

Is not this an enemy from which the lesser tenants of the deep would flee without pausing to raise the question of supremacy? These monsters maintained the ascendancy till the introduction of fishes, toward the close of the Upper Silurian, or later. Their decline dates from this epoch; and when the voracious fishes of the Old Red Sandstone and the Carboniferous Limestone came upon the stage of being, the orthoceratites dwindled away. Their last representatives barely saw the rising of Mesozoic Time. Not a trace of a straight plain-chambered shell has been found in any of the rocks above the Trias. They fulfilled their end in creation and retired. Other carnivorous animals of a higher order were better adapted to the advancing state of the earth's preparation. Garpikes appeared. A new dynasty arose, to be in turn overthrown by the dynasty of the Mesozoic reptiles.

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