

the human subject from the upper and middle portions of the cranial vault, are thrust out laterally and posteriorly, and take their places, in a subordinate capacity, on each side of the super-occipital. This is not an invariable arrangement among fishes; — in the carp genus, for instance, the parietals assume their proper medial place between the occipital and frontal bones; but so very general is the displacement, that Professor Owen regards it as characteristic of the great ichthyic class, and as the first example in the vertebrata, reckoning from the lower forms upwards, of a sort of natural dislocation among the bones, — “a modification,” he remarks, “which, sometimes accompanied by great change of place, has tended most to obscure the essential nature of parts, and their true relations to the archetype.”

Of all the cerebral bucklers of the first ganoid period, that which best bears comparison with the cranial front of the cod is the buckler of the *Coccosteus*, (fig. 11.) The general proportions of this portion of the ancient Cephalaspian head differ very considerably from those of the corresponding part in the modern cycloid one; but in their larger divisions, the modern and the ancient answer bone to bone. Three osseous plates in the *Coccosteus*, A, C, I, the homologues, apparently, of the occipital, frontal, and nasal bones, range along the medial line. The apparent homologues of

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mined, for instance, is not whether plate A in the skulls of the cod and *Coccosteus* be the homologue of a part of the occipital or that of a part of the parietal bones, but whether plate A in the *Coccosteus* be the homologue of plate A in the cod. The letters employed I have borrowed from Agassiz's restoration of the *Coccosteus*; whereas the figures intimate divisions which the imperfect keeping of the specimens on which the ichthyologist founded did not enable him to detect.