

years ago, Dr John Wilson, the learned Free Church missionary to the Parsees of India, submitted to me specimens of fossil-woods which he had picked up in the Egyptian Desert, in order that I might if possible determine their age, I told him, ere yet the optical lapidary had prepared them for examination, that if they exhibited the coniferous structure, they might belong to any geologic period from the times of the Lower Old Red Sandstone downwards ; but that if they manifested in their tissue the dicotyledonous character, they could not be older than the times of the Tertiary. On submitting them in thin slices to the microscope, they were found to exhibit the peculiar dicotyledonous structure as strongly as the oak or chestnut. And Lieutenant Newbold's researches

Fig. 41.



**ACER TRILOBATUM.\***  
(*Miocene of Oeningen.*)

\* Leaf of a tree allied to the maple.