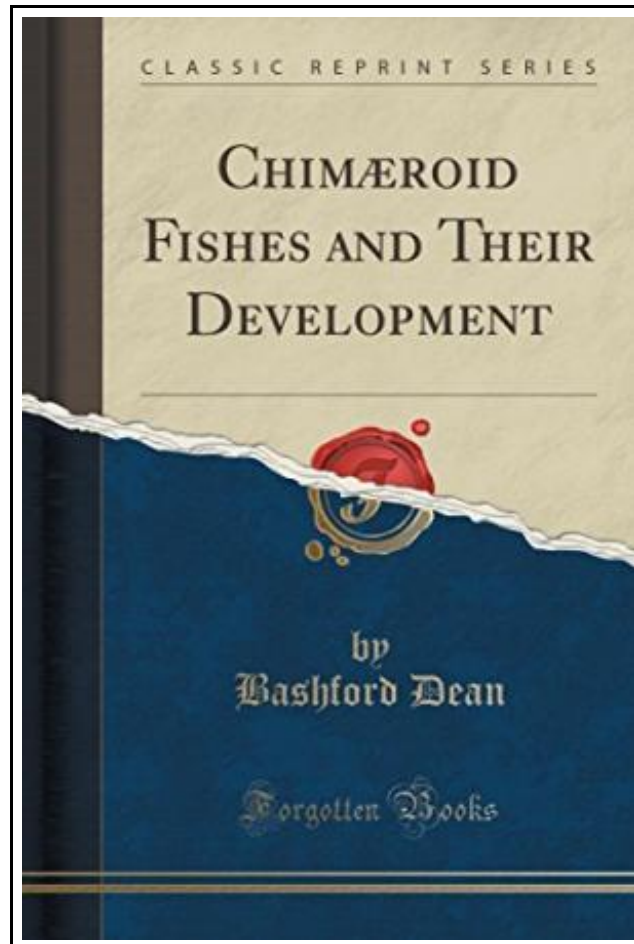


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from Chimaeroid Fishes and Their Development Chimaeroid fishes, a group representing some of the oldest and simplest of backboned animals, are considered in the present memoir with especial regard to their relationship and descent. To this end, attention has now been paid to the plan of their embryonic development, and upon this side evidence has been obtained which, whether of major or minor importance in the study of descent, has at least the interest of newness. For to the embryologist Chimaeroids have until recently remained practically unknown, and they are thus the only vertebrate group of their anatomical importance-if ranked as a subclass-to have escaped investigation. On the other hand, from the standpoints of comparative anatomy and paleontology these shark-like fishes have received considerable notice, and they have figured in publications of the past half-century as the most primitive vertebrates, or, more precisely, as the least modified descendants of the ancestral cranium- and jaw-bearing vertebrate. And in such a role (which I now believe is only partially deserved) they have been given especial importance in problems of descent. The evidence which has been brought forward to demonstrate the primitive nature of Chimaeroids is based in part upon the findings of paleontology; it is, moreover, as one frankly admits, supported by anatomical facts which are broad in range and which have in many instances been provided by masters in morphology. The substance of this evidence is that Chimaeroids, although shark-like, are nevertheless widely distinct from the shark, and that they represent a lower plane in piscine evolution. As an aid to subsequent reference, the grounds for this conclusion may now be summarized. Chimaeroids are believed by...



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