

that subterraneous movements elevated them, threw the strata on edge, and formed an irregular island : at the same time, the Grampians, Lammermuirs, and the slaty tracts of Ireland and Wales, and the Oecrynian chains of Cornwall, stood above the waters.

As a whole this system contains, comparatively, few organic remains, but locally peculiar fossils abound. These, which are figured and described by Mr. Murchison,* consist of several species of spiriferæ (see Tab. 91), productæ, cucullæa, belleophon, ammonite, orthoceras, turritella, &c. The scales and other remains of several species of fish occur ; one remarkable genus, the *cephalaspis* (Tab. 136), is very characteristic of the system. The scales and fragments of these fishes are generally of a bluish and purple plum colour, which, contrasting strongly with the dull red tint of the surrounding rock, renders the smallest portion of these ichthyolites easily recognisable.† Fuci are, I believe, the only known vegetable remains.

11. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CARBONIFEROUS SYSTEM.—I have briefly alluded to the distribution of the carboniferous system of England,‡ and further details would be irrelevant

* Silurian System, vol. ii. Plates 1, 2, 3.

† Mr. Murchison, p. 588.

‡ The principal coal basins in England are those of Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, North and South Wales, Dudley, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Lancashire, Nottingham, Derby-