

The Sternum (Breast Bone).

The **sternum** (Figs. 115 to 117) is an elongated, flattened bone, forming the middle portion of the anterior wall of the thorax. Its upper end supports the clavicles, and its margins articulate with the cartilages of the first seven pairs

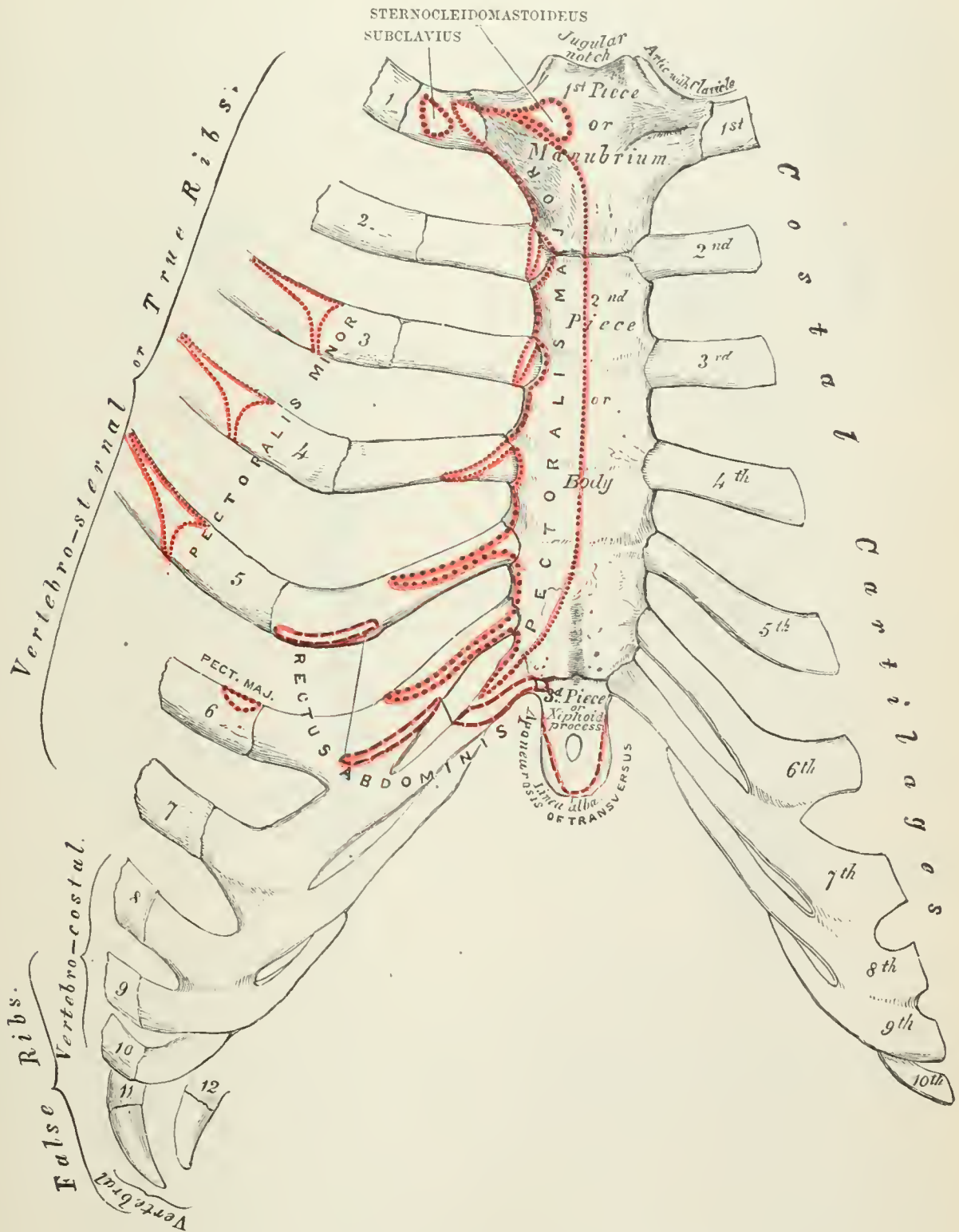


Fig. 115.—Anterior surface of sternum and costal cartilages.

of ribs. It consists of three parts, named from above downward, the **manubrium**, the **body** or **gladiolus**, and the **xiphoid process**; in early life the body consists of four segments or *sternebræ*. In its natural position the inclination of the bone is oblique from above, downward and forward. It is slightly convex in front and concave