The term ophitic is applied to a structure in which one mineral after crystallizing has been inclosed within another during the consolidation of an igneous rock (Fig. 18). It is abundant in many dolerites and diabases where some bisilicate such as augite serves as a matrix in which the felspars and other crystals are inclosed. The name is derived from the so-called "**ophites**" of the Pyrenees.[102]

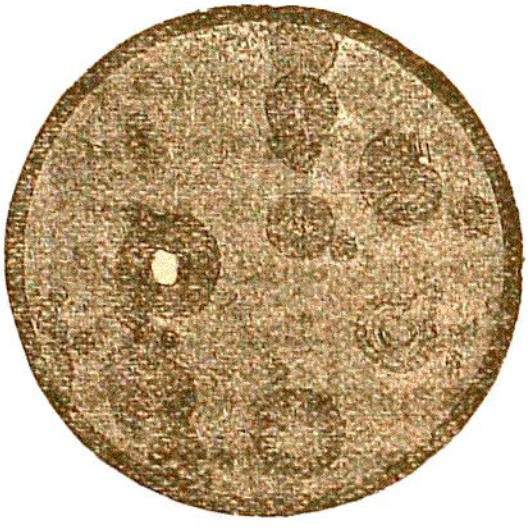

Fig. 17.—Spherulitic Structure. Pitchstone, Raasay (magnified).

Fig. 18.—Ophitic Structure. Dolerite, Skye (magnified).

C. GLASSY.—Composed of a volcanic glass such as has already been described. It seldom happens, however, that rocks which seem to the eye to be tolerably homogeneous glass do not contain abundant crystallites and minute crystals. Hence truly vitreous rocks tend to graduate into the second or hemi-crystalline type. This gradation and the abundant traces of a devitrified base or magma between the crystals of a vast number of eruptive rocks, lead to the belief that the glassy type was the original condition of most if not all of these rocks. Erupted as molten masses, their mobility would depend upon the fluidity of the glass. Yet even while still deep within the earth's crust, some of their constituent minerals (felspars, leucite, magnetite, etc.) were

[102] These rocks (diabases) have been critically studied by J. Kühn, Zeitsch. Deutsch. Geol. Ges. xxxiii. (1881) 372.