

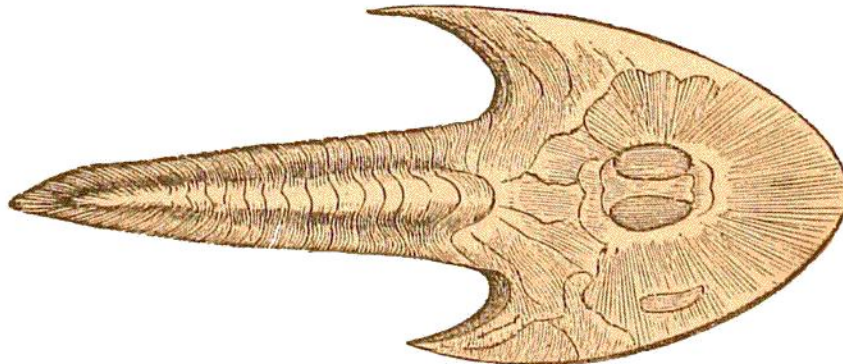
Those of the carboniferous strata disappear with the deposition of the new red sandstone, and those in the Oolite suddenly vanish with the appearance of the chalk. Not one species has yet been found that is common to any of the two great geological formations, or that is now living in the ocean.

We cannot but remark here, how entirely opposed are these facts to a prevalent hypothesis that the different sorts of animals in the rocks, as we ascend, have been slowly changed from one into the other by a natural process. Here, on the contrary, we find such great and entire changes in the successive groups as can be explained only by new creations.

“We find in the history of fishes,” says Pictet, “many arguments against the hypothesis of the transition of species from one into the other. The Teleosteans could not have had their origin in the fishes which existed before the cretaceous epoch, and it is impossible to derive the Placoids and Ganoids from the Teleosteans. The connection of faunas, as Agassiz has said, is not material, but resides in the thought of the Creator.” It is well to take heed to the opinions of such masters in science, when so many, with Darwin at their head, are inclined to adopt the doctrine of gradual transmutation in species.

The Devonian fishes had great peculiarities. Indeed, to the close of the Jurassic period no fish had the horny scales such as now cover four-fifths of them. The Devonian fishes were many of them covered with bony plates forming a buckler, and were also of peculiar form. Fig. 222 shows the under side of the *Cephalaspis Lyellii*.

Fig. 222.



*Cephalaspis Lyellii*.

Fig. 223 is a side view of the same fish. In Fig. 224 is represented another of these fishes, the *Pterichthys cornutus*.