

28. FOSSIL PLANTS AND ZOOPHYTES.—Fossil wood occurs in vast abundance, particularly in the state of large trunks and branches, which appear to have been drifted, and are full of perforations inclosing shells of boring mollusca. Bognor rocks, the clay around London, of the Isle of Sheppey, &c. abound in specimens of this kind. The wood is dicotyledonous, that is, like the oak, ash, &c.; its mode of increase was by annular circles of growth, as will be explained in the lecture on Fossil Botany. Leaves and stems of palms have been found in the Paris basin, and in the Isle of Sheppey, &c.; and a trunk of a tree related to the palm, nearly four feet in diameter, at Soissons. Fruits belonging to trees allied to the areca, pine, fir, cocoa-tree, &c. have been discovered in several localities. Accumulations of vegetable matter, in the state of lignite or *brown coal*, occur at Bovey Tracey in Devonshire, and in various parts of France, the Netherlands, &c. Amber, and a substance which has been called Highgate resin, are occasionally imbedded in these deposits.

ZOOPHYTES. — Polyparia, or corals, occur in some of the marine strata, but they are not very numerous; several species of turbinolia, caryophyllia, fungia, and other corals, are figured and described by authors. I have a few specimens from Grignon. The modern tertiary (those of Palermo) abound in various kinds of flustra and spongia.