interior the cells or *osteoblasts* predominate; the whole tissue is richly supplied with bloodvessels. At the outset of the process of bone formation a little network of spicules is noticed radiating from the point or center of ossification. These rays consist at their growing points of a network of fine clear fibers and granular

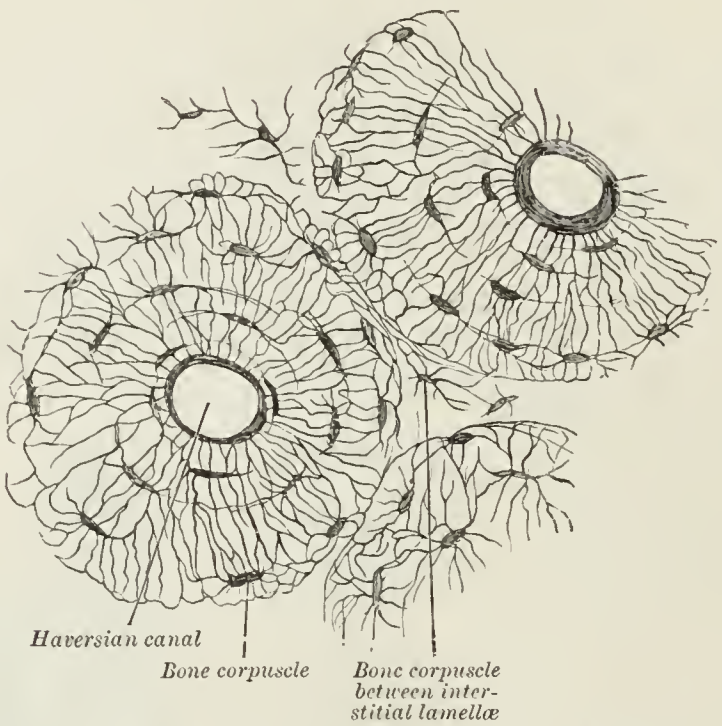

Fig. 77.—Transverse section of body of human fibula, decalcified. × 250.

corpuscles with an intervening ground substance (Fig. 78). The fibers are termed **osteogenetic fibers,** and are made up of fine fibrils differing little from those of white fibrous tissue. The membrane soon assumes a dark and granular appearance from the deposition of calcareous granules in the fibers and in the intervening matrix,

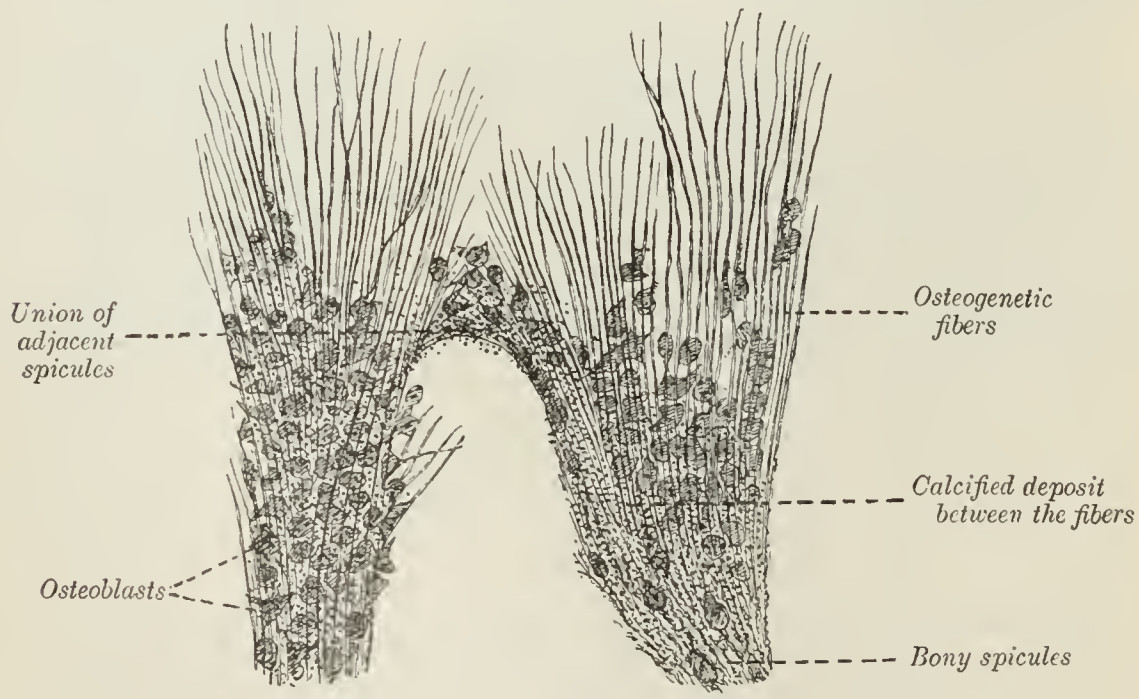

Fig. 78.—Part of the growing edge of the developing parietal bone of a fetal cat. (After J. Lawrence.)

and in the calcified material some of the granular corpuscles or osteoblasts are enclosed. By the fusion of the calcareous granules the tissue again assumes a more transparent appearance, but the fibers are no longer so distinctly seen. The involved osteoblasts form the corpuscles of the future bone, the spaces in