end and the pons there is a slight depression to which the roots of the facial nerve are attached. The external arcuate fibers wind across the lower part of the pyramid and olive and enter the inferior peduncle.

The **posterior district** (Fig. 686) lies behind the postero-lateral sulcus and the roots of the accessory, vagus, and the glossopharyngeal nerves, and, like the lateral district, is divisible into a lower and an upper portion.

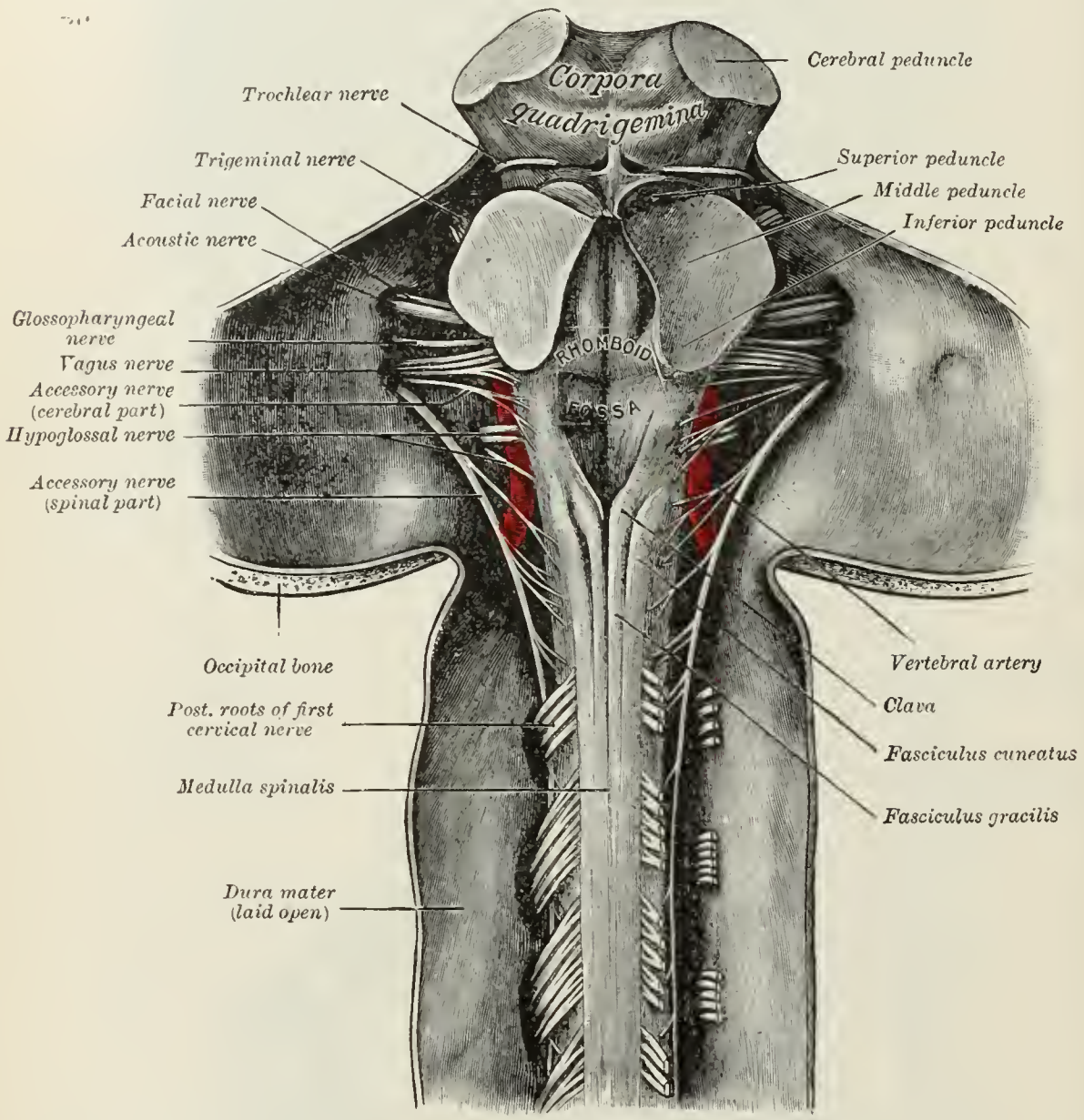

FIG. 686.—Upper part of medulla spinalis and hind- and mid-brains; posterior aspect, exposed *in situ*.

The **lower part** is limited behind by the posterior median fissure, and consists of the **fasciculus gracilis** and the **fasciculus cuneatus**. The fasciculus gracilis is placed parallel to and along the side of the posterior median fissure, and separated from the fasciculus cuneatus by the postero-intermediate sulcus and septum. The gracile and cuneate fasciculi are at first vertical in direction; but at the lower part of the rhomboid fossa they diverge from the middle line in a V-shaped manner, and each presents an elongated swelling. That on the fasciculus gracilis is named the **clava**, and is produced by a subjacent nucleus of gray matter, the **nucleus gracilis**; that on the fasciculus cuneatus is termed the **cuneate tubercle**, and is likewise caused by a gray nucleus, named the **nucleus cuneatus**. The fibers of these fasciculi terminate by arborizing around the cells in their respective nuclei. A third elevation, produced by the substantia gelatinosa of Rolando, is present in the lower part of the posterior district of the medulla oblongata. It lies on the