

The Nasal Cavity (*carum nasi*; *nasal fossa*).—The nasal cavities are two irregular spaces, situated one on either side of the middle line of the face, extending from the base of the cranium to the roof of the mouth, and separated from each other by a thin vertical septum. They open on the face through the pear-shaped **anterior nasal aperture**, and their posterior openings or **choanæ** communicate, in the fresh state, with the nasal part of the pharynx. They are much narrower above than below, and in the middle than at their anterior or posterior openings: their depth, which is considerable, is greatest in the middle. They communicate with the frontal, ethmoidal, sphenoidal, and maxillary sinuses. Each cavity is bounded by a **roof**, a **floor**, a **medial** and a **lateral wall**.

The **roof** (Figs. 195, 196) is horizontal in its central part, but slopes downward in front and behind; it is formed in *front* by the nasal bone and the spine of the frontal; in the *middle*, by the cribriform plate of the ethmoid; and *behind*,

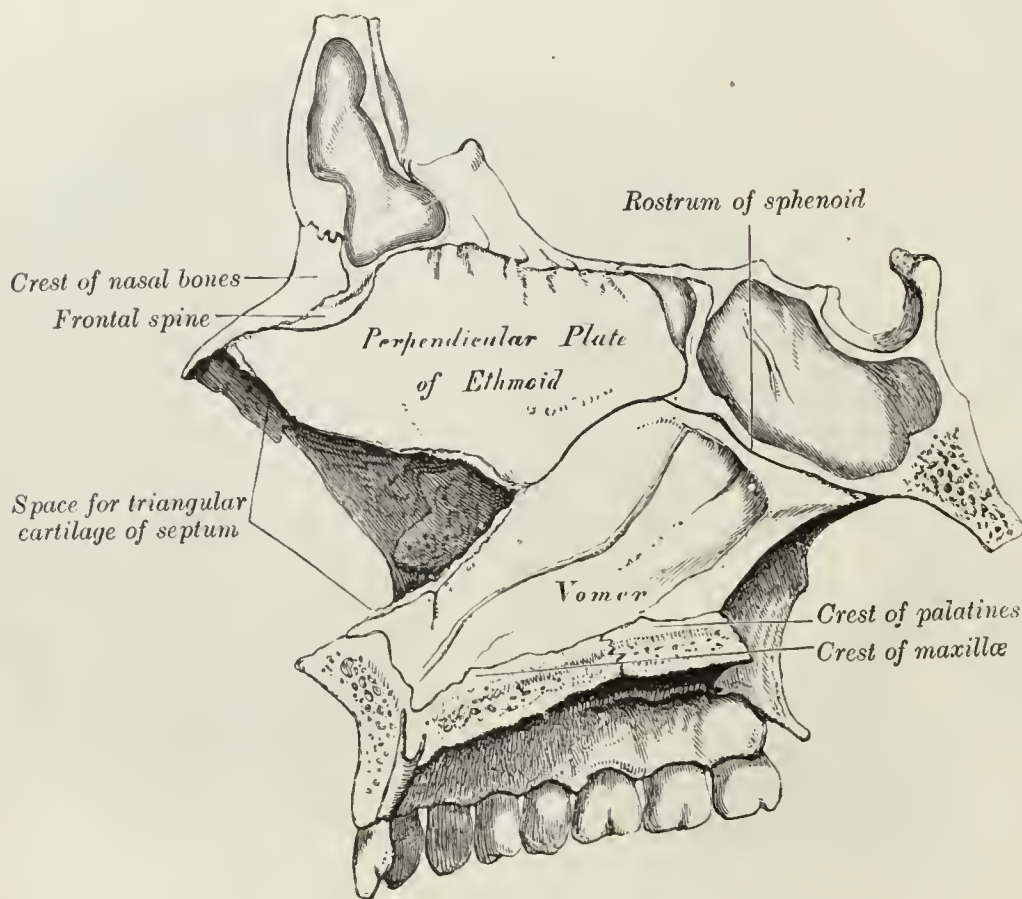


FIG. 195.—Medial wall of left nasal fossa.

by the body of the sphenoid, the sphenoidal concha, the ala of the vomer and the sphenoidal process of the palatine bone. In the cribriform plate of the ethmoid are the foramina for the olfactory nerves, and on the posterior part of the roof is the opening into the sphenoidal sinus.

The **floor** is flattened from before backward and concave from side to side. It is formed by the palatine process of the maxilla and the horizontal part of the palatine bone; near its anterior end is the opening of the incisive canal.

The **medial wall** (*septum nasi*) (Fig. 195), is frequently deflected to one or other side, more often to the left than to the right. It is formed, in *front*, by the crest of the nasal bones and frontal spine; in the *middle*, by the perpendicular plate of the ethmoid; *behind*, by the vomer and the rostrum of the sphenoid; *below*, by the crest of the maxillæ and palatine bones. It presents, in front, a large, triangular notch, which receives the cartilage of the septum; and behind, the free edge of the vomer. Its surface is marked by numerous furrows for vessels