

immediately under the edge of the cranial buckler, it may have served to commence the line of deflection from the flat top of the head to the steep descent of the sides, just as what are technically termed the *spur-stones* in a gable-head serve to commence the line of deflection from the vertical outline of the wall to the inclined line of the roof, or as the *spring-stones* of an arch serve to commence the curve. A few internal bones in my possession are curious, but exceedingly puzzling. The bone *a*, fig. 40,

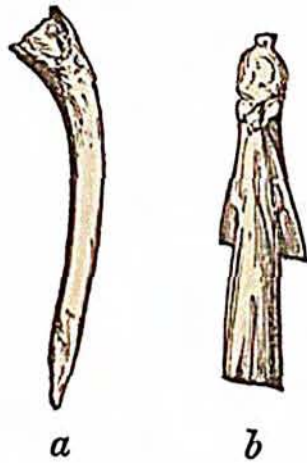


Fig. 40.

which resembles a rib, or branchiostegous ray, of one of the ordinary fishes, formed apparently part of that osseous *style* which in fishes such as the haddock and cod we find attached to the suite of shoulder-bones, and which, according to Cuvier, is the analogue of the coracoidian bone, and, according to Professor Owen, the analogue of the clavicle. Fig. *b* is a mere fragment, broken at both ends,

INTERNAL BONES OF ASTERO-  
LEPIS.

(One half nat. size, linear.)

but exhibiting, in a state of good keeping, lateral expansions, like those of an ancient halbert. Fig. *c*, 41, which is also a fragment, though a more considerable one, bears in its thicker and straighter edge a groove like that of an ichthyodcrulite, which, however, the bone itself in no degree resembles. Fig. *d* is a flat bone, of a type common in the skeleton of fishes, but which, in mammals, we find exemplified in but the scapulars. It seems, like these, to have furnished the base to which some suite of movable bones was articulated, — in all likelihood that proportion of the carpal bonelets of the pectoral fins which are attached in