

cervical ganglion by two or more cords, one of which forms a loop around the subclavian artery and supplies offsets to it. This loop is named the **ansa subclavia** (*Viesssenii*).

The ganglion sends gray rami communicantes to the seventh and eighth cervical nerves.

It gives off the inferior cardiac nerve, and offsets to bloodvessels.

The **inferior cardiac nerve** (*n. cardiacus inferior*) arises from either the inferior cervical or the first thoracic ganglion. It descends behind the subclavian artery and along the front of the trachea, to join the deep part of the cardiac plexus. It communicates freely behind the subclavian artery with the recurrent nerve and the middle cardiac nerve.

The **offsets to bloodvessels** form plexuses on the subclavian artery and its branches. The plexus on the vertebral artery is continued on to the basilar, posterior cerebral, and cerebellar arteries. The plexus on the inferior thyroid artery accompanies the artery to the thyroid gland, and communicates with the recurrent and external laryngeal nerves, with the superior cardiac nerve, and with the plexus on the common carotid artery.

#### THE THORACIC PORTION OF THE SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM (PARS THORACALIS S. SMYPATHICI) (Fig. 846).

The thoracic portion of the sympathetic trunk consists of a series of ganglia, which usually correspond in number to that of the vertebræ; but, on account of the occasional coalescence of two ganglia, their number is uncertain. The thoracic ganglia rest against the heads of the ribs, and are covered by the costal pleura; the last two, however, are more anterior than the rest, and are placed on the sides of the bodies of the eleventh and twelfth thoracic vertebræ. The ganglia are small in size, and of a grayish color. The first, larger than the others, is of an elongated form, and frequently blended with the inferior cervical ganglion. They are connected together by the intervening portions of the trunk.

Two rami communicantes, a white and a gray, connect each ganglion with its corresponding spinal nerve.

The *branches from the upper five ganglia* are very small; they supply filaments to the thoracic aorta and its branches. Twigs from the second, third, and fourth ganglia enter the posterior pulmonary plexus.

The *branches from the lower seven ganglia* are large, and white in color; they distribute filaments to the aorta, and unite to form the greater, the lesser, and the lowest splanchnic nerves.

The **greater splanchnic nerve** (*n. splanchnicus major; great splanchnic nerve*) is white in color, firm in texture, and of a considerable size; it is formed by branches from the fifth to the ninth or tenth thoracic ganglia, but the fibers in the higher roots may be traced upward in the sympathetic trunk as far as the first or second thoracic ganglion. It descends obliquely on the bodies of the vertebræ, perforates the crus of the diaphragm, and ends in the celiac ganglion. A ganglion (**ganglion splanchnicum**) exists on this nerve opposite the eleventh or twelfth thoracic vertebra.

The **lesser splanchnic nerve** (*n. splanchnicus minor*) is formed by filaments from the ninth and tenth, and sometimes the eleventh thoracic ganglia, and from the cord between them. It pierces the diaphragm with the preceding nerve, and joins the aorticorenal ganglion.

The **lowest splanchnic nerve** (*n. splanchnicus imus; least splanchnic nerve*) arises from the last thoracic ganglion, and, piercing the diaphragm, ends in the renal plexus.

A striking analogy exists between the splanchnic and the cardiac nerves. The cardiac nerves are three in number; they arise from all three cervical ganglia,