

exceedingly curious. In one, a coprolite still rests in the abdomen ; and a common botanist's microscope shows it thickly speckled over with minute scales, the indigestible exuviae of fish on which the animal had preyed. In the abdomen of another we find a few minute pebbles — just as pebbles are occasionally found in the stomach of the cod — which had been swallowed by the creature attached to its food. Is there nothing wonderful in the fact, that men should be learning at this time of day how the fishes of the Old Red Sandstone lived, and that there were some of them rapacious enough not to be over nice in their eating ?

The under part of the creature is still very imperfectly known : it had its central lozenge-shaped plate, like that on the under side of the *Pterichthys*, but of greater elegance, (see Plate III., fig. 3,) round which the other plates were ranged. “What an appropriate ornament, if set in gold !” said Dr. Buckland, on seeing a very beautiful specimen of this central lozenge in the interesting collection of Professor Traill of Edinburgh, — “What an appropriate ornament for a lady geologist !” There are two marked peculiarities in the jaws of the *Coccosteus*, as shown in most of the specimens, illustrative of the lower part of the creature, which I have yet seen. The teeth, instead of being fixed in sockets, like those of quadrupeds and reptiles, or merely placed on the bone, like those of fish of the common varieties, seem to have been cut out of the solid, like the teeth of a saw or the teeth in the mandibles of the beetle, or in the nippers of the lobster, (Plate III., fig. 4 ;) and there appears to have been something strangely anomalous in the position of the jaws — something too anomalous, perhaps, to be regarded as proven by the evidence of the specimens yet found, but which may be mentioned with the view of directing attention to it