

and Palæoniscus may be regarded as characteristic "medals" of the geological epoch which intervened between the Devonian and Oolitic formations.

We will next examine a few genera of the homocercal Lepidoids, whose relics are chiefly distributed in the Lias, Oolite, and Wealden.

DAPEDIUS. *Wond.* p. 459.—At Lyme Regis, and other productive localities of the fossils of the Lias, large masses of angular enamelled scales, and occasionally entire specimens of the fishes to which they belonged, have for many years been collected. Sir H. De la Beche first scientifically investigated the structure of these Ichthyolites, and pointed out their characters and relations. The numerous examples subsequently brought to light establish, according to M. Agassiz, two genera; but the difference observable in the external form of the teeth, and which is the only constant obvious distinction, scarcely warrants a generic separation. The Dapedius (of which a restored figure is given *Wond.* p. 459) is a wide, laterally compressed fish, with a rounded head, and fins of moderate size. The body rapidly contracts towards the pedicle of the tail, the fin of which is large, and symmetrically lobed. The mouth is furnished with several rows of small, conical teeth, which are crenated at their summits, and has brush-teeth on the palatine bones; the jaws are short. The scales are rhomboidal, highly polished, and united laterally by short processes; as