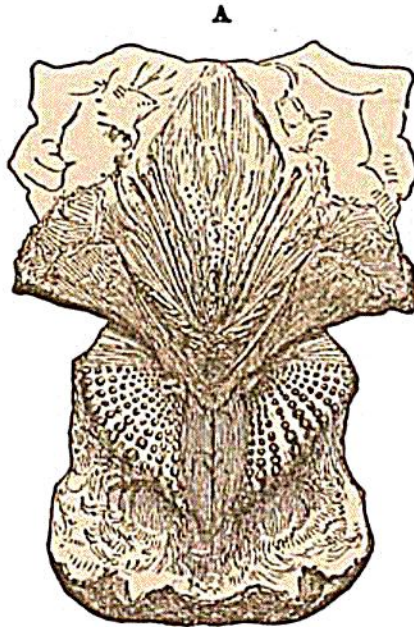


ment still more peculiar, (fig. 20.) Its rectangular patches of palatal teeth, its curious dart-like bone, placed immediately

Fig. 20.



BASE OF CRANIUM OF DIPTEKUS.

behind these, and attached, as the dart-head is attached to the handle, to a broad lozenge-shaped plate, with two strong osseous processes projecting on either side, forms such a *tout ensemble* as is unique among fishes. Even here, however, there may be traced at least a shade of homological resemblance to the bones which form the base of the osseous skull. The single lozenge-shaped plate, (A,) with its dart-head, occupies the place of the basi-occipital bone; the posterior portion of the vomer seems represented by a strong bony ridge, extending towards the snout; two separate bones, each bearing one of the angular patches of teeth, corresponds to the sphenoid bone and its alæ; and attached laterally to each of these there is the strong projecting bone, on which the