

a state of war to be maintained. The posterior central plate, the homologue apparently of the occipital bone, was curiously carved into an ornate massive leaf, like one of the larger leaves of a Corinthian capital, and terminated beneath, where the stem should have been, in a strong osseous knob, fashioned like a pike head. Two plates immediately over it, the homologues of the superior frontal bone, with the little nasal plate which, perched atop in the middle, lay between the creature's eyes, resembled the head and breast in the female figure, at least not less closely than those of the "lady in the lobster;" the posterior frontal plates in which the outer and nether half of the eye orbits were hollowed formed a pair of sweeping wings, and thus in the centre of the buckler we are presented with the figure of an angel, robed and winged, and of which the large sculptured leaf forms the body, traced in a style in no degree more rude than we might expect to see exemplified on the lichen-encrusted shield of some ancient tombstone of that House of Avenel which bore as its arms the effigies of the Spectre Lady. Children have a peculiar knack in detecting such resemblances; and the discovery of the angel in the cranium of the *Asterolepis* I owe to one of mine.

It is on this inner side of the cranial buckler, where there are no such pseudo-joinings indicated as on the external surface, that the homologies of the plates of which it is composed can be best traced. It might be well, however, ere setting one's self to the work of comparison, to examine the skulls of a few of the osseous fishes of our coast, and to mark how very considerably they differ from one another in their lines of suture and their general form. The cerebral divisions of the conger-eel, for instance, are very unlike those of the haddock or whiting; and the sutures in the head of the