These remains are quite common in the Silurian rocks of Canada, and wherever a river has worn away the loose soil, and in low water leaves a few yards of flat rock bare, the remains of Orthoceratites may be seen. In some of the species the siphuncle was composed of a number of more or less globular divisions, and in such instances, where it is seen imbedded in the stone, it bears a certain resemblance to the back-bone of a fish. The rings of the siphuncle represent the joints, and the septa the ribs, and they are often mistaken for the remains of vertebrated fishes, although none of that department of animated beings existed in the Silurian seas. Many of the species were of diminutive size, in fact mere pigmies when compared with some of their gigantic brethren. Two of these we shall figure in the present article, leaving the discussion of the others for the next number of this periodical.



Fig. 2.

Fig. 2. Oncoceras constrictum.-Hall.

Fig. 3. A section across Oncoceras constrictum, at the upper chamber from a to b.

The word Orthoceratite is derived from two Greek words: orthos, straight, and keras, a horn, meaning literally a straight horn. The Orthoceratites are all straight. The word Oncoceras is from the Greek onkos, a bending or protuberance, and keras, a horn. The fossil of which the word is the generic name is not quite straight but curved, as above represented in Fig. 2. The largest are scarcely four inches in length. They are usually found in the condition of casts or moulds of the interior, the tubular shell having been destroyed. These casts shew all the septa, and the form of the large chamber in which the body of the animal was contained. This species is slightly curved, ventricose in the