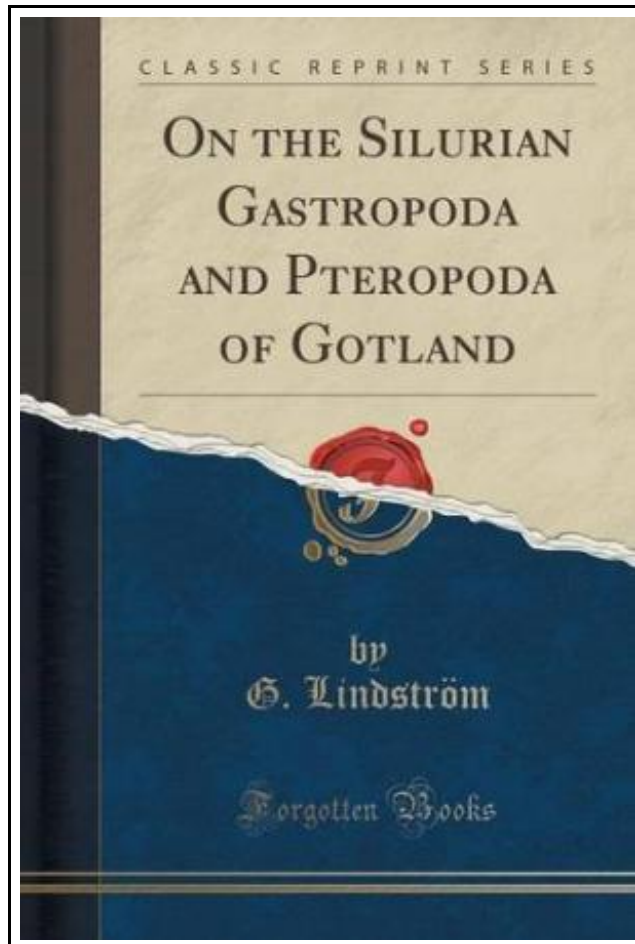


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from On the Silurian Gastropoda and Pteropoda of Gotland If, in general, it is hazardous undertaking to describe palaeozoic fossils, which, as a rule, have only a few recent congeners, with which to be compared, it is the more so in regard to the fossil Gastropoda. Every zoologist is no doubt fully aware of the great difficulties, that surround his investigations, whenever he endeavours to make out the affinities and systematic place of fossil Gastropoda in general, and especially so of those of the palaeozoic era. There is indeed not much in the often distorted shells to guide him. The microscopic structure - if there ever has been anything characteristic in it, which so seldom is the case even in the recent ones - is almost invariably destroyed or changed into a homogenous crystalline, calcareous spar, nor are there usually any traces left of the muscular impressions, which are peculiar to some few families. Moreover, what the naturalist in his study of the fossil shells has to grapple with, is the same as if he had to describe recent shells only from bleached and worn specimens cast ashore along the borders of the sea. There is indeed often evidence that several of the Silurian fossils of Gotland and consequently also the shells, had been rolled and tossed about in the sea before being embedded in the strata, which, according to all appearance, are nothing but beaches or deposits in shallow water. Moreover, when once fossilized they have of necessity shared in the vicissitudes, which afterwards befell the rock through metamorphic agencies, being changed as to structure, often deformed through pressure as to their exterior shape, worn...



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