

resembling the euphorbiaceæ in its internal structure.\*

39. SEED-VESSELS IN COAL.—Seed-vessels occur in the carboniferous strata, and one species (Tab. 128) is not uncommon, but its natural affinities have not been determined. Among the numerous plants which I have omitted to notice, in this rapid sketch of the flora of the coal, is an extinct genus that differs altogether from existing types. It is called *asterophyllites*, from the verticillate arrange-



TAB. 128.—SEED-VESSELS FOUND IN COAL.

(By W. D. Saull, Esq. F.G.S.)

ment of the foliage (Tab. 123, fig. 1), and is supposed to belong to the dicotyledonous class.

40. CONIFERÆ.—Our previous investigation of the structure of the recent coniferæ (page 624) renders it unnecessary to explain the manner in which the nature of the fossil stems and woods can be determined. Mr. Witham, by microscopic observations on polished sections of fossil wood,

\* Figures and descriptions of this plant are given by Dr. Buckland, Plate 56, page 477.