

any where on the Continent. Nor am I aware that, save in the accompanying wood-cut, (fig. 1,) it has ever been figured. The amateur geologists of Caithness and Orkney have, however, learned to recognize it as the "petrified nail." The length of the entire specimen in this instance was five seven eighths inches, the transverse breadth of the head two inches and a quarter, and the thickness of the stem nearly three tenth parts of an inch. This nail-like bone formed a characteristic portion of the *Asterolepis*, — so far as is yet known, the most gigantic ganoid of the Old Red Sandstone, and, judging from the *place* of this fragment, apparently one of the first.

Fig. 1.



INTERNAL RIDGE OF HYOID PLATE OF ASTEROLEPIS.*

(One third the natural size, linear.)

* Figured from a Thurso specimen, slightly different in its proportions from the Stromness specimen described.