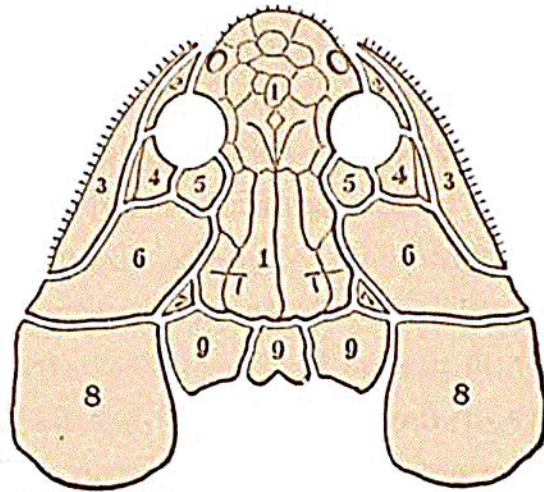


Fig. 13.



UPPER PART OF HEAD OF OSTEOLEPIS.

those bones which, uniting the shoulder-bones to the head, complete the scapular belt or ring. The operculum we find represented by a single plate (8) which had attached to it, as its sub-operculum, a plate (13) of nearly equal size, (see figs. 14 and 15.) Four small plates (2, 4, 5) formed the under curve of the eyes, described in many of the osseous fishes by a chain of small bones or ossicles; a considerably larger plate (6) occupied the place of the preopercular bone; while the intermaxillaries had their representatives in well-marked plates, (3, 3,) which, in the genera *Osteolepis*, *Diplopterus*, and *Glyptolepis*, we find bristling so thickly with teeth along their lower edges, as to remind us of the miniature saws employed by the joiner in cutting out circular holes. These external intermaxillaries did not, as in the perch or cod, meet in front of the nasal bone and vomer, but joined on at the side, a little in advance of the eyes, leaving the rounded termination of the cranial buckler, which, like the intermaxillaries, was thickly fringed with teeth, to form, as has been already said, the creature's snout.