

perhaps its most singular feature. They usually start from the stem in four main branches, then regularly bifurcate several times, and then run out into great



FIG. 35.—Stem of *Sigillaria Brownii*, reduced.

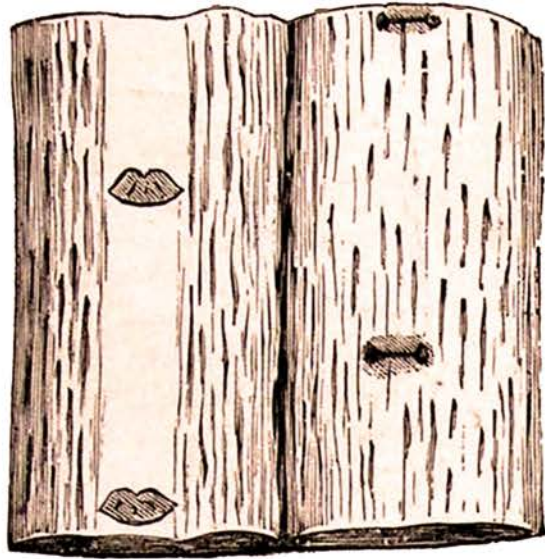


FIG. 36.—Two ribs of *Sigillaria Brownii*. Natural size.

cylindrical cables, running for a long distance, and evidently intended to anchor the plant firmly in a soft and oozy soil. They were furnished

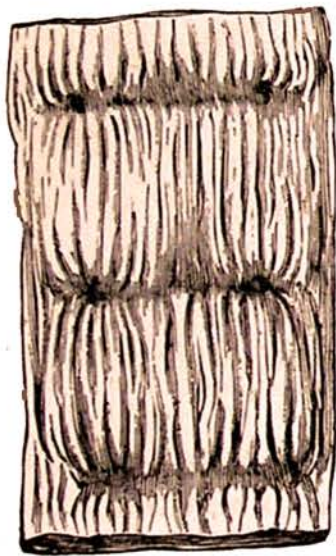


FIG. 37.—Portion of lower part of stem of *S. Brownii*. Natural size.

with long, cylindrical rootlets placed regularly in a spiral manner, and so articulated that when they dropped off they left regular rounded scars. They are, in short, the *Stigmaria*, which we have already met with in the Erian (Figs. 38, 39). In Fig. 33 I have endeavoured to restore these strange trees. It is not wonderful that such plants have caused much botanical controversy. It was long before botanists could be convinced that