

the abducent nerve. On either side of the sella turcica is the **carotid groove**, which is broad, shallow, and curved somewhat like the italic letter *f*. It begins behind

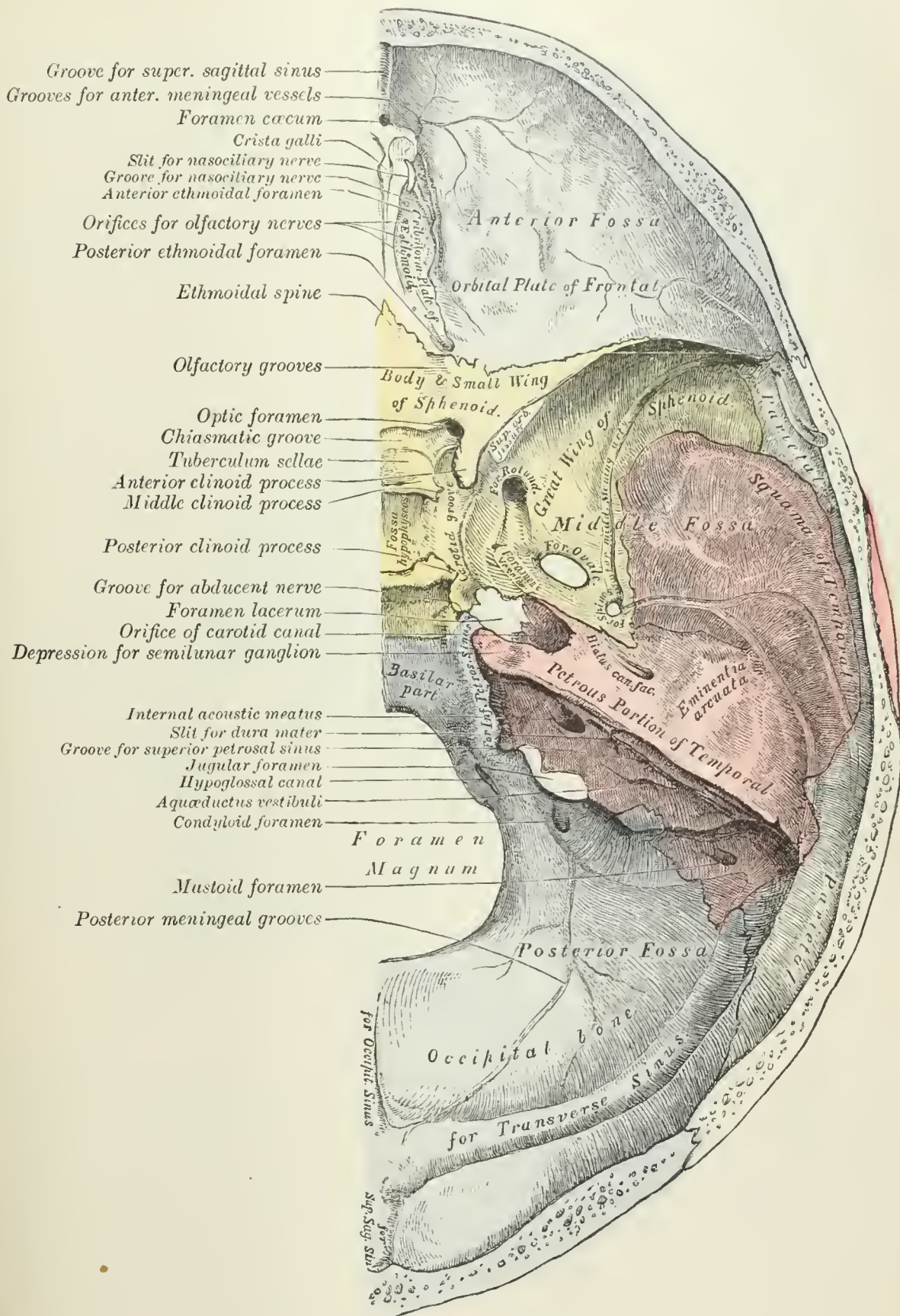


FIG. 193.—Base of the skull. Upper surface.

at the foramen lacerum, and ends on the medial side of the anterior clinoid process, where it is sometimes converted into a foramen (*carotico-clinoid*) by the union of the anterior with the middle clinoid process; posteriorly, it is bounded laterally