

SECTION XIII.

FOSSIL FISHES.

THE history of Fossil Fishes is the branch of Palæontology which has hitherto received least attention, in consequence of the imperfect

nating with beds of red sandstone, nearly of the same age with that of Dumfries. (See Pl. 26'. 26". 26'''.)

The following account of them is collected from notices by Dr. Hohnbaum and Professor Kaup. "The impressions of feet are partly hollow, and partly in relief; all the depressions are upon the *upper* surfaces of slabs of sandstone, whilst the reliefs are only upon the *lower* surfaces, covering those which bear the depressions. These reliefs are natural casts, formed in the subjacent footsteps as in moulds. On one slab (see Pl. 26'), six feet long by five feet wide, there occur many footsteps of more than one animal, and of various sizes. The larger impressions, which seem to be of the hind foot, are eight inches long, and five wide. (See Pl. 26'') One was twelve inches long. Near to each large footstep, and at the regular distance of an inch and a half before it, is a smaller print of a fore-foot, four inches long and three inches wide. These footsteps follow one another in pairs, at intervals of fourteen inches from pair to pair, each pair being in the same line. Both large and small steps have the great toes alternately on the right and left side; each has the print of five toes, and the first, or great toe is bent inwards like a thumb. The fore and hind foot are nearly similar in form, though they differ so greatly in size.

On the same slabs are other tracks, of smaller and diffe-