took for papillæ, but now agree with Mr. Thomas in recognising them as minute pores traversing the wall of the disc, and similar to those which Mr. Newton has described in Tasmanite, and which Mr. Wethered has also recognised in the similar spores of the Forest of Dean shales. The walls also sometimes show faint indications of concentric lamination, as if they had been thickened by successive deposits.

As seen by transmitted light, and either in front or in profile, the discs are of a rich amber colour, translucent and structureless, except the pores above referred to. The walls are somewhat thick, or from one-tenth to one-twentieth the diameter of the disc in thickness. They never exhibit the triradiate marking seen in spores of Lycopods, nor any definite point of attachment, though they sometimes show a minute elongated spot which may be of this nature, and they are occasionally seen to have opened by slits on the edge or front, where there would seem to have been a natural line of dehiscence. The interior is usually quite vacant or structureless, but in some cases there are curved internal markings which may indicate a shrunken lining membrane, or the remains of a prothallus or embryo. Occasionally a fine granular substance appears in the interior, possibly remains of microspores.

The discs are usually detached and destitute of any envelope, but fragments of flocculent cellular matter are associated with them, and in one specimen from the corniferous limestone of Ohio, in Mr. Thomas's collection, I have found a group of eight or more discs partly enclosed in a cellular sac-like membrane of similar character to that enclosing the Brazilian specimens already referred to.

The characters of all the specimens are essentially similar, and there is a remarkable absence of other organisms in the shale. In one instance only, I have observed a somewhat smaller round body with a dark centre or