

on each other, and somewhat resemble in their mode of arrangement the leaflets of one of our commonest *Aspleniums*,—*Asplenium trichomanes*. One of our highest authorities, however, in such matters (Professor Balfour of Edinburgh) questions whether this organism be in reality a fern, and describes it, from the specimen on the table, in the Palæontological chapter of his admirable Class Book, simply as “a remarkable pinnate frond.” (Fig. 13, p. 23.) We find it associated with the remains of a terrestrial plant allied to *lepidodendron*, and which in size and general appearance not a little resembles one of our commonest club-mosses,—*Lycopodium clavatum*.* It sends out its branches in exactly the same style,—some short and simple, others branched like the parent stem,—in an arrangement approximately alternate; and is

* I figured this species from an imperfect Cromarty specimen fifteen years ago. (See “Old Red Sandstone,” first edition, 1841, Plate VII. fig. 4.) Of the greatly better specimens now figured I owe the larger one (fig. 120) to Mrs Mill, Thurso, who detected it in the richly fossiliferous flagstones of the locality in which she resides, and kindly made it over to me; and the specimen of which I have given a magnified representation (fig. 12, p. 22), to my friend Mr Robert Dick. I have, besides, seen several specimens of the same organism, in a better or worse state of keeping, in the interesting collection of the Rev. Charles Clouston, Sandwick, near Stromness.

Fig. 120.

