Nerve supply.—A branch from the obturator nerve.

Variations.—In Pygosceles tæniatus and Spheniscus demersus this muscle is to some extent separable into two distinct lamellæ—an internal and an external. No trace of this subdivision is observable in any other species. In Pygosceles, Eudyptes chrysolophus, and Spheniscus magellanicus the posterior half of its muscular fibres terminates on the tendon common to this muscle and to the inner head of origin of the gastrocnemius.

Remarks.—Gervais and Alix speak of the adductores in Eudyptes chrysolophus as being attached to the ischium and pubis. Neither in this species nor in any other have I been able to recognise more than a single adductor. In this connection it must be remembered, that the muscle which I have named adductor longus constitutes a portion of the femoro-coccygeus of these authors, and is not therefore regarded by them as constituting a second adductor. Meckel rightly observes that in the Penguin the posterior fibres of the adductor magnus are united with the origin of the gastrocnemius, much in the same way as are those of the semitendinosus in other birds.

6. Obturator externus.

Le muscle qui tient la place du quarré, Vicq d'Azyr, 1774, p. 496, No. 10. Quarré de la cuisse, Cuvier, vol. i. p. 355, No. 5. Der Schenkelroller, Wiedemann, p. 97. Der äussere Huftbeinloch-Muskel, Tiedemann, p. 328, No. 5. Muscle No. 6, Meckel, vol. vi. p. 84. Pyramidalis, Owen, p. 35. Quadratus femoris, Selenka, vol. vi. p. 140, No. 79. Le carré, Gervais and Alix, p. 32.

Attachments.—The obturator externus arises from the whole of the outer surface of the ischium, behind the sciatic foramen, and below the origin of the biceps femoris. The fibres pass horizontally forwards, to terminate on a stout tendon which is inserted into a depression on the outer surface of the great trochanter of the femur, between the insertions of the gluteus medius and gluteus minimus.

Action.—The muscle rotates the femur outwards, and consequently directs the foot inwards towards that of the opposite side. In this action the obturator externus is the antagonist of the gluteus medius and minimus.

Relations.—Superficially the muscle is concealed by the biceps and adductor longus, and is crossed by the sciatic nerve. Its deeper surface rests upon the ischium.

Nerve supply.—A branch from the obturator nerve.