

of vascular plants, with some resemblance to the Lycopodiaceæ. Some of the fragments are from 4 to 5 inches wide, and the author had traced trunks some feet in length. He thought they had drifted to the position where they were now found. Leaf-markings generally are not preserved; but from the wrinklings still remaining on some specimens, he thought it probable they had been covered with leaves spirally arranged. Some fragments show scars arranged irregularly on the surface; probably these are fragments of roots. The plant seems to some extent to combine the characters of *Stigmurium*, *Sigillaria*, and *Lepidodendron*. Further details of the appearance of the specimens were given. For one which appears to differ from all hitherto described he proposes the name of *Berwynia Carruthersii*.

2. "Notes on *Prototaxites* and *Pachythece* from the Denbighshire Grits of Corwen, North Wales." By Principal Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.

The author stated that he had obtained specimens of the Plant-remains from near Corwen, and that among them there were two kinds, one dark, the other light-coloured. In the former, the long cells and woody fibres are filled with rods of transparent siliceous matter, and the walls represented by a thick layer of carbon. The lighter kind consists of the siliceous rods alone, which are thus in the same state as the asbestos-like silicified Coniferous wood of the Californian gold-gravels. In both the siliceous rods show traces of the irregularly spiral ligneous lining of the cell-walls. From these and other characters the author refers the specimens to his genus *Prototaxites*, which, he says, is not an Alga, but a woody terrestrial plant. The author did not state that *Prototaxites* actually belonged to the Taxineæ, but that its fossilized wood showed a resemblance to that of some fossil Taxineæ. The remains discovered by Dr. Hicks differ, as already recognized by Mr. Etheridge, from *Prototaxites Loganii*, Daws.; and the species may be named *P. Hicksii*.

Of *pachythece* the author stated that he had specimens from the Upper Silurian of New Brunswick, and these and the Welsh specimens seem to belong to the genus *Ætheotesta*, Brongn., and to be nearly allied to *Æ. devonica*, Daws., from the Devonian of Scotland. These fossils occur associated with *Prototaxites*, not only at Corwen, but in the Upper Ludlow of England, in the Upper Silurian of Cape Bon Ami, and in the Lower Devonian of Bordeaux quarry opposite Campbellton in New Brunswick, and as the author maintains *Ætheotesta* to be a seed, and Brongniart compared it with the seeds of the Taxineæ, this may be taken as additional evidence in favour of the Taxine or, at any rate, Gymnospermatous nature of *Prototaxites*.