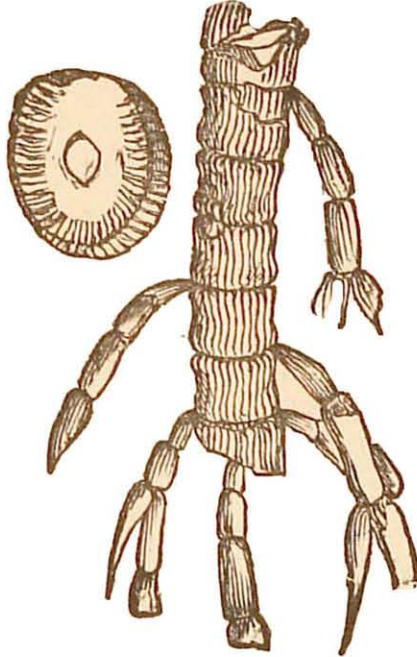


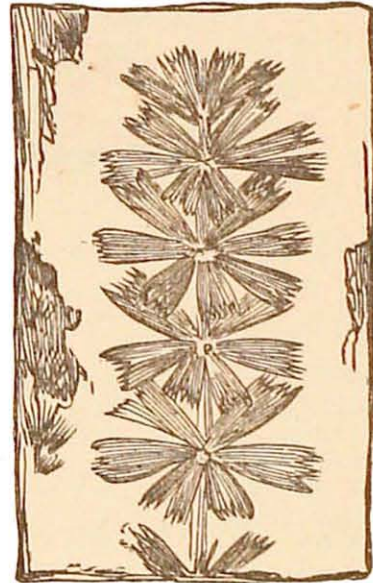
ture, some of the characteristics of the conifers. It has been remarked by Lindley and Hutton of even *Sphenophyllum*,—

Fig. 26.



CALAMITES MOUGEOTII.

Fig. 27.



SPHENOPHYLLUM DENTATUM

a genus of plants with verticillate leaves, of which at least six species occur in our Coal Measures, and which Brogniart refers to one of the humblest families of the fern allies,—that it seems at least as nearly related to the Coniferæ as to its lowlier representatives the Marsileaceæ. And it is this union of traits, pertaining to what are now widely separated orders, that imparts to not a few of the vegetables of the Coal Measures their singularly anomalous character.

Let me attempt introducing you more intimately to one of those plants which present scarce any analogy with existing forms, and which must have imparted so strange a character and appearance to the flora of the Coal Measures. The *Sigillaria* formed a numerous genus of the Carboniferous period: no fewer than twenty-two different species have been enumerated in the British coal-fields alone; and such was their individual abundance, that there are great seams of coal which seem to be almost entirely composed of their remains. At