

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Or:— | { | Head-angles terminating in horns; pygidium furrowed.— <i>A. Canadensis</i> . |
| Pleuræ curving backwards. | { | Head-angles slightly rounded; pygidium smooth.— <i>A. Hincksii</i> . |
| Pleuræ curving forwards. | { | Pygidium furrowed.— <i>A. Halli</i> . |
| | { | Pygidium smooth.— <i>A. platycephalus</i> . |

The characters given above, and more especially those founded on the grooving of the pygidium and the direction of the pleuræ, may be thought by some palæontologists to be of little specific value. The segment-markings on the pygidium may be deemed by these observers as characteristic rather of age than of species; but our specimens of *Asaphus Canadensis*, for example, are quite as strongly furrowed when of large as when of small dimensions; and all the perfect specimens of *Asaphus platycephalus* that we have examined, small as well as large, present on the caudal shield an equally smooth surface. The isolated caudal shields hitherto considered to belong to young individuals of the latter species, should be referred, properly, we believe, to *Asaphus Halli*. Secondly, as to the direction of the pleuræ. As this character is more or less related to the genal conformation of the head-shield, it ought certainly to be regarded as one of no mean value. If two species of *Asaphi*, with forward-curving and backward-curving pleuræ respectively, be examined side by side, the distinction becomes most obvious. The entire conformation of the pleura is affected by it. The pits or row of single indentations on the pleuræ of *Asaphus Hincksii*, constitute, moreover, a peculiar character.

ON PARASITES.

BY LUCIUS OILLE, M.B.

Read before the Canadian Institute, Dec. 4th, 1858.

With the powerful aids which the collateral sciences afford him, and his own habits of careful observation, the modern student of natural history in ranging over the domain of vitality could not fail to notice this numerous and widely distributed class of organisms. Accordingly, these forms of life have received a degree of attention commensurate