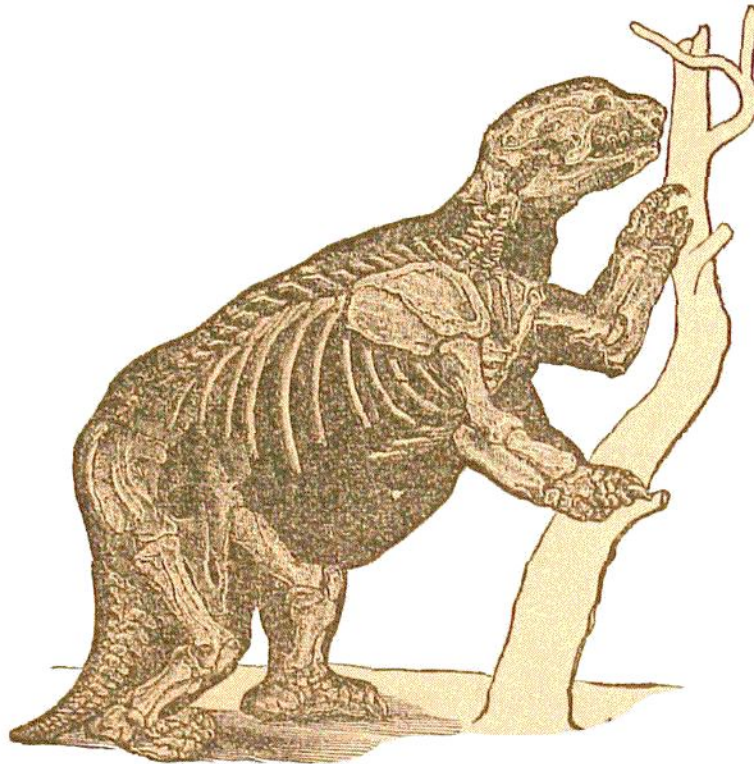


Fig. 404.

*Mylodon robustus.*

neath the black mud and peat in swamps. But they form a part also of bog iron ochre, now forming from water, and also in flint and semi-opal. They make up most of the polishing slate of the tertiary strata, as at Bilin in Bohemia, and Richmond in Virginia. Of that from Bilin a single cubic inch contains 41,000 million skeletons, yet the deposit is fourteen feet thick, and thicker still at Richmond. A cubic inch from a deposit at Maidstone, Vermont, contains, according to Prof. Bailey, 15,000 million skeletons. A cubic inch of ochre sometimes contains a billion of skeletons.

The smallest animalcule is only the 24,000th part of an inch in size, and a single shield weighs only 187 millionth part of a grain. 500 millions of them could live in a drop of water. Their increase is prodigious. An individual of the *Hydatina senta* in ten days increased to 1,000,000; on the eleventh day to 4,000,000, and on the twelfth to 16,000,000. Another in four days increased to 170 billions.

Of eighty fossil species of these skeletons, Ehrenberg found half to belong to extinct species. They abound in the chalk and are all marine; but those in newer deposits are all fresh-water organisms. Fig. 406 represents a microscopic view of some of these organisms of the family *Baccillaria*, which are probably vegetables.

*Fossil Man.*—From the coast of Guadaloupe two specimens of human skeletons have been obtained in solid rock, one of which is in the British Museum and the other in the Royal Cabinet in Paris. The rock is a quite hard limestone, made up of minute fragments of shells and corals, ground down by the waves and