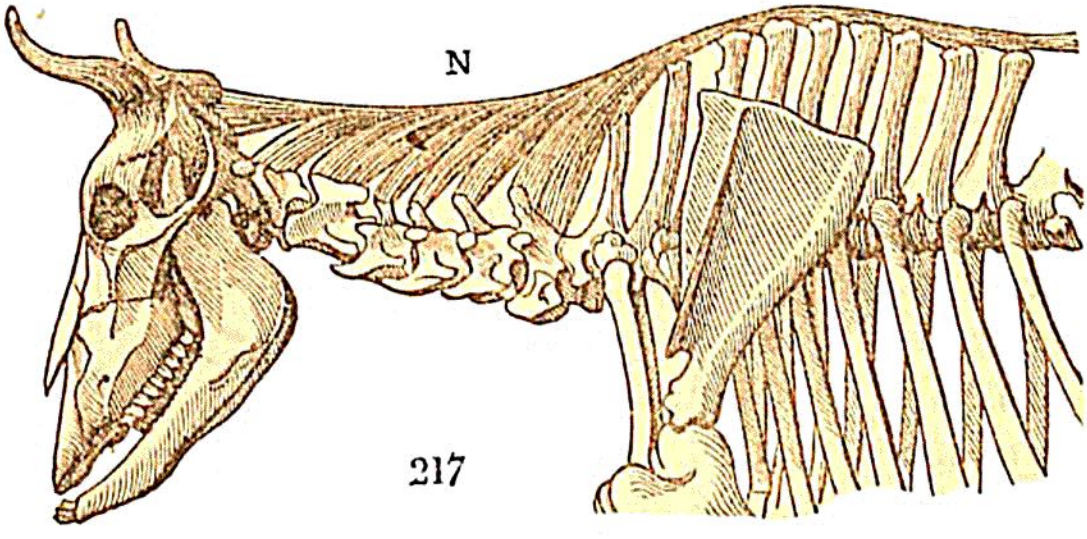
one another at angles more acute in these animals than in other tribes of mammalia, so that they are always ready for instantly commencing their flight, and springing forwards on the slightest notice of danger. (See Fig. 218, page 350.)

As it was necessary, from the situation of their food, that their heads should reach the ground in grazing, we find that the neck has been much elongated, that the muscles which raise the head have been enlarged and strengthened, and that the spinous processes of the back and neck have been much expanded, in order to allow of sufficient surface for the attachments of these muscles. The effort requisite to raise, and even support the head, is very considerable; as will appear when we reflect that its weight acts by means of an extremely long lever; for such is the mechanical office of the elongated neck. But, in order to economize the muscular power, an elastic ligament is employed to sustain the weight of the head. This, which is termed the *ligamentum nuchæ*, and is represented at N, in Fig. 217, is formed of a great number of bands which connect the hinder part of the cranium, at the ridge of the occipital bone, and all the spinous processes of the neck, with those of the back, the separate slips from each being successively joined together, and composing a ligament of great length and power. It differs, in



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its structure, from ordinary ligaments, being highly elastic, so that it yields to the extension of the neck when the animal