

In Fig. 92 is given a restoration of the living Belemnite, by Dr. Buckland and Professor Owen, in which the terminal part of the animal is marked in a slightly darker tint, to indicate the place of the bone which alone represents in our days this fossilised being. A sufficiently exact idea of this Mollusc may be arrived at from the existing cuttle-fish. Like the cuttle-fish, the Belemnite secreted a black liquid, a sort of ink or sepia; and the bag containing the ink has frequently been found in a fossilised state, with the ink dried up, and elaborate drawings have been made with this fossil pigment.

The beaks, or horny mandibles of the mouth, which the Belemnite possessed in common with the other naked Cephalopoda, are represented in Fig. 78, p. 181.

As Sir H. De la Beche has pointed out, the destruction of the animals whose remains are known to us by the name of Belemnites was exceedingly great when the upper part of the Lias of Lyme Regis was deposited. Multitudes seem to have perished almost simultaneously, and millions are entombed in a bed beneath Golden Cap, a lofty cliff between Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbour, as well as in the upper Lias generally.*

Among the Belemnites characteristic of the Liassic period may be cited *B. acutus* (Fig. 93), *B. pistiliformis*, and *B. sulcatus*.

The seas of the period contained a great number of the fishes called *Ganoids*; which are so called from the splendour of the hard and enamelled scales, which formed a sort of defensive armour to protect their bodies. *Lepidotus gigas* was a fish of great size belonging to this age. A smaller fish was the *Tetragonolepis*, or *Æchmodus Buchii*. The *Acrodus nobilis*, of which the teeth are still preserved, and popularly known by the name of *fossil leeches*, was a fish of which an entire skeleton has never been met with. Neither are we better informed as to the *Hybodus reticulatus*. The bony spines, which form the anterior part of the dorsal fin of this fish, had long been an object of curiosity to geologists, under the general name of *Ichthyodorulites*, before they were known to be fragments of the fin of the *Hybodus*. The *Ichthyodorulites* were supposed by some naturalists to be the jaw of some animal—by others, weapons like those of the living

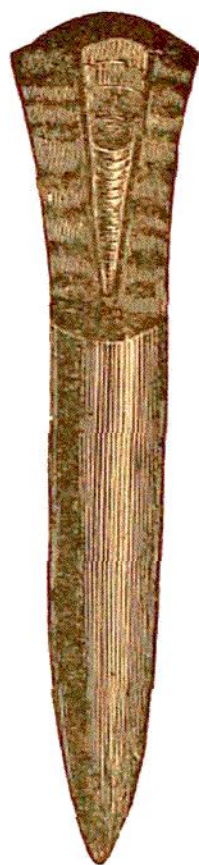


Fig. 93.
Belemnites
acutus.