

GANOID FISHES OF THE DEVONIAN SYSTEM.—The remains of three genera of ganoid fishes of a very remarkable character, are principally, if not exclusively, found in the Devonian or Old Red system; most frequently in Scotland, but also in Shropshire, Herefordshire, and other districts of England and Wales. These fishes agree in one general character, that of having enormous osseous, or horny plates or scutcheons; their general aspect will be understood by reference to *Lign.* 135; and *Wond.* p. 682. These fishes are not at present arranged by M. Agassiz; but Sir Philip Egerton informs me, that they will probably constitute a distinct family with the name *Cephalaspides*, from the character of the first genus we propose to describe.

CEPHALASPIS LYELLII. *Wond.* p. 682. — The most striking feature in the Ichthyolites of this genus, is the enormous scutcheon, or buckler, which forms the head, and is prolonged posteriorly into two lateral horns or points; this part so closely resembles the cephalic shield of certain trilobites (see *Lign.* 121.), that the first specimens were supposed to be the remains of unknown crustaceans. The name *Cephalaspis* (*buckler-head*) is derived from this character. This remarkable appearance is occasioned by the intimate ankylosis of all the bones of the cranium. The body of these fishes is relatively smaller than the head, has two dorsal fins, and terminates in a tail with a long pedicle, sup-