

picturesque object. Like the inner surfaces of the bucklers of *Coccosteus* and *Pterichthys*, but much more thickly than these, it was traversed by minute channelled markings, somewhat resembling those striæ which may be detected in the flatter bones of the ordinary fishes, and which seem in these to be mere interstices between the osseous fibres. And in the plates, as in the bones, they radiate from the centres of ossification, which are comparatively dense and massy, towards the thinner overlapping edges. These radiating lines are equally well marked in the cerebral bones of the human foetus. The three converging ridges on the outer surface we find on the inner surface also, — the lateral ones a little bent in the middle, but so directly opposite those outside, that the thickening of the buckler which takes place along their line is at least as much a consequence of their inner as of their outer elevation over the general platform. A fourth bar ran transversely along the nape, and formed the cross beam on which the others rested; for the three longitudinal ridges may be properly regarded as three strong beams, which, extending from the transverse beam at the nape to the front, where they converged like the spokes of a wheel at the nave, gave to the cranial roof a degree of support of which, from its great flatness, it may have stood in need. In cranial bucklers in which the average thickness of the plates does not exceed three *eighth* parts of an inch, their thickness in the centre of the ridges exceeds three *quarters*. The head of the largest crocodile of the existing period is defended by an armature greatly less strong than that worn by the *Asterolepis* of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. Why this ancient Ganoid should have been so ponderously helmed we can but doubtfully guess; we only know, that when nature arms her soldiery, there are assailants to be resisted and