

and are distributed to a large and important organ in the thoracic cavity. The splanchnic nerves, also three in number, are connected probably with all the thoracic ganglia, and are distributed to important organs in the abdominal cavity.

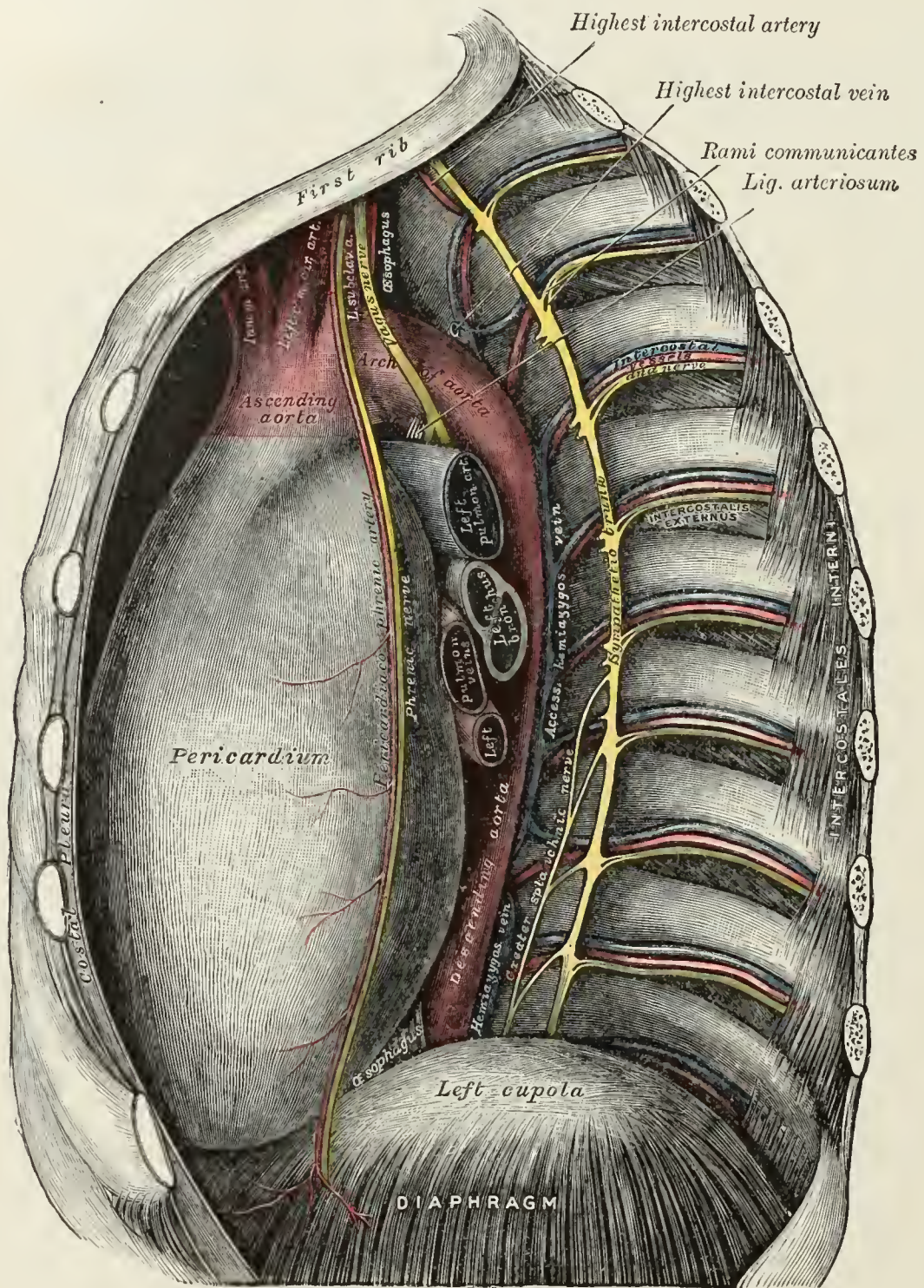


FIG. 846.—Thoracic portion of the sympathetic trunk.

**THE ABDOMINAL PORTION OF THE SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM (PARS ABDOMINALIS S. SYMPATHICI; LUMBAR PORTION OF GANGLIATED CORD) (Fig. 847).**

The abdominal portion of the sympathetic trunk is situated in front of the vertebral column, along the medial margin of the Psoas major. It consists usually of four lumbar ganglia, connected together by interganglionic cords. It is continuous above with the thoracic portion beneath the medial lumbocostal arch, and below with the pelvic portion behind the common iliac artery. The ganglia are of small size, and placed much nearer the median line than are the thoracic ganglia.