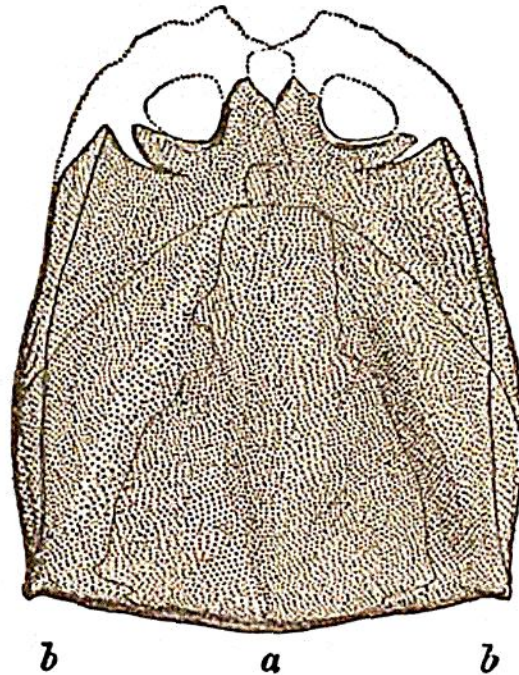


Fig. 27.



CRANIAL BUCKLER OF ASTEROLEPIS.

(One fifth nat. size, linear.)

eye orbits, unlike those of the *Coccosteus*, and of all the Dipterian genera, which were half-scooped out of the cranial buckler, half-encircled by detached plates, were placed completely within the field of the buckler, — a circumstance in which they resemble the eye orbits of the *Pterichthys*, and, among existing fish, those of the sea-wolf. The characteristic is also a distinctive one in Cuvier's second family of the Acanthopterygii, — the "fishes with hard cheeks." A deep line immediately over the eyes, which, however, indicated no suture, but seems to have been merely ornamental, forms a sort of rudely tattooed eyebrow; the marginal lines parallel to the lateral edges of the buckler were also mere tattooings; but all the others indicated joints which, though more or less anchylosed, had a real