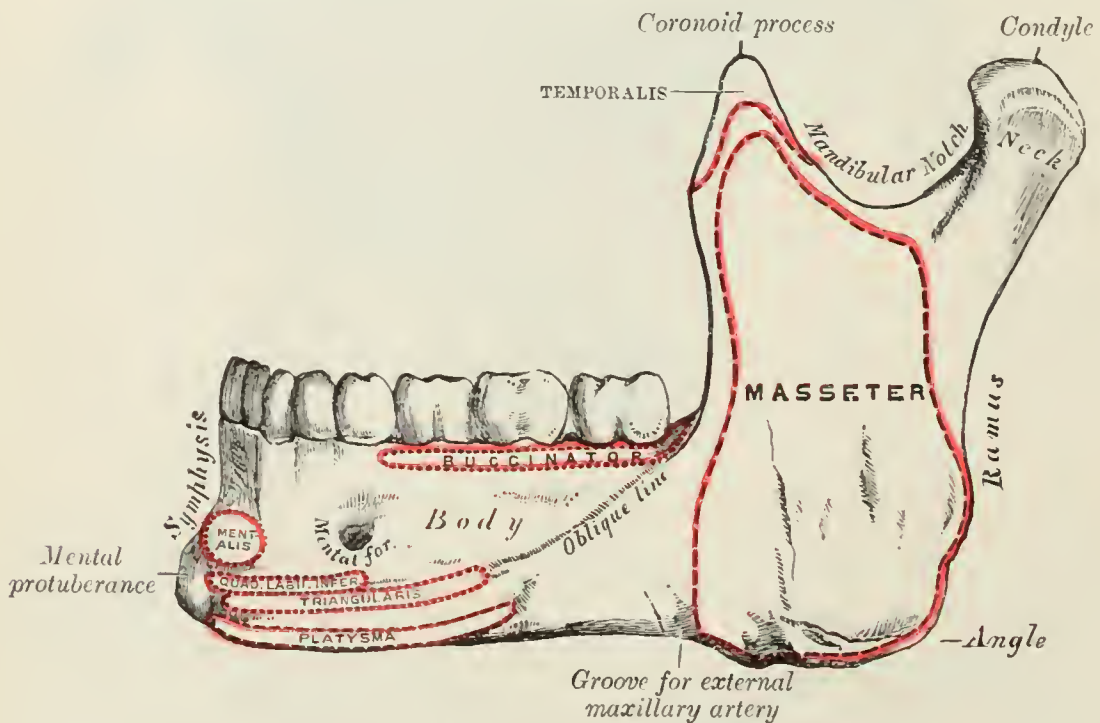


FIG. 176.—Mandible. Outer surface. Side view.

pressed in the center but raised on either side to form the **mental tubercle**. On either side of the symphysis, just below the incisor teeth, is a depression, the **incisive fossa**, which gives origin to the Mentalis and a small portion of the Orbicularis oris. Below the second premolar tooth, on either side, midway between the upper and lower borders of the body, is the **mental foramen**, for the passage of the mental vessels and nerve. Running backward and upward from each mental tubercle is a faint ridge, the **oblique line**, which is continuous with the anterior border of the ramus; it affords attachment to the Quadratus labii inferioris and Triangularis; the Platysma is attached below it.

The **internal surface** (Fig. 177) is concave from side to side. Near the lower part of the symphysis is a pair of laterally placed spines, termed the **mental spines**, which give origin to the Genioglossi. Immediately below these is a second pair of spines, or more frequently a median ridge or impression, for the origin of the Geniohyoidei. In some cases the mental spines are fused to form a single eminence, in others they are absent and their position is indicated merely by an irregularity of the surface. Above the mental spines a median foramen and furrow are sometimes seen; they mark the line of union of the halves of the bone. Below the mental