

overlap from the fifth to the eighth, but are less oblique in direction above and below. The **superior articular processes** are thin plates of bone projecting upward from the junctions of the pedicles and laminae; their articular facets are practically flat, and are directed backward and a little lateralward and upward. The **inferior articular processes** are fused to a considerable extent with the laminae,

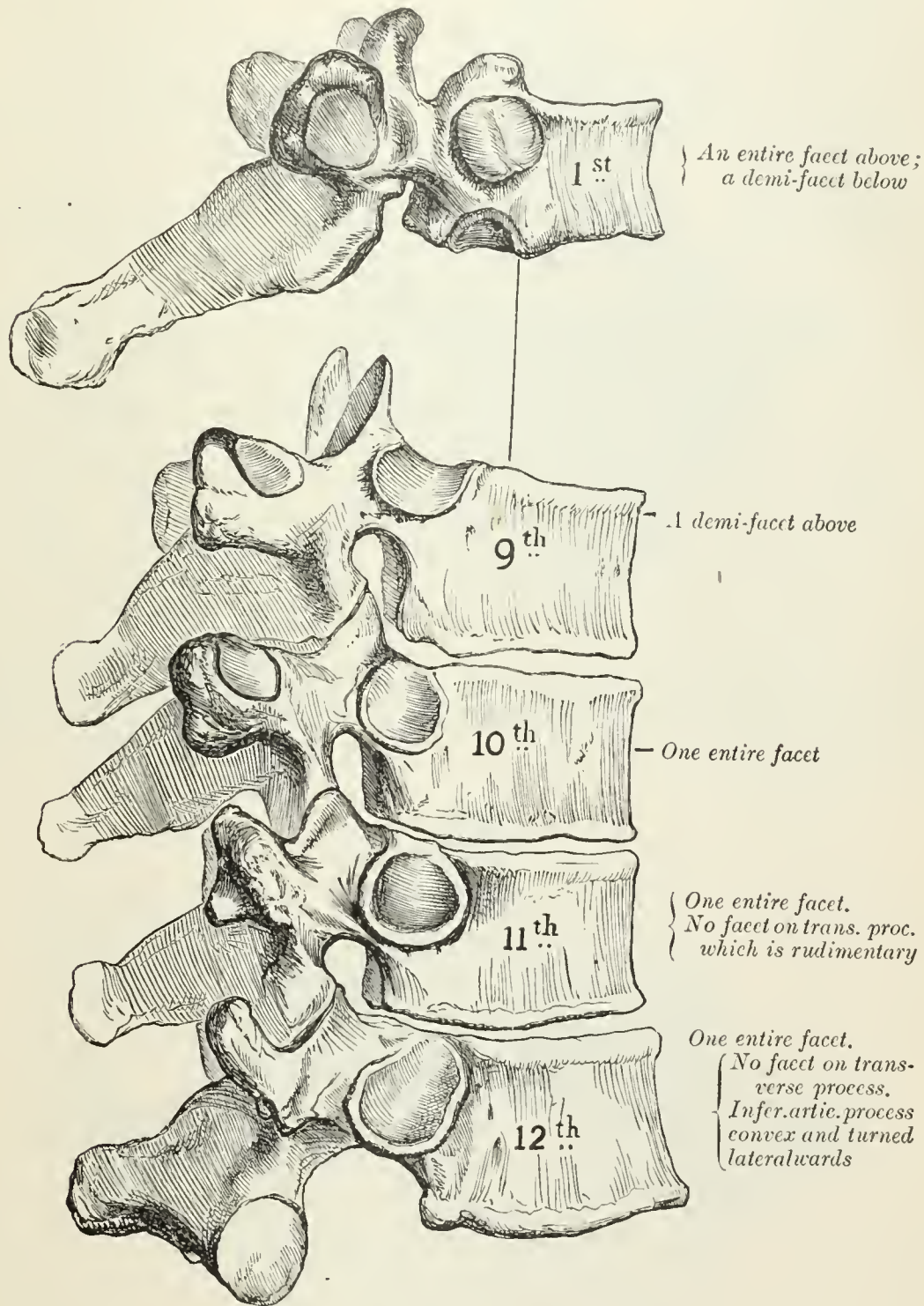


FIG. 91.—Peculiar thoracic vertebræ.

and project but slightly beyond their lower borders; their facets are directed forward and a little medialward and downward. The **transverse processes** arise from the arch behind the superior articular processes and pedicles; they are thick, strong, and of considerable length, directed obliquely backward and lateralward, and each ends in a clubbed extremity, on the front of which is a small, concave surface, for articulation with the tubercle of a rib.