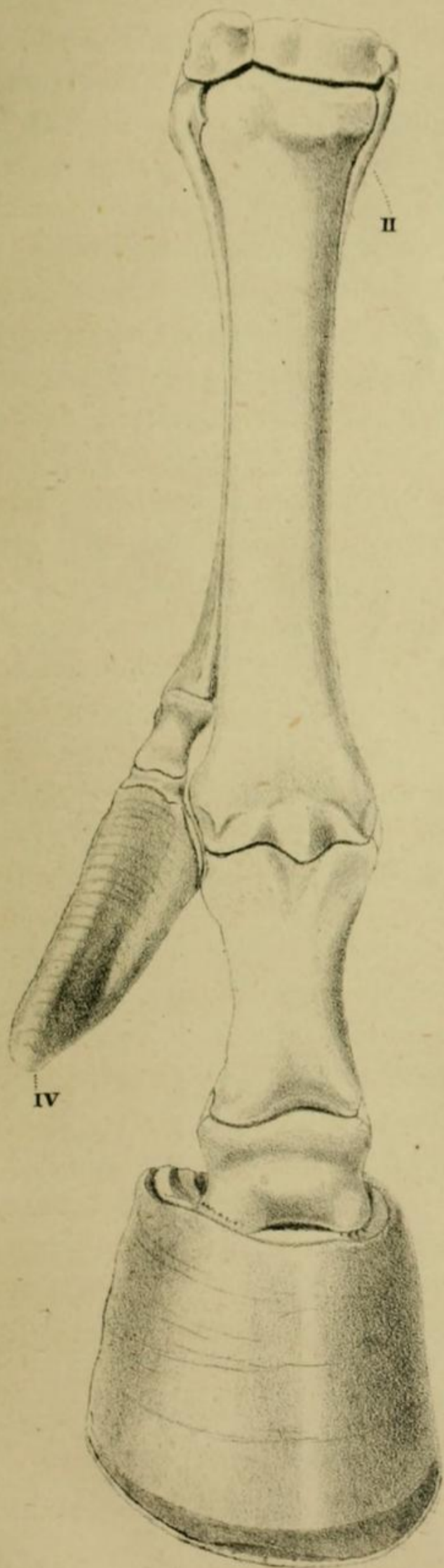
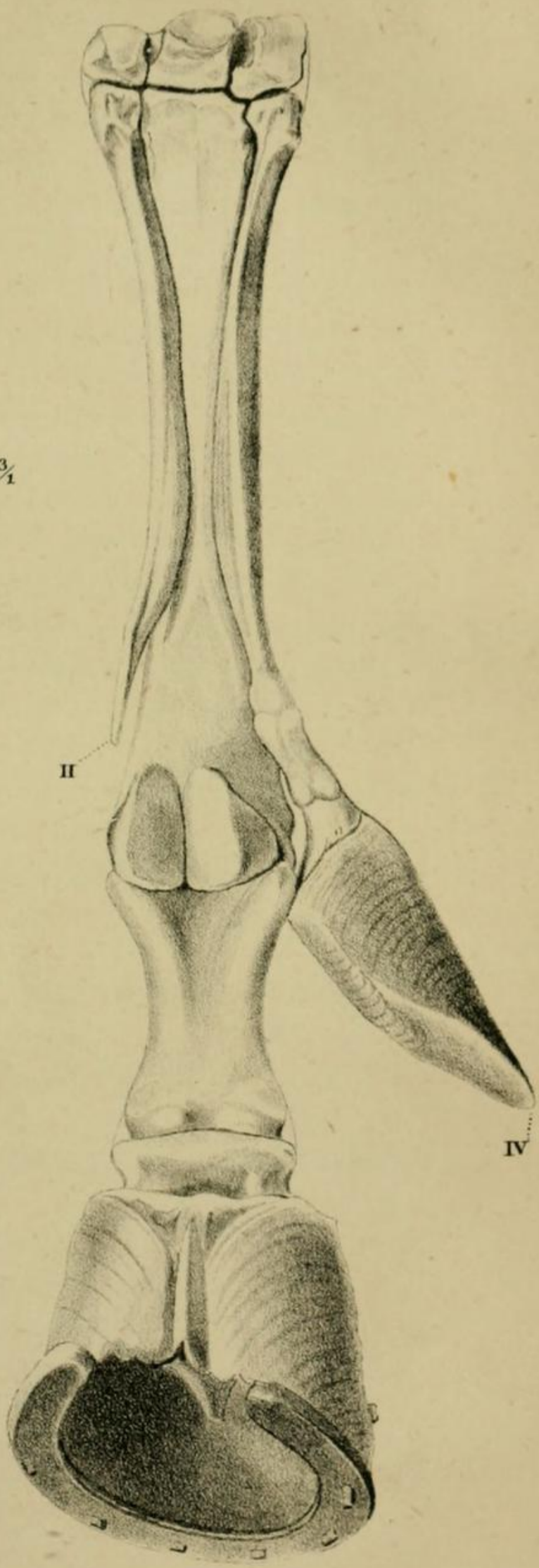


Fig: 1.

Fig: 2.



$\frac{3}{4}$



III

III

For reference see p. 18.

the country in architecture, and it would be absurd to suppose that a king, like As'oka, who is presumed to have originally lived in thatched huts, would of his own accord send for architects and quarriers from Greece to build him a palace. In reply to the argument founded on the ornaments of old Indian architecture being copied from wooden originals, it is contended that they do not suffice to indicate the exact age when the transition first took place, inasmuch as there is a spirit of conservatism, a mannerism or a survival of custom in architectural ornamentation, so strong that it preserves intact forms long after the lapse of the exigencies which first lead to their production, and such evidence, therefore, cannot be accepted as conclusive.

Rev. K. M. Benerjea made some observations in support of the views expressed by Bábu Rájendralála Mitra.

Mr. Wood-Mason exhibited an interesting case of polydactylism (see pl. I), in a horse from Bagdad, and remarked that the splint-like rudiments of the metacarpals of the fourth toe on each fore-foot (iv. in figs. 1 et 2 of pl. I) had given rise to a supernumerary digit provided with the regular number of phalanges and encased in an asymmetrical hoof; the asymmetry of which was such, that the presence of another of the same shape internally to it would have formed a symmetrical pair, like the cleft hoof of a ruminant. The metatarsals of the fourth toe on each hind foot were by the law of correlation similarly affected, but the supernumerary hoofs of these were stouter and more irregular in shape. He next mentioned the fact that M. Arloing in a recent contribution\* to our knowledge of the organization of the foot of the horse had described a polydactyle horse with the extra digits developed from the rudiments of the second toe (ii. in figs. 1 et 2); the hoofs of these only differed from those of the principal digits in their smaller size. He next distinguished between those monstrosities† that had resulted from injuries received by the embryo *in utero* or in the egg, between those which might be said to be due to the "anomalous retention of embryonic

\* Ann. des sc. nat. (zool.), 5c Sér., vol. viii, pp. 55 et seqq., pl. 1.

† For full information on the subject of monstrosities *vide* Darwin's "Animals and Plants under domestication."

characters," and those that took the form of the re-development of visible rudiments of digits, or other structures, normally present in some remote ancestors of the group to which the individual affected belonged. This explanation applied to the polydactyle foot figured on the accompanying plate (I.). The resemblance to the extinct *Hipparion*\* would have been perfect if the two outer toes on each foot had been developed. In illustration of these remarks, he traced the Horses back in time to their three-toed progenitors, *Hipparion* and *Anchitherium*, whose remains abounded in the miocene deposits of Europe, India (in the Sewalik-hills), and America: in *Hipparion* the two outer toes of each foot possessed the same number of phalanges as the principal toe, but were reduced to mere dewclaws and did not touch the ground; in *Anchitherium*, on the other hand, they were nearly equal in size to it. The figures sufficiently showed the great length and breadth of the "splints" (ii. et iv. in figs. 1 et 2), and the obtuseness of their distal extremities as compared with the slender, finely pointed character of these same structures in an ordinary horse.

#### Explanation of Plate I.

Fig. 1. Front view of right carpus (*minus* the proximal series of carpal bones) of a polydactyle horse;  $\frac{1}{2}$  nat. size.

Fig 2. Posterior view of same.

The Roman numerals ii, iii, iv refer to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th digits respectively in both figures.

The following papers were received.

On terrestrial Mollusca from the neighbourhood of Moulmein, Tenasserim Provinces, by Dr. F. Stoliczka.

Monograph of the Indian *Cyprinidæ*, Pt. I, by Dr. F. Day.

#### LIBRARY.

The following additions have been made to the Library since the meeting held in December last.

#### Presentations.

\*\* Names of Donors in Capitals.

Proceedings of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Vol. V. Part VII.—THE INSTITUTION.

Journal of the Chemical Society, Sept., 1870.—THE SOCIETY.

\* *Vide* the magnificent memoirs of M. Gaudry and Dr. Leidy, and in connexion therewith Prof. Huxley's Presidential address to the Geological Society of London, February, 1870.