

LIFE.

PLANTS. — Among Algæ, or Seaweeds, the most remarkable is the *Spirophyton Caudagalli*. Fig. 850 represents a fragment of the plant. The broad blade of the seaweed grows spirally about the central axis, much like that of the erect Alaska seaweed, *Thalassophyllum clathrus*. The *Nematophyton* (Dawson), Fig. 851, is a tree-like Fucoid. The specimen was found in the lower part of the Devonian of Gaspé, Canada, where the stems are

850-852.

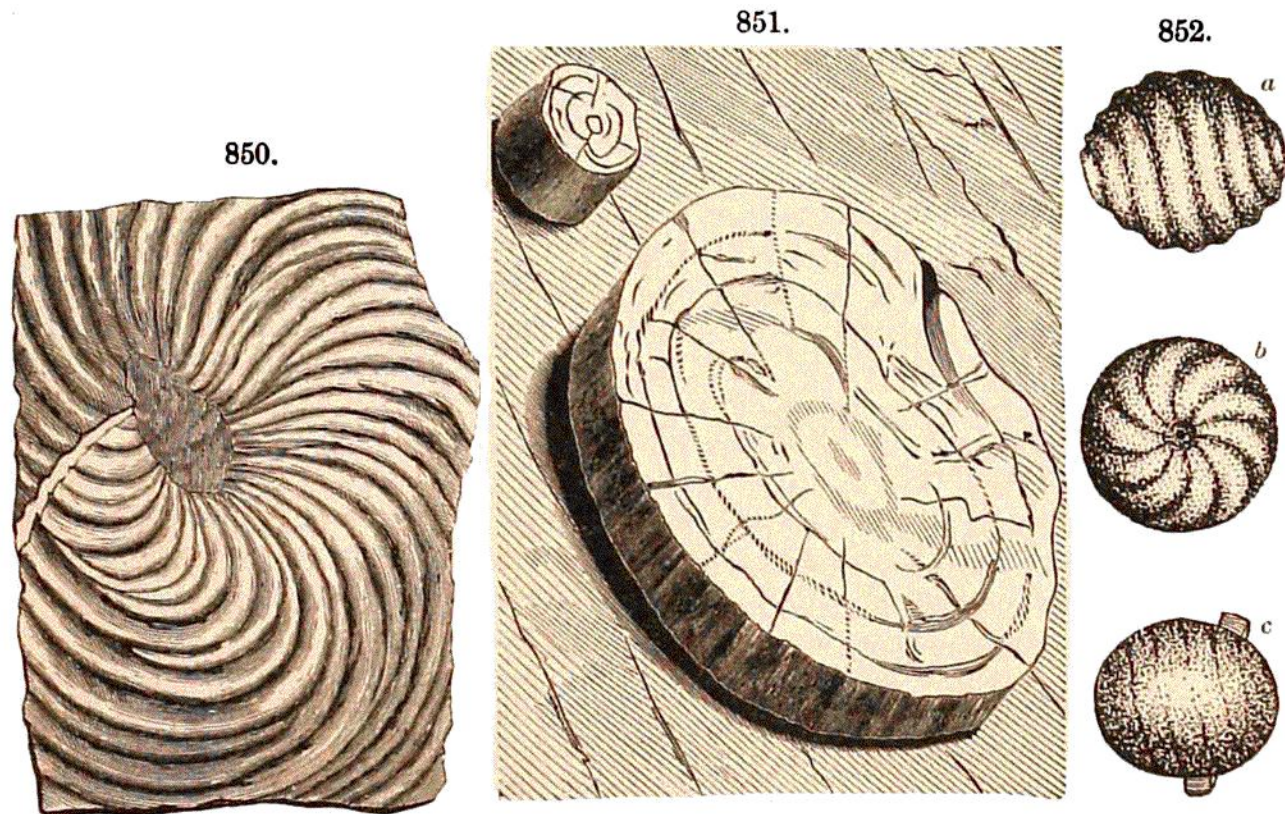


Fig. 850, *Spirophyton Caudagalli*; 851, *Nematophyton Logan* ($\times \frac{1}{2}$); 852 *a, b, c*, fruit of *Chara*? Figs. from Hall, Dawson, and Knowlton.

sometimes three feet in diameter. The presence of *Chara*, water-plants of simple cellular structure (inferior to Mosses, but *Equiseta*-like in habit, and now common in marshy places), has been rendered probable by the discovery (first made by F. B. Meek) of minute calcareous fossils resembling their fruit (spore-cases) (Figs. 852 *a, b, c*), in the Corniferous limestone of Ohio, and in the cellular chert at the Falls of the Ohio, near Louisville.

The hornstone, or chert, in the Corniferous limestone, as shown by M. C. White, is full of microscopic plants from $\frac{1}{5000}$ to $\frac{1}{500}$ of an inch in diameter; and with them occur sponge-spicules and teeth of Annelids. Fig. 853: *a* to *e* are *Xanthidia*, spore-cases of Desmids (page 437); *f, g*, conferva-like filaments, made of a series of cells; *i*, a Diatom. Besides these there are siliceous spicules of sponges, Figs. *j, k, l, m, n*; and *o, p* represent portions of jaws of Annelids. The mass of the hornstone was probably made out of siliceous sponge-spicules and Diatoms.