

Fig. 126.

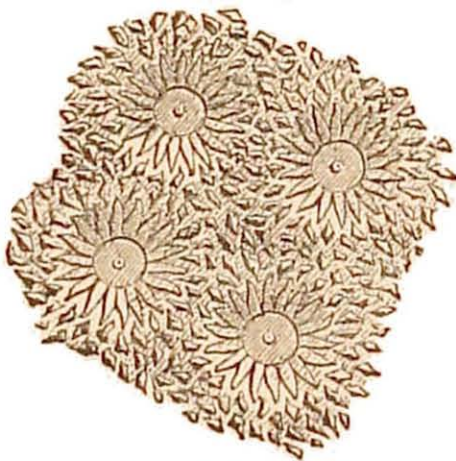


STIGMARIA.

of the leaflets. There is a *Stigmaria*, too, on the table, very ornate in its sculpture, of which I have now found three specimens in a quarry of the Lower Coal Measures near Portobello, that has still to be figured and described. In this richly-ornamented *Stigmaria* the characteristic areolæ present the ordinary aspect. Each, however, forms the centre of a sculptured star, consisting of from eighteen to twenty rays, or rather the centre of a sculptured flower of the composite order, resembling a meadow daisy or sea-aster. The minute petals,—if we are to accept the latter comparison,—are of an irregularly lenticular form, generally entire, but in some instances ranged in two, or even three, concentric lines round the depressed centre of the areolæ ; while the

interspaces outside are occupied by numerous fretted mark-

Fig. 127.



THE SAME MAGNIFIED.

ings, resembling broken fragments of petals, which, though less regularly ranged than the others, are effective in imparting a richly ornate aspect to the whole.

Ever since the appearance, in 1846, of Mr Binney's paper on the relations of *Stigmaria* to *Sigillaria* as roots and stem, I have been looking for distinguishing specific marks among the former ;

and, failing for a time to find any, I concluded that, though the stems of the *Sigillarian* genus were variously sculptured,