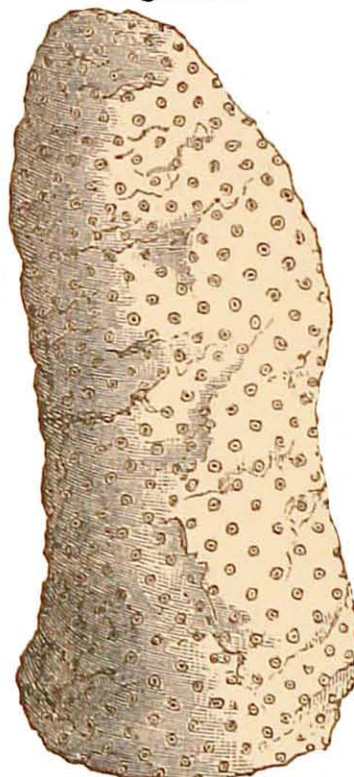


their roots might in all the species have been the same. The present rich specimen does seem, however, to bear the specific stamp ; and, from the peculiar character of the termination of another specimen on the table, I am inclined to hold that the *Stigmaria* may have borne the appearance rather of underground stems than of proper roots. This specimen suddenly terminates, at a thickness of two and a half inches, in a rounded point, abrupt as that of one of the massier cacti ; and every part of the blunt sudden termination is thickly fretted over with the characteristic areolæ. The slim tubular rootlets must have stuck out on every side from the obtuse rounded termination of this underground stem, as we see, on a small scale, the leaflets of our larger club-mosses sticking out from what are comparatively the scarce less abrupt terminations of their creeping stems and branches. In at least certain stages of growth the sub-aerial stems of *Lepidodendron* also terminated abruptly (see fig. 24) ; and the only terminal point of *Ulodendron* I ever saw was nearly as obtuse as that of *Stigmaria*.

I have been long desirous of acquainting myself with the true character of this latter plant (*Ulodendron*), but hitherto my labours have not been very successful. A specimen of *Ulodendron minus*, however, now on the table, which I disinterred several years ago from out a bed of ferruginous shale in the Water of Leith, a little above the village of Colinton, exhibits several peculiarities which, so far as I know, have not yet been described. Though rather less than ten

Fig. 128.



STIGMARIA.