
Cephalaspids.

In the publication of this monograph of the Cephalaspids of Great Britain, Dr. Stensiö has greatly added to the available knowledge of this important and extinct group of primitive vertebrates. Supplementing his previous work on the Cephalaspids of Spitzbergen, this study of collections in the museums of England, Scotland and the Continent, but chiefly those of the British Museum, has clarified and amplified our knowledge particularly of the general character and squamation of the trunk, the development of the fins, and the micro-structure of the exoskeleton.

A complex network in the superficial parts of the corium of the head, trunk, and pectoral fins, comprising a mucous canal system, opening outwards by means of special pores and constituting either a slime-producing or special sense organ, is seen to occur in all Cephalaspids studied. A well-developed paired fin-fold, a homologue of the ventral fins of fishes, is regarded as strengthening Goodrich's fin-fold theory. The ventral slit-like mouth resembles that of the Pteraspids. All Cephalaspids are seen to possess ten external branchial openings. Cephalaspids are compared with other Ostracoderms, and the phylogeny of the group is discussed. Stensiö makes no attempt to support Patten's theory.

More than half the volume is given over to photographic plates, which are remarkable for their clearness. The reader is impressed with the author's ability to reconstruct the brain, sense organs, cranial nerves, blood vessels, and electric organs in the head region in these fossils, and depict them in colored plates. This volume is an unusually fine example of precise description, and critical analysis, supplemented by the highest type of photographic and printing skill. A valuable bibliography is given.—JOHN W. PRICE.

Cephalaspids of Great Britain, by Erik Andersson Stensiö. xiv+220 pp., 66 Pls. and 70 Text Figs. British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London, 1932. Price, Three Pounds.