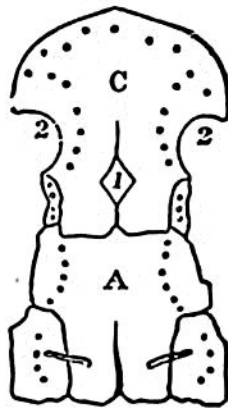


senting outside, in its original state, no fragment of skin or membrane, and with even its most flexible organs sheathed in enamelled bone, the *Osteolepis* must have very much resembled a fish carved in ivory; and, though so effectually covered, it would have appeared, from the circumstance, that it wore almost all its bone outside, as naked as the human teeth.

The cranial buckler of the *Diplopterus* (fig. 16) somewhat

Fig. 16.



CRANIAL BUCKLER OF DIPLOPTERUS.

resembled that of its fellow-dipterian the *Osteolepis*, but exhibited greater elegance of outline. My first perfect specimen, which I owe to the kindness of Mr. John Miller, of Thurso, an intelligent geologist of the north, reminded me, as it glittered in jet-black enamel on its ground of pale gray, of those Roman cuirasses which one sees in old prints, impaled on stakes, as the central objects in warlike trophies formed of spoils taken in battle. The rounded snout represented the chest and shoulders, the middle portion the waist, and the expansion at the nape the piece of dress attached, which, like the Highland kilt, fell adown the thighs. The addition of a fragment of a sleeve, suspended a little over the eye