and hardness of stone. In the silicified wood (that is, petrified by silex or flint,) which abounds in many of the tertiary strata, the most delicate tissue of the original is generally preserved, and by microscopical examination (see Pl. V.) may be displayed in the most distinct and beautiful manner. Calcareous wood also retains its structure; and in many limestones, leaves and seed-vessels are well preserved.

The ligneous coverings, or the husks and shells of nuciferous fruits, and the cones or strobili of firs and pines, are frequently in an excellent state of preservation; and in some rare instances indications of flowers have been observed. The parts of fructification, in some of the fern tibe, (Lign. 18 and 20.) occur in coal-shale, and in the grit of Tilgate Forest (Wond. p. 372.): and even the pollen of coniferæ has been found in tertiary marls, associated with animalculites.* The resinous secretions of pines and firs, are also found in a mineralized state. Amber is too well known to require further notice in this place, than that its vegetable nature is unquestionable; this substance has been observed in its natural position, in trunks of coniferæ. (Wond. p. 637.) The fossil resin of the London clay, discovered at Highgate, and the Isle of Sheppey, has had a similar origin. In the Clathrariæ (Wond. p. 374.) of Tilgate Forest, indications of a resinous