

hypothalami; and (3) the posterior part of the third ventricle. For descriptive purposes, however, it is more convenient to consider the whole of the third ventricle and its boundaries together; this necessitates the inclusion, under this heading, of the pars optica hypothalami and the corresponding part of the third ventricle—structures which properly belong to the telencephalon.

The Thalamencephalon.—The thalamencephalon comprises: (1) the **thalamus**; (2) the **metathalamus** or **corpora geniculata**; and (3) the **epithalamus**, consisting of the trigonum habenulæ, the pineal body, and the posterior commissure.

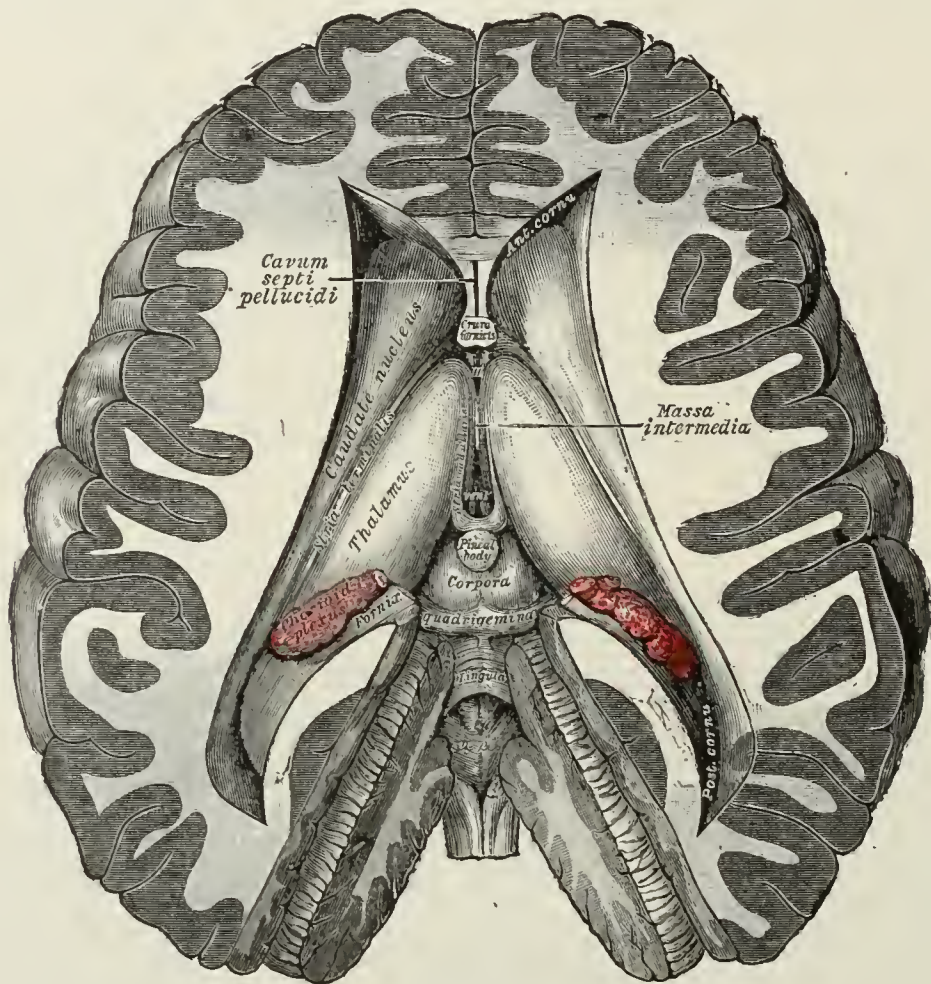


FIG. 716.—Dissection showing the ventricles of the brain.

The **Thalami** (*optic thalamus*) (Figs. 716, 717) are two large ovoid masses, situated one on either side of the third ventricle and reaching for some distance behind that cavity. Each measures about 4 cm. in length, and presents two extremities, an anterior and a posterior, and four surfaces, superior, inferior, medial, and lateral.

The **anterior extremity** is narrow; it lies close to the middle line and forms the posterior boundary of the interventricular foramen.

The **posterior extremity** is expanded, directed backward and lateralward, and overlaps the superior colliculus. Medially it presents an angular prominence, the **pulvinar**, which is continued laterally into an oval swelling, the **lateral geniculate body**, while beneath the pulvinar, but separated from it by the superior brachium, is a second oval swelling, the **medial geniculate body**.

The **superior surface** is free, slightly convex, and covered by a layer of white substance, termed the **stratum zonale**. It is separated laterally from the caudate nucleus by a white band, the **stria terminalis**, and by the terminal vein. It is divided into a medial and a lateral portion by an oblique shallow furrow which runs from behind forward and medialward and corresponds with the lateral margin of the fornix; the lateral part forms a portion of the floor of the lateral ventricle, and is