

Like that of the sturgeon, it must have been a perishable, cartilaginous box.

In the *Ostcolepis*, — an animal the whole of whose external head I have, at an expense of some labor, and from the examination of many specimens, been enabled to restore, — the cranial buckler (fig. 12) was divided in a more arbitrary

Fig. 12.

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CRANIAL BUCKLER OF OSTEOLEPIS..

style; and we find that an element of uncertainty mingles with our inferences regarding it, from the circumstance that some of its lines of division, especially in the frontal half, were not real sutures, but formed merely a kind of surface-tattooing, resorted to as if for purposes of ornament. The cranial buckler of the *Asterolepis* exhibited, as I shall afterwards have occasion to show, a similar peculiarity; — both had their pseudo-sutures, resembling those false joints introduced by the architect into his rusticated basements, in order to impart the necessary aspect of regularity to what is techni-