

The other, and less common species, are hollow, cylindrical stems, spreading out from the base, like a root, but without ramifications.*

Many instances of this phenomenon occur in England, several of which are noticed by Mr. Witham, who has so materially contributed to our knowledge of the structure of fossil plants.† In the Derwent mines, at the depth of fifty-five fathoms, among numerous examples which were lying in horizontal layers, were several in an upright position. Two stems of *sigillariæ* were situated in the space cleared out to get at the lead ore, and stood upright, having their roots firmly impacted in a bed of bituminous shale; they were about five feet high, and two in diameter. In the Newcastle coal-field, in a stratum of sandstone 150 yards below the surface, are many erect stems of plants, having their roots in a thin layer of coal, as in this figure (Tab. 125). These plants are from two to eight feet in circumference.

19. TRUNKS OF CONIFERÆ IN CRAIGLEITH QUARRY.—In the quarry at Craigleith, near Edinburgh, at a depth of 140 feet, an enormous trunk of a tree was discovered about ten years since. The length was thirty-six feet, and the circumference of

* Notice sur des Végétaux Fossiles traversant les Couches du Terrain houiller, par M. Alex. Brongniart, à Paris. 1821.

† Observations on Fossil Vegetables, by Henry Witham, Esq. F.G.S. 1 vol. 4to. With Plates of the internal structure of fossil plants. Edinburgh, 1831.