

the shell was curved, the same small area has yielded more than 330 species. *Phragmoceras* (Fig. 346) likewise possessed a curved shell, but with an aperture contracted in the middle. In *Ascoceras* the shell was globular or flask-shaped, with curiously curved septa; in *Lituities* (Fig. 346) it was curled like that of *Nautilus*. The two latter genera occur in Silurian rocks, but while *Lituities* never outlived the Silurian period, *Nautilus* is still a living denizen of the sea.

The first traces of vertebrate life make their appearance in the Silurian system. They consist of the remains of fishes, the most determinable of which are the plates of placoderms (*Pteraspis*, *Cephalaspis*, *Auchenaspis*, *Scaphaspis*). The bone-bed of the Ludlow rocks has also yielded certain curved spines (*Onchus*), which have been referred to a cestraciant, and some shagreen-like plates which have been supposed to be scales of placoid fishes (*Sphagodus*, *Thelodus*), and bodies like jaws with teeth which were called *Plectrodus*, but which are now known to be lateral shield-spines of a cephalaspidean fish (*Eukeraspis*). It is probable that some of these remains have been incorrectly determined, and may belong to crustaceans or annelids. The Upper Silurian rocks have yielded, both in Europe and North America, great numbers of minute tooth-like bodies which were named "Conodonts" by their discoverer, Pander, and were supposed to be the teeth of such fishes as the lamprey, which possessed no other hard parts for preservation. These bodies have been also referred to different divisions of the invertebrata, but palæontologists now regard them as probably in most cases the jaws of annelids.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Zittel and Rohon, Sitzb. Bayr. Akad. Munich, 1886, p. 108.