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VI. Remarks on Specimens of some Fossil Plants

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I saw it. The fruit was clustered, as in the cherry. In the spring the whole tree was one sheet of white flower; but little fruit formed, in consequence of our sharp frosts in May. It is well known in the surrounding country, whose inhabitants visit it from a considerable distance when it is in flower. It continues to be perfectly healthy in every part.

VI. Remarks on Specimens of some Fossil Plants. By CHARLES W. PEACH, A.L.S.

Mr Peach exhibited the following specimens of fossils:— (1.) *Sphenopteris affinis* with circinate vernation and fructification, and apparently with a stem of *Stophylopteris* attached to it. (2.) Upper part of a cone of *Lepidodendron* with microspores, found in the sandstone cast of a *Sigillaria* from Addiewell Works, near West Calder. Mr Peach remarked that he could not find in works on British fossils any record of a plant with circinate vernation. He had, however, met with a well-marked specimen of *Sphenopteris affinis* in that state in shale at West Calder. He also found the same species with fructification on the back of the fronds. He also stated that he had suspected that *Staphylopteris*, a new genus which he had met with long for support to *Sphenopteris affinis*, and on the 20th ult. he got a slab showing these plants so united. Another fossil plant so clinging, but of a different genus, was figured in Lindley and Hutton's Fossil Flora, vol. ii. pl. 100 and 101, showing that this was not the only climber in carboniferous times. The plants on the stone he procured were in a sadly shattered state, showing a wintry appearance, the *Sphenopteris* being denuded of every frond, and its rachis sadly shattered. He added that the first specimen shown, viz., in circinate vernation, told of spring—that in fructification of summer and autumn, and the last indicated winter. He described a fossil cone found in the sandstone cast of a *Sigillaria* from Addiewell, stating that in addition to its crown of bracts, sporangia, &c., it showed beautiful microspores, which still retained their colour and amber-like appearance. The remarks were illustrated with sketches and specimens.