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A MONOGRAPH

OF THE

BRITISH EOCENE FLORA.

BY

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FILICES.

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INTRODUCTION.

Although for many years no additions have been made to our knowledge of the British Eocene floras, in published works, yet during that period material has been rapidly and steadily accumulating. When, ten years since, my attention was first directed to the fossil leaves which were then found abundantly at Bournemouth, the extent of the Eocene flora hidden there was not even surmised. It had been stated, in fact, to contain but few types. The fossil leaves of Alum Bay, however, were well known, especially to Mr. Keeping, who had fully ascertained that no very great variety of forms were to be found there. In addition to these, fossil floras were also referred to as having been collected from Studland and the neighbourhood of Corfe.[1] From the London Basin there were known the Eocene Fruits of Sheppey, and scanty floras from Reading and Dulwich, and from the outlier of the Hampshire Basin at Newhaven. At the present day, however, owing to further collecting, we have available a whole series of extensive floras, commencing from that of the Woolwich and Reading beds upwards, embracing the Oldhaven beds, the London Clay, the Lower Bagshot, the Middle Bagshot, and the Upper Eocenes; in fact, from almost every stage of the Eocenes known to occur in this country. This magnificent series of floras of consecutive, and in most cases absolutely defined, age has as yet no parallel in any other country. Its contemplation gives rise to problems, the direction and tendency of which are so unmistakable that, in following the facts as recorded in the succeeding pages, they will be apparent to the student.

I will first call attention to a few examples of the kind of problems which await solution, and then refer to the value of the determinations of the plant-remains described in this work.

[1] For references, see page 1, *et seq.*

Beginning with the *Woolwich and Reading Beds*, we have a flora, very limited in extent, and consisting of a few, but apparently persistent types, which have a temperate facies. It would be interesting if this could be proved to be a fragment of a flora descended from the oldest indigenous dicotyledonous flora of the European or Eastern-Atlantic area, before the Eocene temperature had been raised by causes about which I have elsewhere hazarded some speculations.[1]

The next British Eocene flora, second in age and supposed to belong to the *Oldhaven Beds*, has quite another character, as far as we can judge from the present materials. A small collection only has been made; but, by systematic work, results may be looked for not surpassed by those obtained at Bournemouth. These materials seem to indicate a relation to the Eocene floras of Sézanne. The same types, and the same luxuriant preponderance of serrate dicotyledonous leaves, are characteristic of both. It would almost seem that we have here another really indigenous, but somewhat more sub-tropical, European flora, without the Australian or American types, which later on so very considerably modified it.

In America we have, though possibly belonging to a far removed age, just such another purely indigenous flora in the so-called Cretaceous *Dakota Beds*. These floras, which are perfectly distinct from each other, seem to belong to a period antecedent to the connection of Europe and America, although the rise of the afterwards connecting land was probably, I think, even then gradually raising the temperature by shutting off more and more completely the Arctic currents from the Atlantic. As at Sézanne, there appears to be an absence of those Australian forms, especially the *Proteaceæ*, which became so abundant at a later Eocene time. Saporta shows that in the so-called Cretaceous and Eocene European floras, wherever European types are present, the Australian element, or, at least, the *Proteaceæ*, are almost excluded, and that the reverse is equally the case.[2] But the presence or absence of Australian forms is known in so many localities where they occur, in an apparently arbitrary manner, which cannot be accounted for either by difference of soil or climate, that the thought arises whether it may not be possible that the relative ages of the isolated floras on the Continent have been wrongly inferred. Instead of appearing and disappearing frequently, did not the members of the Australian flora, like those of the American at a later date, come in, in the way newly introduced species are now seen to do when climatic conditions are favorable? The Australian type of plants had a great and sudden extension until

[1] 'Nature,' December 12th, 1878, p. 124.

[2] With regard to Sézanne, however, it may be urged that there are reasons why leaves of *Proteaceæ* should not be found. The flora is evidently that of a shady, moist, and luxuriantly woody valley. The leaves are found in a tufaceous matrix, and must have fallen from overhanging trees and adhered to the sides of a ravine, wet, probably, with the spray of an adjacent waterfall charged with carbonate of lime. Under such conditions travertine rocks are formed rapidly and enclose masses of leaves, as we see at Tivoli, for instance, at the present day. It is, perhaps, unlikely, therefore, that *Proteaceæ*, which generally have a dry habitat, even if abounding contemporaneously, would be preserved under such circumstances.

displaced by the American flora. If so, the floras without *Proteaceæ* may, in the absence of other evidence, be looked upon as the more ancient; and we should fix, in some measure, the date of the arrival of that Australian element whose presence in Europe, when discovered and described, caused so much surprise.

The flora of the *London Clay*, unlike that of other stages, which are represented by leaves principally, is known from seeds and fruits. I am indisposed at present to speculate upon its affinities, since there is a possibility of obtaining leaves from the *Basement Bed*. I will merely say that fruits belonging to the same genera, but specifically different, are found in the *Middle Bagshot Beds*, and that Heer believes the Sheppey fruits and the Alum-Bay leaves belong to the same plants.

The Alum-Bay flora, of *Lower Bagshot* age, has been so well explored that it is rare, even after long work, to discover any form in it that is new. It abounds with what are generally accepted as Proteaceous leaves, and yet these are mingled with larger leaves of Figs, Laurels, Leguminous plants, and the lobed leaves of Aralias, Maples, &c., representing a luxuriant flora which did not grow on sterile ground, or in a very dry climate. It is a good example of the Australian type of an Eocene flora, and is most distinct in England from those above and below it.

The newer *Bournemouth* flora, assigned in this work to the *Middle Bagshot* stage, appears to be separated from the last by a great interval of time, for the flora seems almost wholly American, and, singular to say, the small Pliocene flora of California, described by Lesquereux, more resembles it generically, though the species are different, than does any other known to me. In it the *Proteaceæ* are replaced by the American *Myricaceæ*, and it seems to contain a number of existing American genera not previously recognised among fossils.

If these tentative speculations, founded at present on somewhat superficial knowledge, have any basis of truth, they would show that it was between the Lower and Middle Bagshot periods that North America and Europe were connected by land. The floras of the Upper Eocene merge gradually, without further striking change, into those of the Miocene, whose story has been so often and so ably traced by Heer.

Although all these floras are here spoken of as strikingly disconnected, it must not be supposed they are absolutely so; on the contrary, not a few forms are common to many, and some may be found in all of them.

As the British Eocene floras become better known through the progress of our work these speculations may receive confirmation or be altogether set aside. I have, however, ventured to put them forward, as they may invest the study with an interest beyond that which the mere description and determination of the Plants alone would possess.

The singularly little attention as yet bestowed upon this subject in England has been doubtless primarily due to the difficulty in satisfactorily determining the fossils. These floras, mainly composed of detached dicotyledonous leaves, present such exceptional difficulties that even when very great thought and care have been bestowed upon the

work, the correctness of the results may yet be open to doubt. No author has written upon similar floras without expressing his opinion of the magnitude of these difficulties. Yet, many seem to have forgotten, during the progress of their work, the caution they insisted on at its commencement. Nothing is more easy than to assign generic and specific names to leaf-forms; but, with such material, the determinations are so much a matter of opinion that criticism or contradiction is useless.

The publication, however, of careful drawings of fossil plants is of value; and were the determinations which have been made even more doubtful and provisional in character than they are at present thought to be, it is, nevertheless, a real benefit to science to accurately figure and describe all the obviously different leaves and fruits that have been discovered. Many fossil leaves fade, others crack and peel off from the matrix; dust can never be completely removed, and necessarily obscures the more delicate venation; indeed, these characters are so easily obliterated that without exceptional care the specimens soon become valueless. Fossil fruits are from other causes equally difficult of preservation. Unfortunately leaves formerly collected in quantity from Corfe, Branksea, Dulwich, and many other places, are no longer to be obtained from these localities; and almost all of the few specimens still in existence have become so obscure that they give very imperfect evidence of the nature of these floras. Thus, links in the history of plant-life are lost, perhaps beyond recovery.

As long ago as 1854, Edward Forbes, in his Anniversary Address[1] to the Geological Society, called attention to the necessity of doing something with these floras.

"Were all known fragments of distinct vegetables found in our Tertiaries monographed and named in the manner of those I shall have presently to mention, described and figured in the lately published memoirs by Austrian Botanists, our lists would be considerably increased. They certainly ought to be made the subject of a treatise, and might be advantageously taken up by the Palæontographical Society, which, as yet, has given no separate memoir on British fossil plants."

It is to be greatly regretted that no practical steps have hitherto been taken to accomplish this work, as, since Professor Forbes made this suggestion, instances have come under my own notice in which whole beds of leaves have been either carried away by the sea, or quarried out, or deeply buried under refuse.

It seems likely that the cautions formerly reiterated by such distinguished men as Hooker, Charles Bunbury, and E. Forbes himself, intended to direct investigation, have had the practical effect of discouraging British palæontologists from undertaking it, since the only writings of importance upon our British Tertiary floras are, with the exception of Bowerbank's description of the fossil fruits of the London Clay, by foreigners. Botanists when consulted have very often, unintentionally no doubt, deterred collectors from taking any further interest in fossil leaf-forms by the emphatic stress they have laid upon the variation to which leaves belonging to the same species of plant are subject,

[1] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, p. lvi.

and upon plants widely separated in a natural classification having the same form of leaf. Intending students have been led to think that leaves may not be separated into species when they are dissimilar in form, nor united in one when similar. Surely, however, it does not follow that, because the task is difficult, nothing should be attempted. Apart from their determination, if we regard leaves merely as signs, and are indifferent, for instance, as to whether they belong to Oak, or Beech, or Elm, or to common ancestors of these, they still possess much interest, since frequently on their evidence alone the date of many a volcanic eruption, change of level, or silting up of lakes, has to be fixed. Even in our own country, we see that the volcanic outbursts of Mull and the North of Ireland, and the lake-system at Bovey-Tracey, have been determined to be of Miocene age entirely on plant evidence.

However great the difficulties may be in determining these fossil plants from the isolated organs which alone for the most part we possess, the task is certainly not altogether hopeless. Fortunately we are not wholly dependent upon leaves, but have large series of fruits and seeds as well, and even occasional flowers to assist us. Were we, therefore, to find leaves which, although seemingly of Oaks, for example, but which might be leaves of other and widely separate families, we should hesitate how to class them; but if we find that acorns had been floated down by the same river which brought the leaves, our doubts would be greatly removed. With the increasing stock of knowledge such results may be hopefully looked for. But even where we have nothing but detached leaves to deal with, much may be done. Many plants can be recognised by the form of the leaves, still more by the venation, and their determination is more certain when the texture is preserved. The latter is of great importance; for instance, the leaves of a species of Nettle and of a Cinnamon have the same venation and form, yet owing to the difference in their texture they could, even if fossil, hardly be mistaken. Texture, however, although indicated in the fossil, cannot always be reproduced in the illustrations. Even the leaves of those plants which vary much can generally be recognised, if a large series be examined, by their venation, though in outline they may be quite dissimilar. The question is not, however, whether some plants so vary that it is impossible to determine them from their leaves, but it would be important to determine whether the species of the living genera to which these fossils have been referred are so variable. The habit of collecting and attentively examining fossils from deposits of one age, if extended over many years, induces so great a familiarity with their peculiarities of texture and aspect that they become easily recognisable by minor differences, which would escape even a botanical specialist who passed them under examination for the first time. Again, considerable advantage is gained by attending to the general assemblage of plants in a fossil flora. As an instance, we find at Bournemouth a leaf, hitherto supposed to be that of a *Castanea*, associated abundantly and almost exclusively with Palms and Ferns of tropical American type. The correctness of the determination appears doubtful, since we have no precedent for such a grouping, whereas a species

of *Godoya* even more nearly resembles the Bournemouth leaf, and its presence might be expected in such company. The large series of the same forms of leaves which I have brought together thus greatly facilitate their determination. The limits of variation in many given leaf-forms can be recognised; leaves which would be included as varieties, if found singly, are seen to be persistent in their form. Gradually the work becomes easier; to-day we have but isolated leaves; to-morrow a chance brings to light an associated fruit or flower, a branchlet of leaves, showing their attachment—some clue by which conjecture is rendered almost certainty.

In arriving at our decisions respecting the comparative ages of isolated floras, besides taking into consideration those differences which are likely to be present when they are widely separated, either by latitude or longitude, we must make allowance for local causes, which influence and even change the character of neighbouring floras at the present day. These are so well known that it is only necessary to allude to them here. Plant-remains from argillaceous, and arenaceous soils would more or less differ. Limestones, serpentine, and basalts have characteristic plants. Peat and soil impregnated with saline matters nourish plants that are markedly dissimilar. Local differences in climate, such as are caused by the prevalence of certain winds, excess of moisture, proximity to mountain ranges, or to sea-currents of different temperatures, exert a powerful influence on vegetation. Difference of altitude, it is well known, makes almost as much change in each foot vertically as in miles horizontally. Some of these conditions have no doubt modified the floras to be described.

As plants of the Tertiary period are found in a more and more extended area, we see that very frequently leaves, evidently of the same species, have been placed by authors in many, and sometimes widely, different genera. As knowledge increases, such differences will in due course become corrected. Free interchange of ideas, and, where possible, of specimens before final publication, would obviate much of this burdensome synonomy in the future. It would also be more dignified and satisfactory were authors of species themselves from time to time to disclaim those which had become synonyms or were founded on insufficient characters or data, instead of leaving others, not in so good a position, to make the corrections. Eventually it is to be hoped that Botanists, who have made especial orders of living plants their study, following the example so well set by Mr. Hiern in his 'Monograph of the Ebenaceæ,' may be tempted to devote themselves to a critical examination of the determinations hitherto made, so that the immense importance of Plant Remains, which exceeds in many respects that of Animal Remains, may be eventually conceded to them.

Notwithstanding their importance, no section of Palæontology has been more neglected by our fellow-countrymen than the plants of the Tertiary Period. The floras of our older rocks are familiar to us by the works of Lindley, Hutton, Williamson, Binney, Carruthers, and others. Phillips has given us a considerable insight into the nature of the British Jurassic flora; but from Oolitic times plant-history is still, so far as this

country is concerned, comparatively a blank. It is true that for long ages we have but the scantiest remains to tell us how vegetation progressed in this area, and the subject, until Tertiary times are reached, from its very meagreness, has offered few attractions to its research. Such materials as have been brought to light have been investigated by Carruthers, who has published in a series of papers as much as there is known respecting British Cretaceous floras. The vast fresh-water deposits of the Wealden, in which, from analogy, we should have expected to find series of plant-remains important in the history of evolution, have yielded little else but Ferns, Cycads, and Conifers. The Neocomian flora appears to have been similar. The marine beds of our Cretaceous rocks have from top to bottom yielded only a few isolated remains of Conifers, which had probably been drifted out to sea. No remains whatever of Dicotyledons have been found in them; and a few rolled pellets of wood, with a palm-like structure, are the only traces of Monocotyledons which they anywhere present.

I have elsewhere[1] spoken of the immense gap in the geological record which exists in England between our Uppermost Chalk and our Lowest Eocene, completely severing the plant-life of the latter period from all that preceded it. If we turn to other countries we see that this gap is but partially filled up, for it is still doubtful whether any of the foreign Cretaceous beds containing Dicotyledons were contemporaneous even with our Chalk, our highest member of the series.

From nearly the commencement of our Eocenes, on the contrary, almost every section has been found to contain more or less extensive series of plant-remains, forming a striking contrast, from their abundance and variety, to the remains found in beds preceding them. Although this has long been familiar to English Botanists and Geologists, the only attempts to describe English Eocene plants, so far as I know, have, with few exceptions, been on a very limited scale. These are hereafter noticed in detail in their stratigraphical and chronological order.

The nearly unbroken sequence seen in the Eocene floras extends into the Miocene. There is no great break in passing from one to the other when we compare them over many latitudes, and but little change beyond that brought about by altered temperature or migration. But if Tertiary floras of different ages are met with in one area, great changes on the contrary are seen, and these are mainly due to progressive modifications in climate, and to altered distribution of land. From Middle Eocene to Miocene the heat imperceptibly diminished. Imperceptibly, too, the tropical members of the flora disappeared; that is to say, they migrated, for most of their types, I think, actually survive at the present day, many but very slightly altered. Then the sub-tropical members decreased, and the temperate forms, never quite absent even in the Middle Eocenes, preponderated. As decreasing temperature drove the tropical forms south, the more northern must have pressed closely upon them. The Northern Eocene, or the temperate floras of that period, must have pushed, from their home in the far north,

[1] 'The Popular Science Review,' January, 1879, p. 55.

more and more south as climates chilled, and at last, in the Miocene time, occupied our latitudes. The relative preponderance of these elements, I believe, will assist in determining the age of Tertiary deposits in Europe, more than any minute comparisons of species. Thus it is useless to seek in the Arctic Regions for Eocene floras, as we know them in our latitudes, for during the Tertiary period the climatic conditions of the earth did not permit their growth there. Arctic fossil floras of temperate, and therefore Miocene aspect, are in all probability of Eocene age, and what has been recognised in them as a newer or Miocene facies is due to their having been first studied in Europe in latitudes which only became fitted for them in Miocene times.

When stratigraphical evidence is absent or inconclusive, this unexpected persistence of plant types or species throughout the Tertiaries should be remembered, and the degrees of latitude in which they are found should be well considered before conclusions are published respecting their relative age.

FLORA

OF THE

BRITISH EOCENE FORMATIONS.

I. Flora of the Thanet Sand.

Very little is known of the flora of this earliest Eocene Period of England, and there is some doubt as to the exact age of even the few plant-remains which have been described as belonging to it.

In the second volume of Lindley and Hutton's 'Fossil Flora,' 1833-5, is a figure[1] of a Cone, described as *Zamia macrocephala*, and in the third volume, another called *Zamia ovata*.[2] These were supposed to be Cretaceous, but they are now known to be from the Thanet Sands. One is from near Deal, the other from Faversham. Additional material having been discovered, these species were examined and redescribed by Carruthers, in the 'Geological Magazine' for 1866,[3] as *Pinites macrocephalus* and *P. ovatus*. In 1870 Carruthers read a paper[4] on *Osmundites Dowkeri*, a fossil fern-stem from Herne Bay, and in 1872 Thiselton Dyer[5] described fossil wood from the same locality. Coniferous wood has also been found, Professor Morris informs me, at Richborough in Kent.

II. Flora of the Woolwich and Reading Beds.

The earliest notice of the occurrence of plants in these strata is to be found in Webster's paper[6] "On the Strata lying over the Chalk," published in 1814. To Warburton belongs the credit of having first discovered the remains of fossil leaves at Newhaven. They were mentioned in subsequent papers, and in 1817 Sowerby gave a figure[7] of the prevailing leaf, which, he conjectured, might be near to *Platanus orientalis*. Mantell in 1822[8] held the same opinion when he figured the same species with some additional forms.

In 1854, Prestwich figured and Hooker described a number of leaves and other vegetable remains from Reading and from Counter Hill;[9] but Hooker declined to hazard

[1] Pl. 125, p. 117.
[2] Pl. 226, p. 189.
[3] Vol. iii, Pls. 20, 21, p. 534.
[4] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. xxvi, p. 349, pls. 24 and 25; 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. ix, p. 52.
[5] 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. ix, p. 52.
[6] 'Trans. Geol. Soc.,' vol. ii, p. 191.
[7] 'British Mineralogy,' vol. v, p. 185, pl. 500.
[8] Mantell, 'Geol. Sussex,' pl. 8, p. 262.
[9] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, pp. 88 and 163, pl. 4.

any determinations upon the very insufficient materials. Shortly after appeared a note by Hooker[1] on *Carpolithes ovulum* from Lewisham, which he supposed was the sporangium of a cryptogamous plant; but this opinion has not been adopted by recent writers, who consider it the seed of a Nymphaceous plant.[2] De-la-Harpe[3] considered that the Reading leaves might be determined, and in 1856 referred them to various genera.

In the table of fossils from these beds in the fourth volume of the 'Geological Survey Memoirs,' p. 578, six of these leaves have specific names attached to them.

In 1875 Rupert Jones and Cooper King[4] noticed fragments of leaf-beds enclosed in strata in a newly exposed section at Reading.

A most careful search there has resulted up to the present in nothing more than indistinct leaf-remains, principally of Willow form.

Mr. E. S. Dewick informs me that a bed of leaves was cut through fourteen years since by a railway excavation at Mottingham, and has forwarded me the small fragments that were preserved. Other leaf-remains have been found at Charlton.

Very few of the plant-remains from the Woolwich and Reading Beds are now in a condition to be of value for descriptive purposes; but some, sufficiently well preserved, exist in the British, Jermyn Street, and the Geological Society's Museums, and I possess a series from Dulwich, which were formerly in Bowerbank's collection. In addition to this, in 1878 I obtained from Newhaven a considerable number of leaves in a beautiful state of preservation. This I esteem the more fortunate, since the leaf-bed is very local and has almost entirely fallen into the sea, whither it will be followed at no distant date by the rest of the outlier. I shall therefore be able to give an account, though very imperfect, of this Lower-Eocene flora. Little diversity seems its chief feature, for the greater part of the leaves found by Mantell, Prestwich, and myself, belong to a small number of species. An Aralia-like leaf has been found at Lewisham. I have not seen any remains of the palms mentioned as coming from the formation, or the cone figured by Prestwich (l. c.), and I fear they may now be disintegrated.

III. Flora of the Oldhaven Beds.

Whitaker[5] mentions plant-remains in these beds from several localities. The most important is at Widmore Kiln, Bromley. Some leaves from that place were submitted to Carruthers, who remarked upon them as follows:—"The series of leaves

1 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. xi, pl. xvi, p. 562.
2 Schimper, 'Traité de Pal.,' vol. iii, p. 93.
3 'Bull. Soc. Vaudoise,' vol. v, p. 123.
4 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. xxxi, p. 451.
5 'Mem. Geol. Surv.,' vol. iv, 1872, pp. 247, 582.

contain two well-marked types, which have been almost invariably recognised as belonging to *Ficus* and *Cinnamomum*. The carbonised wood is *coniferous*."

This flora differs materially from that of Alum Bay, and from that of Newhaven, and perhaps more nearly resembles the Bournemouth flora than either of them. It is remarkable that the leaves are usually found adhering to a stem, instead of being detached, as is generally the case elsewhere.

IV. Flora of the London Clay.

The *Fossil Fruits* of Sheppey have been known for two centuries at least. They occur in abundance in the beds between Sheerness and Warden Point, and are washed out with other organic fragments and cement-stones, and gathered on the beach as copperas. The people engaged in collecting the copperas and cement-stones have for years been accustomed to set aside the more defined specimens; but, unfortunately, the fruits were perishable, and, with few exceptions, have disintegrated in a very short time.

The earliest notice of them, according to Whitaker's list of works on the London Basin,[1] is an anonymous 'Fossiliæ Sheppeianæ Catalogus "[2] of 1709. The next, 1757, is a paper by Dr. J. Parsons,[3] in which forty-four varieties of fruits are figured. They were thought to be Figs, Myrobalan, Phaseolus, seeds of an American Gourd, Coffee-berries, Pods of the Underground Pea, small Melon, Acorn, Plum-stone, Cherry-stone, berry of Sapindus, fruit of Hura, Mango, Horse-chestnut, Cocoa-nut, &c.

The author thought that if they were antediluvian they would, in some measure, point out the time of year in which the deluge began, which could not have been in May, as supposed by Dr. Woodward, but, from the ripeness of the fruits, in autumn.

In 1777 E. Jacob, in an Appendix to the 'Plantæ Favershamienses,' gives a list of fossil plants from Sheppey, under the heads of Lignum fossile, Equisetum, Fructus varii Aristæ, and Mycetidæ.

In 1811 Parkinson[4] figured several fruits from Sheppey, but added nothing to Parson's list, except the suggestion that Nipadites was probably the fruit of the genus Cocos.

In 1814 Webster[5] wrote that the cliffs of Sheppey had long been celebrated, and that from them, with the beds at Faversham and Emsworth, 700 different species of fossil fruits were known. In 1828 Brongniart, in his 'Prodrome des Végétaux Fossiles,' describes three fruits from Sheppey, to which he gives the names of *Cocos Parkinsonii*,

[1] 'Mem. Geol. Surv.,' vol. iv.

[2] 'Monthly Miscellany,' vol. iii, p. 163.

[3] 'Phil. Trans.,' vol. l, p. 396, pl. vi.

[4] 'Organic Remains, &c.,' vol. i, pls. vi and vii.

[5] 'Trans. Geol. Soc.,' ser. I, vol. ii, p. 2. The information appears to have been derived from a MS. Catalogue (now in the British Museum), by Francis Crow, of Faversham, dated 1810, illustrated with 831 drawings, supposed by the author to represent about 700 varieties.

Amomocarpum depressum, and *Pandanocarpum pyramidatum*, and adds that many undetermined species of Carpolithes occur there. In 1832 Lindley and Hutton, in the list of fossil plants, prefixed to the first volume of the 'Fossil Flora,'[1] include the species of Brongniart, with some additional forms based on portions of plants, as Palmacites, Flabellaria, Caulinites, Equisetum, and Fucoides.

In 1840 Bowerbank commenced a 'History of the Fossil Fruits and Seeds of the London Clay,' which was to be completed in five parts. The first part was published, but the second part, although announced as in preparation, never appeared. The illustrations, by J. de C. Sowerby, are particularly well drawn. The descriptions of *Nipaditis* are remarkably accurate, and the correctness of the author's approximation of them to *Nipa* has stood the test of time. Not so, however, the thirteen species into which the author divides them, it being now considered that few of these can be maintained. The author seems throughout to have made too many species. It was supposed that the fruits had been floated from a warmer clime; but Heer, in 1845, pointed out that the leaves found at Alum Bay belonged to similar groups. Herne Bay and other localities, in addition to Sheppey, have yielded fossil fruits; and resin, besides fossil wood, has frequently been met with at Highgate. The impressions of leaves have been found in the Basement-Bed of the London Clay at Barnet's End, near Hemel Hempstead.[2] I regret that I have not been able to see these plants, which, if well preserved, are of extreme interest.

Ettingshausen has entirely devoted four months' stay in London, made in connection with our work, to a preliminary examination of the Sheppey fruits, and he is already able to announce the presence of the following genera:—*Pinus*, *Callitris*, *Salisburia*; *Musa*, *Sabal*, *Elais*, *Iriartea*, *Livistona*, *Oenocarpus*; *Quercus*, *Liquidambar*, *Nyssa*, *Diospyros*, *Symplocos*, *Magnolia*, *Juglans*, *Eucalyptus*, *Amygdalus*, *Bauhinia*. He further recognises three genera of palms, which he is unable yet to determine, and several new and interesting fruits belonging to Apocynaceæ, Cinchonaceæ, Cucurbitaceæ, &c.

V. Flora of the Bagshot Formation.

The plants of these beds form, when united, by far the most extensive and varied fossil flora, of approximately one age, brought together from any single country. In treating of their Bibliography it will save repetition to consider them as one.

The leaf-impressions from Alum Bay have been known for a long time, for the first mention of them which I have met alludes to them as already familiar to geologists. The first published reference of these remains to any group of plants was by the

1 'Foss. Flora of Great Britain,' vol. i, p. xliii.

2 'Mem. Geol. Surv.,' vol. iv, p. 586.

Rev. W. B. Clarke,[1] in 1839, when he described a lignitic bed as composed of "relics of aquatic plants and the bark and seed-vessels of Pine." The Rev. P. B. Brodie first announced that fossil leaves in clay were to be found to the east of Bournemouth.[2] These he supposed to belong to Lauraceæ and Amentaceæ, to Characeæ and other Cryptogams. In 1844 Mantell[3] noticed them, and adopts Brodie's views; again in 1847,[4] he mentioned the occurrence at Bournemouth "of the same species of plants as those found in Alum Bay." In 1849 Prestwich[5] fixed the relative position of the Bournemouth and Alum Bay leaf-beds, and recorded the finding of leaves, although of few species, west of Bournemouth. In 1850 Dixon's 'Geology of Sussex' appeared, in which a few plant-remains were figured from Bracklesham. Two were identified as *Lycopodites squamatus* and *Cucumites variabilis*, and the third was called *Pinites Dixoni*. There were also figured some very beautiful sections of palm-stems picked up on the beach near Worthing and Shoreham.[6]

In 1851 Mantell,[7] who was evidently himself acquainted with the Bournemouth leaf-beds, introduced some notes on the "Foliage of Dicotyledonous Trees," from "thin layers of sandy clay in the cliffs west of Bournemouth." All the leaves were dicotyledonous, and appeared to him to have been shed. Many he still considered referable to Lauraceæ and Amentaceæ, and some he referred more specially to species of Willow, Poplar, and Laburnum. In another of his works[8] we find a foot-note stating that, while the vegetable remains from the Isle of Sheppey are tropical in character, those from Bournemouth, Alum Bay, and Newhaven, are of a temperate climate, *e.g.*, Nerium and Platanus, whence Edward Forbes inferred that in the former case they were transported from distant lands by currents, and the latter were the true flora of the country.

In 1853 the Rev. P. B. Brodie[9] noticed the occurrence, at Corfe, of elytra of Coleopterous Insects belonging to the families Curculionidæ and Buprestidæ. A Date-palm and a species of Willow are also mentioned by him as having been obtained from the neighbourhood of Corfe; and he further states that a larger number of plants had been procured in different parts of the series, appearing to belong to distinct natural orders. In 1854, according to Prestwich,[10] there were only three species of plants

[1] 'Mag. Nat. Hist.,' ser. ii, vol. iii, p. 438.

[2] 'Proc. Geol. Soc.,' vol. iii, p. 592.

[3] 'Medals of Creation,' vol. i, p. 193.

[4] 'Geol. Isle of Wight,' p. 169.

[5] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. v, p. 43.

[6] The exact age of the rolled palm-wood is unknown, but it may be derived from Eocene below the London Clay.

[7] 'Geological Excursion round the Isle of Wight,' 2nd edition, Supplement.

[8] 'Fossils of the British Museum,' 1851, p. 51.

[9] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. ix, p. 53.

[10] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, p. 75.

known in the Bracklesham flora. In the same year the elytra of four Beetles were figured by Westwood;[1] and Ruegg[2] mentions that the delicate leaf-impressions from the Dorsetshire pipe-clays belong for the most part to the natural order Salicineæ.

Nothing further was published until 1856, when the first attempt to give a general description of these floras, and to determine their species, was made by De-la-Harpe.[3] Some 300 specimens were got together from all the known collections. From Alum Bay alone 200 were examined, all being either in the possession of the Geological Survey, Bowerbank, or Prestwich. Of the Alum Bay flora 48 species were recognised and 43 determined; 13 of these were said to be common to Bournemouth, 7 to Corfe Castle, 3 to Reading, and 26 peculiar to itself. A Maple and a Poplar were abundant in individuals. Figs and Laurels are represented by many species; the largest leaf is that of a Walnut. Two or three Banksias are common; but the most abundant in species and individuals are the Leguminosæ, which, he remarks, are absent at Bournemouth and Corfe.

For the Bournemouth Flora there was only a small number of specimens in the Geological Survey Museum. Twenty-two species were, however, recognised, 13 common to Alum Bay, 5 to Corfe, 1 to Counter Hill; all were dicotyledonous, except a small parasitic Fungus. The species in the same Museum obtained at Corfe were identified, 7 as common to Alum Bay, and 5 to Bournemouth. De-la-Harpe enters into comparisons of the floras, and bases upon them conclusions which were, perhaps, justified by the imperfect materials then at his command.

In 1859 Heer,[4] supposing the age of the Alum Bay leaf-bed to be the same as that of the Barton Clay, alludes to them as "Upper Eocene." His trained perception led him to detect the connection between the Alum Bay and the Sheppey floras. The leaves of *Apeibopsis*, De-la-Harpe, are, he says, "perhaps from the same tree whose fruit Bowerbank named *Cucumites variabilis*.[5] At Bournemouth leaves are found, apparently of *Cupania*, which may, perhaps, be combined with the fruit of *Cupanoides*." The flora more particularly resembles that of Monte Bolca, 9 species out of 40 being considered to be common to both.

In 1862 the Geological Survey published a 'Memoir on the Isle of Wight,' in which all the then determined fossil leaves and fruits from Alum Bay were tabulated (pp. 121, &c.) and 21 species figured (pls. 5, 6, and 7), and described by De-la-Harpe (pp. 109, &c.). This, the most important work hitherto brought out on the subject, was left in the hands of De-la-Harpe, Salter having no responsibility in this portion of the work. In the first introductory sentence by Salter the fossil floras of Bournemouth, Corfe, and

[1] 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, p. 381, pl. xvi, figs. 34, 35; also pl. xiv, figs. 4 and 8, see 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. vii, p. 348.

[2] 'Journ. Roy. Agric. Soc.,' vol. xv, p. 394.

[3] 'Bull. de la Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles,' 1856.

[4] 'Flora Tertiaria Helvetiæ,' vol. iii, p. 314.

[5] 'Flor. Tert. Helv.,' vol. iii, p. 314.

Alum Bay, are said to be "identical," and a little further on these places are said to be "on exactly the same horizon," although their relative positions had long previously been pointed out by Prestwich and others. The determinations and correlations are very incorrect, probably from the specimens being mixed, since of 22 species from Bournemouth, 13 are said to be identical with those of Alum Bay; but we now know that none of the characteristic forms are common to both horizons. Palms are said to be met with only at Corfe; yet two species are included in the list of fossils from Alum Bay, in the body of the work, at p. 42. This memoir does not include any species not published in De-la-Harpe's previous work; an *addendum* contains a rough list from Heer of the genera found in the Miocene of Oeningen, which has no apparent connection with the subject.

In 1865 W. S. Mitchell,[1] who for some time previously had been working at the Lower and Middle Bagshot Beds, figured a species of *Porana*, which he provisionally named *P. Vectensis*. He also noticed various new leaves, to which, however, he declined to attach either generic or specific names. In 1866[2] he again announced the discovery of further leaf-forms at Alum Bay, without offering any opinion as to the number of species obtained. Some 470 specimens had been collected, and drawings of some were exhibited to the British Association.[3] Two years later G. Maw[4] expressed the opinion that the *Porana* of Mitchell, and another flower-like form from Studland, resemble *Kydia* more than *Porana*. In 1869[5] A. Wanklyn described fragments of a *Gleichenia* from Bournemouth, for which he proposed a new genus and two species. In 1870 Mansell-Pleydell[6] noticed the occurrence of plant-remains at Alum Bay, Studland, &c., especially mentioning *Gleichenia* and *Sabal*.

From this time little has been written except the few brief notices in which I have quite recently called attention to the unexpected extent of the Bagshot floras of Hampshire and Dorsetshire. These will be found in the 'Reports of Conferences held in connection with the Loan Collection of Scientific Apparatus in 1876, Section of Physical Geography, &c.,' p. 412; in the text of a lecture given in the latter part of 1876, at the South Kensington Museum;[7] in a paper read before the "Geologists' Association," January 5th, 1877, published in the fifth volume of their 'Proceedings;' in subsequent papers in 'Nature,'[8] and in an article in the 'Popular Science Review' for July, 1878.

In Prof. Rupert Jones's second edition of Dixon's 'Geology of Sussex,' 1878, p. 162,

[1] 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. ii (1865), p. 516, figs. 1—3.
[2] 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. iii (1866), 476.
[3] 'Report Brit. Assoc.,' 1866, p. 146.
[4] 'Geol. Mag.,' vol. v (1868), p. 74.
[5] 'Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.,' ser. iv, vol. iii, p. 10, pl. i.
[6] 'Flora of Dorset.'
[7] 'Nature,' January 11th, 1877, and following week.
[8] March 29th, August 9th, November 15th, 1877, &c..

&c., Carruthers determines the plant-remains mentioned by the original authors as *Pinites Dixoni*, Bowerb., *Pinites Bowerbanki*, Carr., fragment of a Coniferous twig, *Cedroxylon Worthingense*, Carr., *Palmacites Dixoni*, Carr., *Palmacites constrictus*, Carr, *Palmacites oblongus*, Carr., *Carpolites Dixoni*, Carr., and Dicotyledonous Wood.

§ 1. The Lower-Bagshot Flora.—Next to that from Sheppey this is the most widely known of the English Eocene Floras. It has attracted considerable attention, partly perhaps on account of the beds being conspicuously exposed and easily accessible at Alum Bay. In the pipe-clay bed which occurs there we have an exceedingly well-preserved and beautiful, as well as extensive, flora. The leaves, almost always detached, are flat and smooth, and appear to have belonged principally to deciduous forest-trees. The species are not abundant, compared with the number of specimens. The distinctive character of the flora is due to the size and variety of the leaves ascribed to the genus Ficus and to the Leguminosæ, in a scarcely less degree to a deeply cleft palmate Aralia, a trilobed leaf resembling Liquidambar, a deeply serrate Banksia, and other leaves referred to Comptonia, Dryandra, and Myrica. Few, if any, of these have been found in the Middle Bagshot division at Bournemouth. The inference that the Studland beds were of the same geological age as those of Alum Bay has been confirmed, many of the characteristic Alum Bay leaves having lately been found there, including the Aralia and Liquidambar. The Studland flora, however, has a somewhat different character; for although all the dicotyledons are identical, they are in the minority, and their leaves are bent and mingled with masses of broken fronds of large Fan-palms and Ferns; whilst many Insect wing-cases and Shells have been met with implying, as I believe, greater proximity to land. Mitchell informs me that leaves in good preservation were formerly found in the clay-pits at Branksea Island, of this age, but no record of their forms is preserved. Splendid specimens used to be obtained abundantly from the Corfe pits, but time and dust have so obliterated the smaller leaves that have been preserved as to render them valueless for purposes of identification. Fragments of Fan-palms in various Museums, and some large-lobed leaves in the Museum at Oxford, are almost the only well-marked specimens still remaining. Repeated search in these pits of late years has only brought to light a few leaves of simple form, without distinct venation. No record of the forms of the leaves discovered in pipe-clay at Newbury exists as far as I know.[1] The Lower-Bagshot flora appears to possess such very distinctive characters that we may be enabled safely to compare it with European fossil floras, and so to fix their horizon.

§ 2. The Middle-Bagshot Flora.—This appears to be far more extensive and more varied than that of the Lower Bagshot beds, although less known, collecting having been hitherto confined to the cliffs close to Bournemouth. Leaves, flowers, and

[1] 'Memoirs of the Geol. Survey,' vol. iv, p. 312.

fruits occur there in very small basins; to the number of these which have now been explored, and to the fact that each basin contains a large proportion of plants peculiar to itself, are due the extent and richness of the material at our disposal. The western portion of the cliff-section presents us with the older beds, and these contain principally leaves of dicotyledonous forest-trees; the central area, adjoining Bournemouth Pier, abounds in Palms, Ferns, &c.; while to the east we see marsh- or swamp-vegetation, and finally fruits, seeds, and branches, which have been floated out to sea. Commencing from the west, we find, at less than half a mile from the rise of the cliffs, some small patches of clay with a few leaves peculiar to them; the first flora of importance, however, is contained principally in two basins. The more westerly was the richer of the two, but is now inaccessible, if not completely lost, from a heavy landslip. It was characterised by the number of branches with leaves attached, that it contained. The trees were mainly dicotyledonous, and, I believe, largely evergreen. Palms have not been observed, but a climbing Lygodium is prevalent. A large pinnatifid leaf, resembling Stenocarpus, is confined to this bed. The occurrence of leaves attached to branches, of Insect remains, and of a feather, seems to indicate proximity to the shore. The second basin contains scarcely anything but quantities of single and very perfect leaves, resembling those of a large Hornbeam or Beech, which are spread in layers. The next bed is a little to the east, and contains a great variety of small Willow-like leaves, with entire and serrate margins. It is remarkable that, where any of the species found in other beds are met with in this, they are seen to be stunted or dwarfed. My interpretation of these facts is that the western beds present a comparatively upland flora, the leaves found in the first basins having been shed from luxuriant forests, and those in the latter from trees or bushes which grew in a more barren tract.

The next beds are in the immediate neighbourhood of Bournemouth. Approaching from the west, the first leaf-bed is a mass of compact dark clay. The uppermost layers contain some indistinct leaf-impressions, then we meet with large pinnate leaves of Palms, crossing each other in all directions;[1] and under these a bed of leaves, the prevailing form being a Myrica, not elsewhere met with at Bournemouth. The next bed contains many especially characteristic plants; among them being the Gleichenia, whose fronds occupy a layer by themselves, large pinnate leaves of a Palm, which appear to me to resemble Iriartea more than any other genus, and a Castanea-like leaf (Godoya?), the only one met with at Bournemouth. The succeeding beds under the Coastguard Station consist of seven or eight layers, separated from each other by coarse quartz grit, and each characterised by a group of leaves more or less peculiar to it. Several of the rarer Ferns, both pinnate and palmate leaves of Palms, and some of the most important dicotyledons, were obtained from them. One layer contains hardly anything but leaves of a small Ficus. The uppermost bed, a dark-black clay, is full of the pinnæ of *Osmunda*

[1] A portion of one extracted measured four feet in length by three feet in breadth.

lignitum, Cactus spines, and branchlets of a Sequoia-like Conifer, and recalls most forcibly, by its aspect, by the identity of its fossils, and by the manner of their occurrence, some of the beds at Bovey-Tracey. We seem to have in these central beds the remains of a luxuriant and tropical valley vegetation.

Beyond the Pier a bed contains Ferns, Aroids, Fan-palms, and a Eucalyptus, and with these a Sequoia-like Conifer, which from the complete absence everywhere of cones, the similarity of foliage, and the association of plants, may, perhaps, be referred to the swamp-loving Podocarpus or Dacrydium. The last fresh-water beds met with contain the remarkable forms referred to the Polypodiaceæ. They are associated with other Ferns, Rushes, and the Conifer already mentioned, and indicate a swamp-vegetation. Thus, by the plants may be traced the change from hill to valley and from valley to marsh.

In the *Marine Beds* are found numerous fruits, seeds, fragments of Conifers, Cactus, &c. The fruits and seeds, although comparatively few in number, are a valuable discovery, being from a higher horizon than the leaf-patches. They appear, like those from Bracklesham, to be related to the fruits from Sheppey, which are found in the London Clay, and therefore below the leaves. About sixteen kinds have been collected, including, it is supposed, Nipadites, Hightea, Cucumites, and Petrophiloides, sufficient to establish that no great break took place in the flora as a whole. The assistance of the Sheppey fruits may thus be important in determining the genera of the Bagshot leaves and flowers; for, even with a slight connection established, we should, in cases where leaves might be referred to different genera, get data for selecting a particular genus from the Sheppey fruits. These determinations may thus have a value which botanists refuse to them when based on leaves alone.

The Flora of Bovey-Tracey.—It may appear strange to find the flora of Bovey-Tracey, thought to be typically Miocene, included in that of the Middle Bagshot. It is, however, perfectly clear to me that the Bovey-Tracey beds are on the same horizon as those at Bournemouth, from which they are some eighty miles distant. Even in this first section upon Ferns it will be seen that there are elements common to both, for two of the three are common to Bournemouth; and, while one is equally rare at both places, another is equally abundant at both, and found under precisely similar conditions. The detached pinnæ of *Osmunda lignitum* are found in blackish shaly clay, spread in layers mingled with Cactus spines and Sequoia, exactly as they are at Bournemouth; and so identical are they in appearance that, were the specimens mixed, it would be impossible to tell which belonged to either locality. The third Fern found at Bovey is a common Eocene form. Of other plants, the Cactus (*Palmacites Dæmonorops*, Heer) is found abundantly in certain beds at Bournemouth and Bovey, and scarcely anywhere else. The fruits are so similar that handfuls of Anona, for instance, from each place, if once mixed, could not again be separated. The Cinnamons of Bovey, thought to be so characteristic of the Miocene, are most abundant everywhere at Bournemouth. The Oaks, the Laurels,

the Figs, in fact nearly, if not quite all the Dicotyledonous leaves are identical, so that the Bournemouth flora itself must be Miocene if that of Bovey be Miocene. Were a minority of the plants, instead of a majority, common to both, it would not be surprising, seeing that neighbouring patches at Bournemouth differ much more considerably in their contents from each other than does the Bovey-Tracey flora, as a whole, from that of Bournemouth; and we could therefore hardly have expected to find, especially taking into consideration the variety and richness of the Middle-Bagshot flora, an exactly similar assemblage of plants so far removed from each other and growing, perhaps, at a different level. The Bovey flora, according to Heer, bears the greatest resemblance to that of Monosque among French Tertiary Floras, of whose Eocene age I entertain no doubt, for it is the one bearing the greatest relationship to these Middle Bagshot beds. The three small seeds which are supposed to link Bovey with Hempstead are, in my opinion, insignificant, and, indeed, are not confined to that section of the Eocene. The subject might be pursued further, but the progress of this work may be left to show the correctness of my views respecting the age of these beds.

When Heer wrote[1] in 1861 it must be remembered that no Eocene floras of any extent had been described, and scarcely any material existed for comparison, except what was of Miocene age. The fossil flora of Bournemouth was a sealed book, and many Eocene floras on the Continent were then thought to be Miocene, so that in making comparisons error was certain to be introduced. He was also, no doubt, influenced by the Alum-Bay plants, which hardly resemble those of Bovey, and probably somewhat by the preconceived opinions of English geologists. It appears to me that in the then state of knowledge regarding these Tertiary Floras he could scarcely avoid classing the Bovey beds with the Miocene.

As the specimens from Bovey-Tracey were described by Heer in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1862, it is not proposed to refer further to them except in so far as the materials here worked up modify the views of the original describer.

§ 3. The Upper-Bagshot Flora.—No plants whatever have been hitherto described from beds of this age. I have extracted from some of the lignites at Barton fragments of Fir-cones and indistinct seeds, and some similar remains are to be found in the Woodwardian Museum, Cambridge.

VI. The Upper Eocene Floras.

§ 1. The Headon Flora.—No plants have been recorded from the Headon beds, except three species of Chara, *Carpolithes ovulum*, and *Folliculites thalictroides*.[2] *Palma-*

[1] 'Phil. Transact.,' 1862, part ii, published in 1863.

[2] Bristow, 'Mem. Geol. Surv.,' 1862.

cites Lamanonis, the woodcut of which has so frequently been introduced by Mantell in his various works, may be from this stage. Fortunately, however, Henry Keeping, in 1876, came across several fine specimens of a Feather-palm at Hordwell, now in the Woodwardian Museum. I have since seen large ironstone concretions at Hordwell traversed by similar leaves.

§ 2. The Bembridge Flora.—Nothing but some fruits of Characeæ[1] had been noticed from these beds; I have, however, seen branches of Conifers and seeds in the Bembridge Marls, at Hempstead. J. A'Court Smith has recently collected an extensive flora from Gurnet Bay, including, as he informs me, a large series of Dicotyledons, Palms, &c.

§ 3. The Hempstead Flora.—This flora was partially known to Lindley and Hutton in 1832, who alluded to it in the preface to their work, as the "Upper Freshwater Formation." Nymphæa and Zosterites are the only fossils mentioned by them as occurring in it. Edward Forbes in 1852[2] separated and described the Hempstead Beds. In 1856[3] he again described them, and mentions Typha-like leaves, *Taxites Parisiensis*, three species of Chara, and *Folliculites thalictroides* as occurring in them. In 1862[4] a second species of *Folliculites* was added to the list. In 1862 Heer[5] described and figured the then known Hempstead flora, ten species in all. In 1863 Heer, in 'The Lignite Formation of Bovey-Tracey,' by Pengelly and himself, described four species common to the two localities.

Although the greater part of this flora is composed of seeds and mere fragments of reed-like plants, beautiful leaves of Nelumbium and a small Fan-palm have been found.

BRITISH EOCENE FERNS.

The objections to the determination of dicotyledonous leaves apply with considerably less weight to those based upon Fern fronds. Where these, however, are fragmentary and no trace of fructification is present, there is still great uncertainty, for a number of existing genera include species that have the most varied venation. It is fortunate that many of the Ferns described in the present work have been determined either from very numerous, or exceptionally well-preserved specimens. We therefore believe that, notwithstanding the difficulties arising from the well-known tendency of certain Ferns to

1 'Mem. Geol. Survey, Isle of Wight,' 1862.
2 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. ix.
3 'Mem. Geol. Survey, Isle of Wight,' 1856, p. 44.
4 Bristow, 'Mem. Geol. Surv., Isle of Wight,' 1862.
5 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. xviii, p. 369.

variation in the form of their fronds, and even in the angles and relative proximity of the venules, errors or unnecessary multiplication of species have been avoided. Nearly all the specimens from Bournemouth, whence they were chiefly procured, seem to have been macerated so as to disconnect the pinnæ and remove the spores.

Ferns are relatively rare in British Eocenes, and yet some twenty distinct forms are described in this Monograph. The floras consist principally of deciduous dicotyledonous leaves, which, in the ordinary course of events, fell into the water and were tranquilly silted over. Ferns, on the other hand, would require some violence to remove them from the place of their growth, and their preservation would consequently be exceptional, and they would be mutilated and fragmentary. This may account for their rarity.

Few as these British forms are in the number of species, they nevertheless form the largest and most important series of Eocene, even of Tertiary Ferns, yet described from any one group of beds.

Although our knowledge of the Ferns which existed in Tertiary times is still most imperfect, yet we find that nearly all of them have allied living representatives, although none of these now live in the British Isles. So close, in fact, are the resemblances in many cases, that it is difficult to avoid the belief that they are the more or less direct descendants of the fossil forms; indeed, some Continental authors, think that in the Miocenes of Switzerland the directly intervening forms can be traced.

A few of the genera here described belong to groups which have not previously been found fossil; but many of them are Eocene forms already described. It is interesting to find that some of these, like a few living species, ranged synchronously over both hemispheres, as a few are also found fossil in North America.

One of the most remarkable, and a very abundant form, is a *Chrysodium*, which ranges from the Alum-Bay beds at Studland, through the Lower-Bournemouth series, into the overlying marine beds, and has a no less wide range upon the Continent. The *Polypodieæ* with reticulated venation are represented by at least three species; numbers of specimens of each having been obtained. Their venation is somewhat abnormal, in one instance approaching so nearly to that of dicotyledons as to leave considerable doubt in my mind as to its determination. The *Pterideæ* are represented by several species, the most abundant of which is closely allied to many Eocene and Miocene forms already known. Another, of which we have only a fragment, is related to a group with reticulated venation now living in Polynesia. A third is hardly distinguishable from the widely distributed Miocene *P. Œningensis*. A unique specimen is doubtfully referred to the *Asplenaceæ*. The *Aspidiaceæ* have three representatives, one of which possesses a new type of venation, somewhat resembling that of certain dicotyledons, and has been placed by Ettingshausen in a new genus. The others are referred to *Phegopteris*, and resembles living forms. *Gleichenia*, well known in Cretaceous times, has only been met with in admittedly Eocene strata at Bournemouth, where it is represented by a trailing or climbing form, of most local and limited distribution. The

Schizæaceæ are represented by a *Lygodium* allied to the recent *L. palmatum*, and identical with a species from the Eocene Lignitic Series of America. In this Fern the fertile fronds have also been met with. A species of *Aneimia* is very abundant and beautifully preserved at Bournemouth, and is also common to the Eocenes of America and Sézanne, and possibly Aix-la-Chapelle. The most prevalent form, however, is *Osmunda lignitum*, which is equally abundant at Bovey-Tracey, and of which *O. Dowkeri*, Carr., may possibly be the stem. Of the other Ferns figured, one, if not two, certainly belongs to *Adiantum;* and there are others upon which no determination can be hazarded.

The Ferns seem to throw some light upon the physical condition and gradual depression of the land in the Eocene period. At Bournemouth the lower beds, met with towards Poole, are supposed to contain a wooded and more or less hillside flora, and Ferns are there represented only by a climbing *Lygodium*. In the beds further east, near the Pier, which contain a more luxuriant vegetation, we find the delicate *Gleichenia*, both species of *Phegopteris*, and *Osmunda*. These, I believe, required a warm, moist, shady situation. We next find the large *Chrysodium*, *Osmunda*, *Meniphyllum*, and *Pteris*, mingled with masses of Aroids, &c., which would require a still more moist habitat. Finally, in the most eastern and newest beds of the freshwater series, we meet with masses of *Polypodieæ*, which probably grew at the sea-level in company with a decidedly swamp vegetation.

Of all the Ferns described, only four were previously known as British, and two of these were supposed to be from the Miocene. Three were known from the American Eocene, four from the Aquitanian and Tongrian stages of Western Europe, and one from Sézanne; the rest are new. In addition to these, there are several other Ferns, which are too indistinct to be figured.

Von Ettingshausen, in his work on Tertiary plants, has found it necessary to invent a distinct terminology for Ferns.[1] His explanation of the types of venation, and the terms he distinguishes them by, so far as he employs them in the present work, will be useful here.

"The simplest venation in Ferns is the *Hyphopteris* (fig. 1), in which each division of the frond is traversed by only one vein.

"When the veins, and consequently also the divisions of the frond, are arranged in a compact pinnate or pectinate order, then the *Hyphopteris* type becomes the *Craspedopteris* (fig. 2). In this case the rachis may be regarded as the midrib or primary vein, and the midribs as secondary veins. This applies more particularly to the *Craspedopteris vera*, where the secondary veins are mostly connected by parenchyma. When the veins are disconnected, except at their base, it becomes *Craspedopteris Ctenodes, e.g. Polybotrya Lechleriana*, Mett.; Ett., 'Farnkr.,' Pl. xiii, figs. 5, 6, &c.

[1] 'Die Farnkräuten der Jeztwelt,' Vienna, 1865.

"In most Ferns, however, the divisions of the frond are traversed by several or many veins. When they are forked primary veins, diverging from each other in a radiate manner, and equal, or the central one more prominent, the venation is *Cyclopteris* (fig. 3). This is divided into several types, of which I will explain the *C. simplex æqualis*, the *C. simplex inæqualis*, and the *C. composita*. In the first the primary veins are symmetrically disposed, forming only forked branches (*ex. Adiantum*); in the second the primary veins are nearly all on one side of the division, or unsymmetrically dispersed; and in the last the primary veins send out secondary ones, as in *Lygodium*.

Fig. 1.—Hyphopteris.

Fig. 2.—Craspedopteris.

"In all other kinds of venation of Ferns, each ultimate division has only one primary vein (the midrib or costa) from which the secondary ones spring, and the latter frequently give rise to ternary veins.

"The primary vein rarely reaches the apex of the pinnule in *Neuropteris* (fig. 4), but disappears in a number of forked branches, and the secondary veins are given off from it at very sharp angles, diverging in curves towards the margin, so that their marginal branches constantly form more obtuse angles with the primary vein than their stems. Among the

Fig. 3.—Cyclopteris.

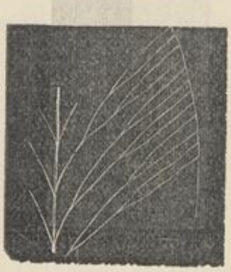

Fig. 4.—Neuropteris.

types of this kind of venation we notice the *Neuropteris vera;* here the midrib is invariably dissolved, and usually at an appreciable distance from the apex, and the dichotomously branched secondary veins diverge very much. In *N. acrostichacea* the primary vein is prolonged almost close to the apex, or even reaches it; and the secondary veins are only once or twice forked, and are less divergent (*ex. Pteris eocænica*, &c.).

"This last type comes near that of *Tæniopteris* (fig. 7), in which, however, the midrib is very much elongated, the secondary veins exceedingly numerous, given off at right, or not very acute angles, and never divergent, but either convergent (towards the midrib) or rectilineal.

"In the *Alethopteris* type (fig. 5) the midrib is slender, and gives off short rectilineal or slightly convergently curved secondary veins at acute angles; ternary veins are wanting, or only proceed from the lowest secondary ones, and only on one side (of the pinnule).

FIG. 5.—Alethopteris.

FIG. 6.—Pecopteris.

"In the *Pecopteris* type (fig. 6) the undivided or forked secondary veins spring from the midrib, which is distinctly continued to the apex, at slightly acute angles, and send out ternary veins (*ex. Gleichenia Hantonensis* and *Osmunda lignitum*).

"Whereas in the foregoing types of venation all the veins are free, in the following some or all of them anastomose with each other. Those of the *Goniopteris* type (fig. 8) all anastomose, or at least the inner ternary veins, and remain undivided. The two anastomosing veins blend in one called the ray, which runs through in the *Goniopteris-*

FIG. 7.—Tæniopteris.

FIG. 8.—Goniopteris.

Aspidii type, that is to say, it extends to the point of union of the next pair, whilst in the *Goniopteris Meniscii* type (*Phegopteris præ-cuspidata*; Pl. IV, fig. 9) they terminate before reaching the union. All the ternary veins are united in the latter type, but in that of *G. Aspidii* (*Phegopteris Bunburii*, Pl. V) some of them are free.

"When the ternary veins form a network in which there is a row of larger meshes on either side of the midrib or secondary veins, we have the *Dictyopteris* type. In this either all the veins are connected in a network (*D. simplex*), or the secondary ones are

looped, curved, or marginal, and only the ternary one netted (*D. composita*). The secondary and ternary veins are remarkably shortened in the former, and scarcely, or not distinctly, separated from each other. The meshes of the network enclose free venules or not, and are accordingly *D. appendiculata* or *D. exappendiculata* (*Chrysodium Lanzæanum*).

"Finally, there are the *Phlebodium* (fig. 9) and *Drynaria* (fig. 10) types of venation belonging to the group with anastomosing veins. In the former the very much abbreviated secondary veins form, by a peculiar anastomosis of their forked branches, a prominent row of larger long meshes on each side of the midrib, and several rows of loops. In the *Drynaria* type the anastomosing ternary veins are given off in a pinnate manner from both sides of

FIG. 9.—Phlebodium.

FIG. 10.—Drynaria.

the elongated secondary ones, which are strongly curved or looped. The rays or appendages within the ternary meshes anastomose in such a manner as to form a network resembling the venation of dicotyledonous leaves. The meshes usually enclose free venules. When the ternary segments are regularly rhomboid or elongated, it is the *Drynaria regularis* type; when these segments are indistinctly outlined and of irregular shape, they belong to the *D. irregularis* type (*Glossochlamys transmutans*, Pl. III, fig. 3), and when the secondary veins form neither curves nor loops, but terminate in the margin, combining with the marginal ones, they compose the *Drynaria composita* type, a type at present confined to the fossil genus *Meniphyllum*."

CRYPTOGAMÆ.

Order.—FILICES.

Sub-order.—POLYPODIACEÆ.

(a.) *Acrostichaceæ.*

Chrysodium Lanzæanum (*Visiani*). Plate I and Plate II, figs. 1—4.

Fortisia Lanzæana, *Visiani*. Piante fossili della Dalmazia, p. 11, pl. 1, fig. 8; pl. 2, figs. 1 and 5.

Ch. fronde coriacea pinnata, pinnis lanceolatis vel oblongo-lanceolatis, acuminatis, margine undulatis vel integerrimis, basi sessilibus, mediis et inferioribus semi-amplexicaulibus, subdecurrentibus, superioribus attenuatis; nervatione Dictyopteridis simplicis exappendiculatæ; nervo primario pervalido, rigido, prominente; nervis secundariis angulis acutis variis egredientibus, congestis, abbreviatis, dictyodromis; maculis oblongis, prominentibus, pluriseriatis.

Lower Bagshot, Studland; Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth; Upper Eocene, Hordwell.

The remains are those of a large Fern closely allied to the existing wide-spread tropical *Chrysodium vulgare*, Fée. The thick carbonised substance of the frond figured in Pl. I indicates its former coriaceous texture. The pinnæ are lanceolate, and are so closely seated on the rachis, which is 8 mm. in diameter, that their margins overlap. They seem to have varied in the form of the base from cuneate to semi-amplexicaul, according to their position on the rachis, and to the size and development of the frond: thus, those represented in Pl. I have a broadly amplexicaul, almost decurrent base, and are from the middle of a frond; whilst in Pl. II, fig. 2, a pinna is seen with an almost acute base, and is therefore supposed to have been derived from the upper part of a frond. A somewhat similar variation, but in a much less degree, is seen in the bases of the pinnæ of *Ch. vulgare*, which are, however, never amplexicaul, but always stipitate. The apex is pointed; the margin undulate. In venation it also approaches *Ch. vulgare*, differing slightly only in the greater divergence of the angles at which the secondary veins start, and in the greater diversity of form presented by the meshes of the network.

Numerous short, contiguous, intricately anastomosing, fine veins proceed from a prominent midrib, at angles more acute on the less developed pinnæ towards the apex of the frond (Pl. II, fig. 2), than those of the middle and base. The limits of the divergence observed in the angles are 20° and 60°. The short secondary veins are as close together as in *Ch. vulgare*. In length and shape the meshes vary from rectangular to narrow-lanceolate or linear; sometimes, as Pl. II, fig. 4, from Studland, not anastomosing throughout their entire length. In *Ch. vulgare* the range of variation, in this as in other respects, is more circumscribed.

The fossil, while closely resembling the recent *Ch. vulgare*, seems to have been more variable in its growth, and differed principally in the more amplexicaul attachment of the pinnæ.

Chrysodium Lanzæanum was described in 1858 by Visiani from the Eocene of Monte Promina as *Fortisia*, a genus which he founded for this and a closely allied species. In 1877 Saporta announced the discovery of a *Chrysodium* from the Aquitanian beds of Manosque in Provence:[1]—"Je ne puis m'empêcher de signaler * * * un très beau *Chrysodium*, genre d'acrostichées, dont une espèce encore inédite, recueillie aux environs de Manosque, se rattache directement aux formes les plus nettement tropicales." This *Chrysodium* from Manosque, of which numerous pinnæ are preserved on the surface of a large slab, is nearly allied, Saporta informs me, like the Bournemouth plant, to *Ch. vulgare;* but the pinnæ are narrower, more lanceolate, and with a more acute and attenuated apex, and the whole plant appears to have been more slender; resembling in these respects the Hordwell specimens. He therefore thinks that the two can hardly be identified as a single species. It is remarkable that it was there associated with *Lastræa Stiriaca*, *Osmunda lignitum*, and *Lygodium Gaudini*, as at Bournemouth and Bovey-Tracey, and that with these also occur at Manosque species of Pteris allied to those of Bournemouth, *Pteris pennæformis* and *P. urophylla*, the latter only a variety of *P. Œningensis*. There is thus seen to be a considerable resemblance in the Ferns from the two localities, which are supposed to differ in age sufficiently to account for the slightly varying specific characters. Remains of

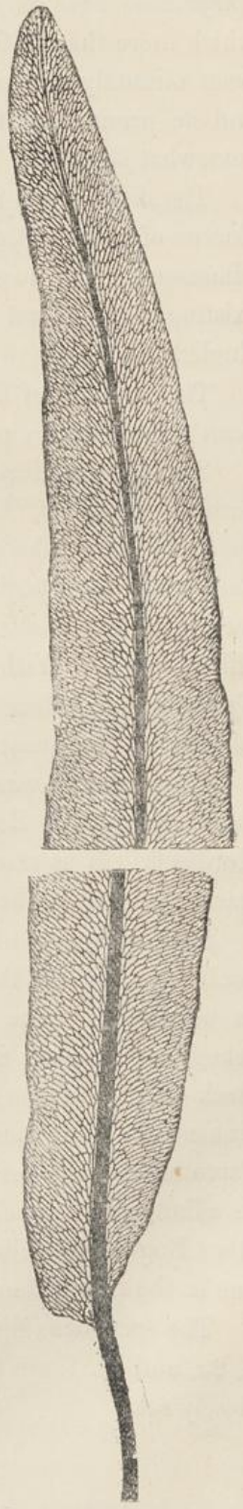

Fig. 11.—Chrysodium vulgare.

[1] 'La Nature, Revue des Sciences,' 5 année, No. 224, p. 245, 15th September, 1877.

Chrysodium have quite recently been met with by Saporta in the Gypsum of Aix, from which more than 300 forms of plants have been collected. This undescribed species has been minutely compared by Saporta with specimens of the Bournemouth *Chrysodium*, and he pronounces them to be specifically the same, although the Aix specimens are somewhat smaller. The venation is shown by Saporta's drawings to be identical.

The distribution of *Ch. Lanzæanum* is consequently extended in Europe to the Middle Eocene of Monte Promina, the Upper Eocene of Aix, and possibly to the Aquitanian of Manosque. The fossil species appears, therefore, to have had a wide range like the existing one; a fact in accordance with its exceptional range and abundance in the English Eocenes.

The presence of *Chrysodium* in Europe so late as the Middle Tertiary period has thus been ascertained by numerous specimens, most of them of very recent date.

Saporta and Heer have also detected a resemblance in the Eocene species to *Gymnogramma Gardneri*, Lesquereux;[1] indeed, Saporta had suggested this affinity[2] to Lesquereux during the publication of his work. Lesquereux, however, informs me, after comparing the specimens which I forwarded to him, that, although a considerable correspondence exists, the venation in his species is much looser, and the midrib is of a different type. With reference to Lesquereux's determination of the American species as a *Gymnogramma*, Heer thinks it still doubtful, until fructification shall have been found, whether all the species belong to that genus (*Dictyogramma*, Fée.), or to *Chrysodium*.

Chrysodium Lanzæanum is locally abundant, ranging from the Lower Bagshot through the Bournemouth Beds, and is met with in the marine beds overlying them, and at Hordwell. It is exceedingly common in beds on both sides of Bournemouth Pier, and scarcely less so in the widely separated beds at Studland.

De-la-Harpe mentions a small fragment in Prestwitch's Collection, and to which he doubtfully attached the name *Acrostichum*, as having been obtained at Alum Bay; but its occurrence there has not since been confirmed. Usually only torn, twisted, and detached fragments are met with; and the specimen figured in Pl. I, from a bed of black clay under the Coastguard Station at Bournemouth, is the only one in which the pinnæ have been found attached. No traces of fructification have yet been detected. Carruthers, being present when the larger specimen was found, immediately recognised its affinity to *Chrysodium vulgare*. This alliance has also been admitted by Hooker and other English botanists who have seen it, so that the correctness of the determination, due in the first instance to Carruthers, is unquestionable.

The specimens figured, Pl. II, figs. 3, 3*a*, 4, are from Studland; Pl. II, figs. 1, 1*a*, 2, 2*a*, and Pl. I, are from Bournemouth. In the former the secondary veins are more closely set.

[1] 'Tertiary Flora of America,' p. 58, pl. 4, fig. 2.

[2] Op. cit., p. 58.

(B) *Polypodieæ.*

Gen.—PODOLOMA, *Ett.*

Filices herbaceæ, fronde simplici, integra; sporangia nervis imposita, in soros subrotundos sparsos indusio nullo obtectos collecta. Nervatio Phlebodii irregularis.

PODOLOMA POLYPODIOIDES, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate III, figs. 4, 5, 6, and 9.

P. fronde submembranacea, lanceolata vel lineari-lanceolata, integerrima, utrinque angustata; nervatione Phlebodii irregularis; nervo primario rhachidromo, recto, prominente, apicem versus sensim attenuato, nervis secundariis sub angulis 55—65° *orientibus brochidodromis; maculis medianis vix distinctis, inæqualibus; laqueis Phlebodii semiellipticis, inæqualibus; maculis lateralibus irregularibus minutis,* 1—3 *seriatis; appendices numerosos tenuissimos ramosos includentibus.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

This genus and the next approach the *Dictyopterideæ* of the older floras and certain recent tropical species of *Polypodium* belonging to the sub-genus *Phymatodes*, namely, *P. lycopodioides*, *P. persicariæfolium*, *P. salicifolium*, *P. transparens*, and *P. hemionitideum*. The leaves may be distinguished from dicotyledons, notwithstanding their superficial resemblance, as, independently of the remains of spore-cases, they possess the peculiar venation of this section of *Polypodium*.

FIG. 12.—P. lycopodioides.

The frond represented in Pl. III, fig. 9, offers points of agreement in form, texture, and venation, with the barren frond of the recent *Polypodium lycopodioides*. The fossil presents the Phlebodium type of venation, modified by a less uniform shape and by the inequality of the meshes abutting on the midrib, which hardly differ from the rest. The Phlebodium loops are irregularly arranged and of unequal length and breadth. The two to three rows of marginal meshes, instead of being elliptical, are irregularly angular, and filled with numerous free and anastomosing venules (Pl. III, fig. 5). These differences are the bases of a new type, deviating essentially from the Phlebodium appendiculatum to which *P. lycopodioides* belongs, and is called Phlebodium irregulare. Figs. 4 and 9 are of natural size, and show the general form and average size of the pinnæ. Fig. 5, which is the base of a pinna enlarged, accurately shows the venation in detail, and, in three places, what appear to be sori in an early stage of development, around which the arrangement of meshes is peculiar.

Fig. 6 is another fragment, further enlarged, showing small spherical markings, which require further elucidation.

PODOLOMA AFFINE, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate III, figs. 7, 8.

P. fronde membranacea, lanceolata integerrima; nervatione Phlebodii irregularis; nervo primario rhachidromo, recto, prominente, apicem versus sensim attenuato; nervis secundariis sub angulis 30—45° *orientibus flexuosis brochidodromis, maculis medianis non distinctis, laqueis Phlebodii irregularibus, inæqualibus; maculis lateralibus inæqualibus,* 1—2 *seriatis, appendices numerosos tenuissimos ramosos includentibus.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

This is of a more delicate and membranous texture than the preceding, a distinguishing character in itself. In addition the secondary veins diverge at a more acute angle, are slightly sinuous, of unequal length, and at different distances apart. The median meshes which characterise the Phlebodium venation, discernible in the preceding species, are not perceptible in this, but in the magnified figure (Pl. III, fig. 8) a number of very irregular meshes are seen abutting on the midrib and taking the place of these median meshes. The Phlebodium loops, as well as all the meshes, are very irregular and unequal in form and size. The dots, visible without a lens, are evidently the bases of attachment of sori.

These two forms of Polypodieæ are found massed together in layers in the highest freshwater beds, immediately underlying the marine beds. Dicotyledonous leaves seldom accompany them, but they are generally associated with torn fragments of aroids, rushes, and conifers, and occasionally with remains of other ferns, as *Osmunda*, *Pteris*, and *Chrysodium*. The venation is usually well preserved and distinct, but the pinnules are always detached and the fructification removed, as if by maceration. The separating layers are so thin and brittle, and the leaves so crowded together, that it is extremely difficult to secure good specimens. The recent *Polypodia* with which they have been compared have long creeping rhizomes, with simple and persistent fronds, not articulated; but the fact that in the fossils the pinnules are invariably detached and in layers suggests that they belonged to annual ferns with articulated pinnæ. Their geological position and the leaves associated with them suggest that they inhabited swampy districts near the sea-shore.

Saporta, in a letter full of valuable comments, points out the resemblance which *Podoloma* bears to the dicotyledonous *Myrsiniæ*, *Sapotaceæ*, and the genus *Bumelia*. The venation, however, seems to differ more from any of these than from that of some existing Ferns. The existence of sori, besides, seems placed beyond doubt. Heer also

pronounces a decided opinion that they belong to the division of *Polypodium* with reticulate venation, and does not think that they should be generically separated unless as *Polypodites*. Hooker, Carruthers, and others see no reason to create a new genus for their reception. The correctness of our determination of these as Ferns may, we think, be considered as beyond reasonable doubt.

No fossil *Polypodia* with reticulate venation resembling these had hitherto been described.

GLOSSOCHLAMYS, *Ett.*

Filices herbaceæ, fronde simplici, integra. Nervatio Drynariæ irregularis.

GLOSSOCHLAMYS TRANSMUTANS. *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate III, fig. 3.

G. fronde submembranacea, petiolata, lanceolata, utrinque angustata, apice longe-acuminata, margine integerrima; nervatione Drynariæ irregularis, nervo primario rhachidromo, recto, prominente, apicem versus sensim attenuato; nervis secundariis prominentibus camptodromis adscendentibus, mediis sub angulis 40—50°, *reliquis sub angulis acutioribus orientibus; nervis tertiariis catadromis; latere externo angulo subrecto, latere interno plerumque angulis variis egredientibus; segmentis tertiariis vix distinctis, inæqualibus, irregularibus, polygonatis; maculis appendices plerumque liberos includentibus.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The texture of this frond was membranous. The apex is very elongated and narrow. The venation is somewhat like that met with in certain species of *Polypodium*, as, for example, *Phymatodes hemionitideum* and *P. transparens*, and in some species of *Aspidium*, as *A. trifoliatum*, *A. macrophyllum*, *A. pachyphyllum*. It deviates, however, in some essential particulars. The secondary veins are not sinuous, but run towards the apex of the frond in long curves, close to and sub-parallel with the margin. Their angles of departure are more acute at apex and base than in the middle of the frond, and in this respect the resemblance to dicotyledonous venation is great. The remaining characters of the venation are of the Drynaria irregularis type. In the catadromous loops of the ternary veins it approaches the above species of *Aspidium*. The species is founded upon peculiarities of venation, which consist in the ternary diverging from the outer side of the secondary veins at right angles, and from their inner side at varying acute and obtuse angles, and also in their relatively inconspicuous ternary segments, in proportion to the meshes and venules that are enclosed in them.

Saporta objects to the reference of this fossil to a Fern, as he considers the venation to be quite unlike that of any Fern, and to belong to a type common among dicotyledons. Heer also states that, in his opinion, "it is not a Fern, but a leaf of a Dicotyledon." It is found associated with Podoloma.

(c) *Pterideæ.*

PTERIS EOCÆNICA, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate IV, figs. 4—6.

P. fronde pinnata, pinnis rhachi angulo peracuto insertis, sessilibus valde elongatis, lanceolato-linearibus, acuminatis, basi obliquis, margine tenuissime serrulatis; nervatione Neuropteridis acrostichaceæ, nervo primario prominente, recto, apicem versus sensim attenuato; nervis secundariis sub angulis 40—50° *orientibus,* 1·5 *millim. inter se distantibus, bi- vel trifurcatis, rarissime simplicibus, ramis inter se parallelis, cum nervo primario angulum subrectum formantibus.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

This species is characterised by its long, narrrow pinnæ, which quit the rachis at angles of about 25°. Towards the apex of the frond they are sometimes confluent, decurrent below on the rachis, as in Pl. IV, figs. 4 and 5, and apparently petiolated towards the base. The terminal pinna is the largest. The margins of the pinnæ are sinuous or alternately lobed, and very finely toothed. The midrib is prominent and elongated. The secondary veins are numerous and crowded, spring at acute angles, curve outwards to the margin, and terminate in the teeth, the majority of them being once, some twice forked, and a very few undivided. The venation is of the type of Neuropteris acrostichacea, which is not uncommon in recent and fossil species of *Pteris.*

P. eocænica resembles very closely a number of living species of *Pteris,* as *P. crenata, P. cretica,* &c. It also resembles the Aquitanian species, *P. pennæformis,* Heer,[1] but may be distinguished by the secondary veins, which are less crowded and more generally forked, and by the margin, which is lobed and toothed in a much more pronounced manner. It even more closely resembles *P. Parschlugiana,* Unger, and *P. Gaudini,* Heer, but differs from the former in the much more acute angle at which the pinnæ leave the rachis, whilst the latter, founded upon a single and very small fragment, has no specific character, and is possibly, as suggested by Heer himself,[2] a fragment of *P. pennæformis.* The American Eocene[3] species *P. subsimplex* and *P. erosa,* while possessing the same

[1] 'Flor. Tert. Helv.' vol. i, p. 38, pl. xii, fig. 1.

[2] 'Flor. Ter. Helv.,' vol. i, p. 39.

[3] Lesq., 'Tert. flora of America,' 1878, pl. iv, pp. 52, 53.

venation, have much broader pinnæ, and *P. pseudopennæformis* has more closely and obliquely set secondary veins. *Blechnum Braunii*, Ett., from Monte Promina, has similar venation and finely toothed margin; and Dr. Debey informs me that he has Ferns from Aix-la-Chapelle with a nearly related venation. Heer believes it bears a resemblance to *Pecopteris Hookeri*, from Bovey Tracey. *Osmunda eocænica*, Saporta,[1] from Gelinden, strikingly resembles it, but seems to have been a larger Fern, and is considered distinct by Saporta.

Pteris eocænica is abundant at Bournemouth in the "fern-beds," where it is associated with the Polypodieæ. It becomes rarer westward, having but once been met with west of the pier, and then only in the highest and remanié beds near the top of the cliff, immediately under the flagstaff. The specimen from this locality (Pl. IV, fig. 5) is dwarfed and attenuated. The abundance of this Fern in the newest and most easterly beds of the Bournemouth freshwater series, where it is associated with plants which required much moisture, its rarity in the slightly older beds to the west, which have a less swampy character, its dwarfed and starved appearance in the uppermost beds west of the pier, and its complete absence from all the lower beds in which, with few exceptions, the dicotyledons have been obtained, point to its habitat having been, by preference, of a swampy and marshy character, and near the sea-level. Saporta informs me that at Manosque the closely allied *P. pennæformis* is, like this, found associated with *Chrysodium Lanzæanum* and *Osmunda lignitum*.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Baldry, of Bournemouth, for the specimen, fig. 5, Pl. IV, which we at first thought to be distinct, as the pinnæ are smaller and narrower, and the secondary veins more widely separated and less diverging. Fig. 6 (Pl. IV) represents a terminal pinna, natural size; fig. 4, the lower part of a frond; fig. 6 *a*. enlarged venation.

Fig. 13.—Pteris crenata.

Although species of *Acrostichum*, *Angiopteris*, *Gymnogramma*, &c., possess similar venation, the characters furnished by this form so closely correspond to what is met with in the recent species of *Pteris*, that its reference to this genus cannot be doubted.

Pteris Bournensis, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate IV, fig. 7.

P. fronde bipinnata, pinnulis superioribus angulo acuto, reliquis angulo subrecto rhachi adnatis, basi lata sessilibus, lanceolatis, acuminatis, margine intergerrima vel leviter undulata; nervatione Alethopteridis genuinæ; nervo primario debili, recto, infra apicem valde attenuato, nervis secundariis sub angulis acutis orientibus.

[1] 'Flore Heersienne de Gelinden,' Saporta and Marion, 1878, pl. i, fig. 1.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The specimen figured is apparently of delicate texture, and may be either the apex of a barren frond or the fragment of a pinna. The pinnules are lanceolate and gradually attenuated towards the apex, entire or slightly undulate, broadest at the base, and confluent. The uppermost pinnules are attached at acute, and the others at about right angles. The midrib is thin and tapering; the secondary veins, ten or twelve in number on each side, spring at angles of 50°—60°, and are mostly forked. The venation is of the true Alethopteris type. The apparently thin texture may be due to the long maceration to which the leaf has evidently been subjected.

The specimen so closely resembles the figures of *P. Œningensis*, Unger,[1] that, judging from them alone, it might be placed with it. That species, however, is of a more coriaceous texture, and appears only towards the second part of the Miocene. In connection with it Saporta has kindly communicated that he considers *P. Œningensis*, which appeared late in the Miocene, to be the forerunner of *P. aquilina*, and that the Miocene form was preceded by *P. urophylla*, and this by *P. Aquensis* and *P. caudigera* of the Aix beds. The type of *P. aquilina* is probably very ancient, and may reasonably be looked for in formations as old as the Lower Eocene. Debey thinks he has a similar type from Aix-la-Chapelle.

This Fern, which differs essentially from the *P. eocænica*, is known from a single fragment only, met with among dicotyledons in a leaf-bed on the coast near Poole Harbour. Fig. 7 is drawn the natural size; 7 *a* shows a portion magnified.

The determination of this as *Pteris* is not absolutely certain in the absence of fructification, as the venation is common to many Ferns.

(D) *Asplenieæ*.

ASPLENITES PRÆ-ALLOSUROIDES. *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate III, figs. 1, 2.

A. fronde membranacea, tripinnata, pinnis bipinnatis patentibus, pinnulis stipitatis, ellipticis, subobtusis, tenuissime crenulatis, soris oblongis, biserialibus; nervatione Craspedopteris veræ, nervo primario tenui, infra apice evanescente, nervis secundariis tenuissimis, simplicibus.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The specimen appears to be the remains of a fertile frond, and recalls a somewhat

[1] Heer, 'Flor. Tert. der Schweiz,' vol. i, p. 39, pl. xii, fig. 5.

similar form, *Asplenites allosuroides*, described by Unger,[1] from Eocene beds with *Cerithium margaritaceum*. The frond seems tripinnate, the pinnæ spreading, and the very small pinnules shortly stipitate, elliptical, and sub-obtuse at both ends. The margin has three to five teeth. The secondary veins quit the midrib at angles of 40°—50°, are simple, and terminate in the teeth, being therefore of the Craspedopteris vera type. The enlargement (Pl. III, fig. 1) is after a drawing by Carruthers, who kindly assisted in the elucidation of the specimen, which is very obscure indeed. The pinnules were of great substance, and the leaf has therefore carbonised and broken away. The rachis is zigzag.

Stur has kindly remarked upon the strong resemblance borne to our species by *A. allosuroides*. Unfortunately this was also determined upon a specimen in which the details were badly preserved, inasmuch as the carbonised leaf-substance from the same cause has almost entirely dropped out, and only the impression remains. It differs from *A. præ-allosuroides* in size, it being nearly double, and in the more rotundately elliptical pinnules, and as far as can be seen in their less symmetrical arrangement on the frond.

It, as well as *A. allosuroides*, closely resembles *Pteris heterophylla*, Linn., which has coriaceous pinnules of exactly the same form, but larger. In this respect the Sotzka species connects the two. The recent *Pteris scaberula* has the pinnules as finely divided as the Bournemouth form.

It does not bear any close resemblance to existing species of *Pellæa* or *Asplenium;* but *Gymnogramma leptophylla* slightly resembles it. Its determination is exceedingly doubtful. Heer is of opinion that it is the fertile frond of a species of *Thyrsopteris*.[2] It may, should better specimens be found, be necessary to unite our species to Unger's; and this seems the more probable as a great number of Sotzka plants are associated with it at Bournemouth.

The specimen, which is unique, was found some years ago at Bournemouth, under the Coast-Guard Station, by Mr. W. S. Mitchell and Henry Keeping, and is now in the British Museum.

(E) *Aspidieæ.*

Gen.—MENIPHYLLUM, *Ett.*

Filices herbaceæ, fronde pinnata, nervatio Drynariæ compositæ.

This genus is allied to *Meniscium* in its marginal secondary and short ternary veins,

[1] 'Fossil Flora of Sotzka,' l. c., p. 25, pl. i, fig. 1.

[2] 'Flor. Foss. Arctica,' iv, pl. x; Jurassic flora of Siberia.

but it is distinguished from this and from *Drynaria* by the anastomosing of the ternary veins and presence of free venules in the meshes. In the combination of marginal and netted venation, it presents a special type of the Drynaria group, which has never been observed in recent Ferns.

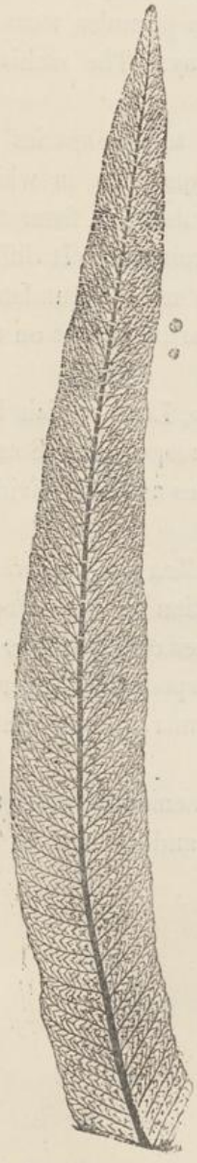

Fig. 14.—Meniscium longifolium.

Meniphyllum elegans, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Pl. III, figs. 10—14.

M. pinnis subcoriaceis, stipitatis, lanceolatis, apicem versus acuminatis, basi acuta inæqualibus vel obliquis, margine integerrimis; nervo primario valido prominente, sæpe arcuato vel flexuoso, nervis secundariis sub angulis 75—90° *orientibus, numerosis, approximatis, flexuosis; nervis tertiariis angulis acutis, rarius obtusis e nervis secundariis egredientibus, abbreviatis, flexuosis; maculis oblongo-ellipticis, appendices liberos includentibus.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

At first sight these remains appear to belong to *Meniscium*, but although the shape of the pinnæ and the arrangement of the secondary veins point to this affinity, the venation itself is opposed to it; for, whilst *Meniscium* has the Goniopteris, this has the Drynaria type. Pl. III, fig. 13, shows the venation magnified. The fronds were pinnate and probably coriaceous in texture. The pinnæ are shortly stipitate, the stalk passing into the mid-rib, which is curved or sinuous. The secondary veins are given off at rather obtuse, often almost right angles, and are numerous and closely set, thicker and less sinuous, and usually alternate with more slender and sinuous secondary veins. All extend to the margin, where they are either forked or remain undivided. The ternary veins form various acute and more rarely obtuse angles, are mostly very short and sinuous and anastomose more frequently with the neighbouring secondary veins than together. The meshes are of irregular oblong and elliptical shape, and contain branched free venules.

The pinnæ represented (Pl. III, figs. 10, 11, 12) were found at Bournemouth in the beds near the top of the cliff east of the Pier, associated with aroïds, palms, and conifers. It is sometimes found with *Podoloma*. Fig. 14 is from a solitary specimen found under Branksome Watch Tower, towards Poole Harbour, associated with small oak- and willow-like leaves. The pinna seems to have been slightly shrivelled at the margin before it was imbedded, and hence the lateral marginal vein is hardly discernible.

This determination should be received at present with some hesitation, since we know of no existing Fern possessing crowded secondary veins and free venules, and the venation on the other hand resembles that of certain dicotyledons.[1]

PHEGOPTERIS PRÆ-CUSPIDATA, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate IV, figs. 8, 9.

Ph. fronde pinnata, pinnis lanceolato-linearibus, elongatis, crenato-serratis; nervatione Goniopteridis Meniscii, nervo primario prominente, recto; nervis secundariis sub angulis 60—75° *orientibus, numerosis, tenuibus, simplicibus, flexuosis; nervis tertiariis utrinque* 4—6 *e nervis secundariis angulis acutioribus egredientibus, anastomosantibus, catadromis; radiis interruptis vel obliteratis.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The pinnæ are linear-lanceolate, obtusely serrate, with the venation of *Goniopteris*, in which all the ternary veins anastomose. It is referred to the Goniopteris Meniscii type, because the rays are interrupted and not continuous. It is probably a *Phegopteris*, and, indeed, differs only from *P. cuspidata*, Mett., in the following unimportant particulars: the marginal teeth are rather more obtuse or crenate; the midrib is prominent yet less thick; the secondary veins are sinuous instead of only curved upwards near the margin, less close, and at more acute angles; the lower ternary veins have a distinctly catadromous origin; the ramifications are usually very short, interrupted or abortive instead of always present. Its similarity to *Gymnogramma villosa* of Brazil is also striking.

There are also certain resemblances between this and the Miocene forms *Phegopteris Helvetica* (*Lastræa*), Heer,[2] *Ph. polypodioides*,[3] and *Ph. Stiriaca*,[4] also abundant at Bovey Tracey.

Heer would unite it with *Ph. Bunburyi* next described, considering it to be a fertile rond of that species; but although the venation in the only Bournemouth specimen is so indistinct that I am not inclined to attach too much importance to it, yet it hardly seems to justify the union. Pending the discovery of better specimens, I think they must be considered distinct.

The portion of a fertile frond figured is unique, and was obtained at Bournemouth, together with a magnificent series of dicotyledonous leaves of large size and palms, from one of the lower beds under the Coast-Guard Station, and therefore may be presumed from its surroundings to have had a shady forest habitat, and to have required a high temperature.

[1] Saporta has pointed out that the venation is not very dissimilar to that of the dicotyledonous genus *Andromeda*, sub-genus *Leucothöe*.

[2] 'Flor. tert. der Schweitz.,' pl. vi, fig. 2, pl. cxliii, figs. 2—5.

[3] Ett., 'Monte Promina,' pl. ii, figs. 1—4; Heer, loc. cit., pl. cxliv, figs. 1—3.

[4] Ung., 'Chlor. Prol.,' pl. xxxvi, Heer, loc. cit., pls. vii, viiii.

PHEGOPTERIS BUNBURII, *Heer*. Plates V and X.

LASTRÆA BUNBURII, *Heer*. Flora of Bovey Tracey, p. 28, pl. xii, fig. 1 *b*.

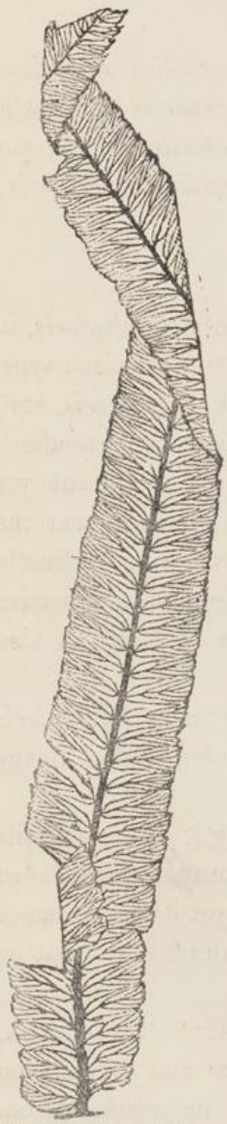

FIG. 15.—Phegopteris cuspidata.

Ph. fronde pinnata, pinnis breve petiolatis, lanceolatis, basi acutis, apicem versus angustatis, serratis, margine arguta; nervatione Goniopteridis Aspidii; nervo primario prominente, recto; nervis secundariis sub angulis 50—60° *orientibus, tenuibus, flexuosis, pinnatis; nervis tertiariis utrinque* 2—4, *sub angulis acutis egredientibus, flexuosis curvatisque; radiis perviis.*

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

To Heer we are indebted for pointing out the identity of the Bournemouth form with that of Bovey Tracey.

In this Fern the fronds were pinnate, the pinnæ usually rounded at the base and probably acuminate at the apex, and with lightly toothed margin. The pinnæ are wide apart towards the base of the frond and confluent towards the apex. The venation is of the type of Goniopteris Aspidii. All the ternary veins anastomose among themselves, and the venules proceeding from them are excurrent. The midrib is not thick, yet several times more prominent than the secondary veins, which are themselves slender, sinuous, and shortly forked at the extremities. The ternary veins are fewer, only two on each side, they part at a less acute angle than the secondary ones, and form a sharp curve, which unites them with the next above of the same order. It rather resembles some existing species of *Asplenium*, sub-genus *Diplazium*, chiefly *A. expansum* and *A. Ottonis* of Tropical America. It agrees closely in its characters with *P. Œningensis*, Heer,[1] which differs from ours only in the stipitate pinnæ, rather closer secondary veins, and in the possession of three or four ternary veins on each side of the secondary. Stur sees a resemblance rather to *Osmunda*, as *O. Claytoniana* and *O. cinnamomea*.

The specimens were found in the fourth bed of the series, under the Coast-Guard Station at Bournemouth; and no fragments have elsewhere been met with, except at Bovey Tracey, where it is also extremely rare. It appears to have been a slender, graceful plant, growing under the shade of the trees with whose leaves it is found associated. That figured in Plate V is evidently a young, perhaps sterile plant. In Plate X is shown a perfect pinna.

[1] Loc. cit. p. 32, Pl. VI, fig. 3.

PLATE I.

From the Middle Bagshot Beds, Bournemouth.

Chrysodium Lanzæanum (Visiani).

Fig. 1. A unique specimen, with pinnæ attached. (Gardner Collection.)

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE II.

From the Lower Bagshot Beds of Studland, and the Middle Bagshot Bed of Bournemouth.

Chrysodium Lanzœanum (Visiani).

Fig. 1. Fragment of a pinna, from Bournemouth.
1 *a*. Portion of the venation, magnified.
2. Terminal pinna, from Bournemouth.
2 *a*. Portion of the venation, magnified.
3. Apex of a pinna, with unusually close venation, from Studland.
3 *a*. Part of the same, magnified.
4. Fragment of a pinna, from Studland, with few anastomosing ternary veins.

(All the above from the Gardner Collection.)

Filices incertæ sedis.

5. Adiantum? (From Mr. Pender's Collection.)
6. Leaf with Cyclopteris venation. (British Museum.)

W.West & Co. imp.

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE III.

From the Middle Bagshot Beds, Bournemouth.

Asplenites præ-allosuroides, Ett. and Gard.

Fig. 1. Part of frond, magnified. (British Museum.)
2. The specimen, natural size. ,,

Glossochlamys transmutans, Ett. and Gard

3. Frond, natural size. (Gardner Collection.)

Podoloma polypodioides, Ett. and Gard.

4. A pinna, of average size.
9. A shorter pinna.
5. The base of a pinna, magnified, showing sori.
6. Fragment, magnified, probably of a different species, showing impressions of sori. (Gardner Collection.)

Podoloma affine, Ett. and Gard.

7. Fragment of pinna.
8. The same enlarged, showing bases of attachment of the sori. (Gardner Collection.)

Meniphyllum elegans, Ett. and Gard.

10. A small pinna, nearly perfect.
11. The base of a larger pinna.
12. A fragment of a still larger specimen.
13. A portion of the venation, magnified.
14. Slightly shrivelled pinna. (Gardner Collection.)

W.West & Co. imp.

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE IV.

From the Middle Bagshot Beds, Bournemouth.

Osmunda lignitum (Giebel).

Fig. 1. Pinna, natural size.
1 *a*. The same, magnified.
2. A small pinna, natural size.
3. A pinna, natural size. (Gardner Collection.)

Pteris eocænica, Ett. and Gard.

4. Portion of frond, with pinna attached to the rachis, natural size. (Gardner Collection.)
5. Terminal portion of a stunted frond, natural size. (From the Collection of Mr. A. Baldry.)
6. Terminal pinna, average size.
6 *a*. Part of the same, magnified. (Gardner Collection.)

Pteris Bournensis, Ett. and Gard.

7. Pinna with pinnules, natural size.
7 *a*. Part of the same, magnified. (Gardner Collection.)

Phegopteris præ-cuspidata, Ett. and Gard.

8. A unique pinna, natural size.
9. Portion of the reverse of the same specimen.
9 *a*. Part of the same, magnified. (Gardner Collection.)

EOCENE FERNS.

W.West & Cº imp.

PLATE V.

From the Middle Bagshot Beds, Bournemouth.

Phegopteris Bunburii, Heer.

Fig. 1. A young plant, natural size. (Gardner Collection.)

EOCENE FERNS.

W.West & Co. imp.

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Herrn Prof. Dr. O. Heer

hochachtungsvollst

von

C. Freih. v. Ettingshausen.

1879. Eocene Flora L. 50.
1880 Alum Bay L. 50.

THE

PALÆONTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

INSTITUTED MDCCCXLVII.

VOLUME FOR 1880.

LONDON:

MDCCCLXXX.

A MONOGRAPH

OF THE

BRITISH EOCENE FLORA.

BY

JOHN STARKIE GARDNER, F.G.S., M.G.S. France, &c.,

AND

CONSTANTIN BARON ETTINGSHAUSEN, Ph.D.,

PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GRATZ, ETC. ETC.

PART II.

FILICES.

Pages 39—58; Plates VI—XI.

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Some difference is apparent between the angles of the venation of the young pinnæ attached to the plant and those drawn on Pl. X, figs. 9, 10, which are more acute.

The original specimen, which should be preserved in the Jermyn Street Museum, is not now to be found there; and our identification rests, therefore, partly with Heer, who states that they are the same.

It would be better, perhaps, that the species should be described under the name of Goniopteris than under that of Phegopteris, as at page 38.

Goniopteris stiriaca (*Unger*).

Polypodites stiriacus, *Unger*. Chloris Protogæa, p. 121, pl. xxxvi. 1847.
Lastræa stiriaca, *Heer*. Flor. Tert. Helv., vol. i, p. 31, pl. vi and vii; vol. iii, p. 151, pl. cxliii. 1859.
— helvetica, *Heer*. Ibid., p. 33, pl. vi, fig. 2; vol. iii, p. 151, pl. cxliii, figs. 2—5. 1859.
Goniopteris stiriaca, *A. Braun*. Zeitschrift Geolog. Gesellsch., vol. iv, p. 556. 1852.
— — *Schimper*. Pal. Végétale, vol. i, p. 547. 1869.
Lastræa stiriaca, *Heer*. Flora of Bovey, p. 28, pl. v, figs. 12—15. 1861.
— — *Gaudin et Strozzi*. Contributions à la Flore Foss. Italienne, vol. ii, p. 32, pl. i, fig. 2. 1859.
Phegopteris stiriaca, *Ettingsh*. Flora of Bilin, p. 16, pl. ii, f. 16—18. 1866.

G. fronde pinnata, pinnis linearibus, prælongis, inferioribus grosse crenatis serratisve, superioribus argute serratis vel serrulatis; nervatione Goniopteridis Aspidii, nervo primario valido prominente, recto, nervis secundariis sub angulis 50—65° *orientibus, tenuibus, subrectis vel paullo arcuatis, nervis tertiariis in pinnis inferioribus plerumque* 6—7, *in pinnis superioribus plerumque* 4—5, *curvatis, subparallelis, angulo acuto egredientibus. Soris rotundatis biseriatis.*

Middle Bagshot, Bovey Tracey.

This Fern has not, we believe, been met with in England elsewhere than at Bovey Tracey, where it was formerly found in abundance. The pinnæ are usually attached to the rachis, and the sori are frequently preserved. The stems and circinate vernation placed with *Pecopteris lignitum* by Heer[1] belong, in all probability, to this species.[2]

We have no hesitation in uniting *Lastræa helvetica*, Heer, with the present species. The former was first founded upon most imperfect fragments, and separated upon the supposition that it was more closely and sharply serrated, and possessed fewer ternary veins. The much more perfect specimen figured in the third volume of the 'Flor. Tert.

[1] 'Flora of Bovey,' p. 31.

[2] See description of *Osmunda lignitum*, p. 50.

Helvet.' shows that the separation cannot be maintained; for in the drawings there are in places seven veins in *L. helvetica* to five in *L. stiriaca*; while comparisons of the tracings of Heer's figures,[1] here reproduced, show that *L. stiriaca* is really the more strongly toothed. It is impossible, in fact, to compare the figure of *L. stiriaca*, vol. i, pl. viii, with that of *L. helvetica*, vol. iii. pl. cxliii, fig. 2, without recognising that the latter is the upper part of the frond of the former. The species was founded upon

FIG. 16.—*L. helvetica.* 'Flor. Tert. Helv.,' vol. iii, pl. cxliii, fig. 2 (part).

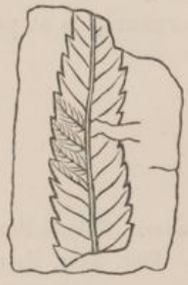


FIG. 17.—*L. stiriaca.* Ibid., vol. i, pl. viii, fig. 4.

FIG. 18.—*G. stiriaca* (?). 'Fl. foss. Arct.,' pl. xlv, fig. 7.

insufficient material, and should have been annulled when the more perfect specimens were figured. Specimens of *L. dalmatica* which we have received present in like manner no distinguishing specific characters, and should not remain separated.

In the 'Flora Fossilis Arctica,' p. 87, pl. xlv, fig. 7, we find a portion of a pinna figured under this name from Atanekerdluk, in Greenland. It possesses, however, according to Heer's description, only three ternary veins on each side of the pinnule; while in the description of the Swiss form six to seven were essential to the species, and

FIG. 19.—*G. stiriaca.* 'Flora of Bovey,' pl. v, fig. 14 (part).

FIG. 20.—*G. stiriaca.* Ibid., fig. 13.

FIG. 21.—*G. stiriaca.* Enlarged by Mr. Fitch.

specimens possessing fewer are separated. He therefore seems to modify his specific characters to include it, and in modifying them thus, leaves them sufficiently open to

[1] Figure 16 shows the strongest denticulation present in the drawing of the fine specimen of *L. helvetica* in the third volume.

admit several other supposed species. It appears from the figure that the pinna is more tapering, and therefore shorter, than those of *G. stiriaca*, and all the veins more sinuous. The indistinct specimen from Cape Lyell has the exact outline of this species.

G. stiriaca is supposed by Unger and Heer to resemble *G. prolifera*[1] "of tropical America,"[2] which Fern, however, it is well known, is a native of all the tropics except that one. The venation is not uncommon among Ferns, and is met with in *Acrostichum* and *Nephrodium*, as well as in *Goniopteris*, but the arrangement of the sori is more characteristic of the latter. In the fossil state it has been found in France, Germany, Italy, &c., and seems to characterise principally the Middle and Upper Eocenes, and Oligocene.

It appears to have been of much larger growth than *G. Bunburii*, and possessed more numerous and simply curved, instead of sinuous or angulated, veins. The original specimens are too indistinct to be satisfactorily refigured, and we have, therefore, reproduced fig. 19 and part of fig. 20 from pl. v, 'Flora of Bovey,' and an unpublished enlargement (fig. 21) by Mr. Fitch, of Kew, who has placed his original sketches for that work at our disposal.

WOODWARDIA ? VENOSA, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate X, fig. 5, 5 *a*.

W. fronde pinnata, lacinis anguste lanceolatis, margine integerrimis; nervatione Dictyopteridis simplicis exappendiculatæ; nervo primario recto, prominente, nervis secundariis brevissimis tenuissimis angulo acuto egredientibus; maculis Dictyopteridis pluriseriatis, inæqualibus.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

Although but one small and not very distinct fragment has been met with, the character of the venation is very apparent. The frond may have either been simply pinnate or bipinnate. There are a number of species of *Pteris*, as *P. patens*, *P. decurrens*, *P. denticulata*, *P. Woodwardioides*, &c., with anastomosing venation and closely similar; we cannot, therefore, be certain that it is really a *Woodwardia*.

We have, however, placed it in that genus, because a very beautiful and undoubted species of *Woodwardia* has been met with in the Eocene of Monte Promina, &c., and the Aquitanian stage of Switzerland. This form, *W. Roessneriana*, Unger, resembles *W. radicans*, and differs from ours in the possession of a row of free veins between the areolations and the margin. Our species would fall into the group of *Lorinseria*, Presl, of which *W. areolata*, a native of the United States, from Massachusetts to Florida, is the best known, and, with one exception, the only existing type.

[1] Ett., 'Farnkräuter,' pl. cix and cx.

[2] 'Flora of Bovey,' p. 28.

ADIANTUM APALOPHYLLUM, *Saporta*. Plate X, fig. 1, 1 *a*.

ADIANTUM APALOPHYLLUM, *Saporta*. Flora of Sézanne, Mem. Soc. Géol. France, t. viii, p. 313, pl. ii, fig. 1. 1865—1868.

A. pinnulis obovatis subtrapeziformibus, margine superiore sinuatis, nervatione Cyclopteridis simplicis æqualis; nervis primariis tenuissimis æqualibus dichotomis, soris apicalibus subconfluentibus.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

Small Adiantoid pinnæ had been met with among the interlaced fronds and stems of *Gleichenia* at Bournemouth (see p. 44), to which we considered they might have belonged, but, as similar pinnæ have since been found unassociated with *Gleichenia* and preserving distinct remains of sori, there is no longer any doubt that a species of Maidenhair, not much larger than *Adiantum capillus-Veneris*, formed part of our Middle-Eocene flora. As we see no reason to consider them distinct specifically from those found by Count Saporta at Sézanne, which only seem to differ in the absence of sori, we have placed them, with his concurrence, in that species. The segments seem to be dimidiate, as the line of fruit is only present on one side. This species differs strikingly from the group of *A. capillus-Veneris* in the linear, instead of obversely reniform, arrangement of the sori.

Detached segments are occasionally met with among dicotyledonous leaves in beds west of Bournemouth Pier.

HEWARDIA REGIA, *Ett.* and *Gard.* Plate II, fig. 5; Plate VII, fig. 2; Plate X, fig. 6; and Plate XI.

H. fronde membranacea simplici irregulariter inciso-lobata, subrotunda, longe petiolata, basi subtruncata, lobis lanceolatis integerrimis, undulatis vel sublobatis, margine soriferis, soris confluentibus; nervatione Dictyopteridis simplicis, nervis tenuissimis, maculis angustis lanceolatis.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The palmate form, rectangular base, and long stipes show the specimen figured (Pl. XI, fig. 1) to have been an entire frond, and not a large terminal pinna. So much of the frond is preserved that little is left to the imagination in restoring it. It was nearly equal-sided, palmate, somewhat irregular in form, bluntly six-lobed more than half-way down, each lobe being again once subdivided. It measured six inches

along the base, which forms almost a right angle with the stipes, and at least four inches in length. The texture is exceptionally membranous, the sori, where the lobes overlap each other in places, being distinctly traceable through it; this character removes it from *Pteris*, in which genus it might otherwise possibly have been placed. The stipes was glabrous, rigid, slender, and must have been at least three times longer than the portion preserved. The veins are very fine and distinct, and anastomose copiously, but become less conspicuously reticulated towards the margin, as seen in the enlargements, Pl. X, fig. 6 *a*; Pl. XI, fig. 4. The sori form long linear patches upon both edges, but do not extend to the extremities of the lobes. The specimen, Pl. II, fig. 5, is probably a small barren frond of the same species. Only the outline is preserved, which is suborbicular, with margin entire.

The slender stipes, membranous texture, and marginal sori are characters only combined in *Adiantum* and *Lindsaya*. In the latter genus *L. sagittata* possesses simple fronds and is not very inferior in size; but it is in the section of *Adiantum* with anastomosing veins, *Hewardia* of J. Smith, that we find the nearest resemblance to it. *H. Wilsoni*, although not possessing perfectly simple fronds, sometimes has its pinnæ almost all united in a single trilobed terminal pinna, approaching the fossil species in dimensions. Even the nearest living species, however, differ very widely from it, and it thus appears to be one of the few Tertiary Ferns that have become completely extinct. We are not acquainted with any fossil species with which to compare it.

We had frequently noticed fragments of a very membranous Fern with anastomosing venation, and two of these had been figured without any clue as to the form of the leaf, before the magnificent specimen on Pl. XI had come to light. Our attention was called to it by a lady, who found it in a small concretion of white clay near the base of the black clays, in the leaf-beds nearest to, and on the west side of Bournemouth Pier. The other fragments were found in the same beds.

(F) *Gleicheniaceæ*.

Genus.—GLEICHENIA.

(Sub-genus.—MERTENSIA.)

GLEICHENIA HANTONENSIS (*Wanklyn*). Plate VI and Plate X, figs. 2, 3, 4.

MERTENSITES HANTONENSIS and M. CRENATA, *Wanklyn*. Annals and Magazine of Natural History, vol. iii, pl. i. 1869.

G. fronde gracili stipitata dichotoma; stipite scandente; cirrhis abbreviatis uncinatis;

rachi tenui; pinnis oblongis; pinnulis approximatis patentibus, linearibus vel lanceolato-oblongis, margine integerrimis vel crenatis; apice obtusis; nervatione Pecopteridis veræ; nervo primario e rachi angulo subacuto, rarius recto exeunte, tenui, plus minusve flexuoso; nervis secundariis cum primario angulos acutos formantibus, abbreviatis, catadromis, furcatis, rarius simplicibus; nervis tertiariis catadromis, arcuatis, simplicibus, rarius furcatis, infimo lateris exterioris receptaculum punctiforme emittente. Soris singularibus vel duobus rotundis, lobatis.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The stipes and rachis are slender, and are always found associated with the remains of, and sometimes attached to the pinnules The repeatedly dichotomosing character of the stem is well seen in the specimen, Pl. VI, fig. 8, in which is also shown one of the young buds produced at the forking of the larger stipes. The stipites were furnished with short, hook-like tendrils. Figs. 9 and 10 show these tendrils with remains of the rachis, and fig. 11 with the attachment to the stipes only. On this piece and at fig. 8 are spirally rolled buds. The relative position of the tendrils and pinnæ is shown on Pl. X, fig. 2. The remains of pinnæ, represented in Pl. VI, figs. 1, 2, 3, and 7, show them to have been of an elongated, almost lanceolate shape, bearing linear or lanceolate pinnules of unequal length. These are closely set, with crenate or entire margin and rounded apex. The venation is that of *Pecopteris vera*. The midribs of the pinnules are sinuous and relatively slender; they leave the rachis, which is itself slightly flexuous, at angles of 65° to 80°, rarely either more acute or obtuse. The secondary veins leave the midrib in catadromous order at the same angles as those formed by pinna and rachis, and are mostly forked, rarely simple. The ternary veins are also catadromous and mostly simple. The sori occur on one or both of the exterior venules of each group of veins. The sporangia were deciduous, and arranged round a small, oval, punctiform receptacle. There are visible six to eight impressions to each cluster, but only the bases of these are seen in places where the leaf has chipped off.

The fossil form is distinguished from all existing *Gleicheniæ* by the possession of tendrils or hooks, indicating a more pronounced creeping or climbing habit. With this exception, however, it bears a close resemblance to two recent species, forming sections of the sub-genus *Mertensia*, *G. pectinata* and *G. dichotoma*. The size and form of the pinnæ, the branched and zigzag stipes, the buds occurring in the forks, the venation, and the sori, are all similar. The resemblance is considerably heightened by the very unequal lengths of the pinnules, even when side by side, and by the fact that only those which are much longer than the rest are regularly crenated, as if the crenations were an expression of luxuriant growth. Adiantoid bracts are sometimes developed at the forkings, and these, being found associated with the fossil *Gleichenia*, had been thought to indicate the presence of *Adiantum*.

G. pectinata, which it the more particularly resembles, is a native of tropical South

America, where it is common; and *G. dichotoma*, according to Hooker, is of "tropical and subtropical regions, almost universal, in the New and in the Old Worlds, Pacific Islands, and as far north as Japan." A note by S. Hayes, in the British Museum Herbarium, informs us that the former grows in extensive patches along the line of the Panama Railway.

The genus *Gleichenia* appears to have reached its maximum development in Europe in Pre-eocene or so-called Cretaceous times, and then to have died out or migrated, since no species have been met with in the Miocene. Saporta has found similar fragments in the gypsum of Aix, in Provence. Fragments are also met with at Aix-la-Chapelle, which closely resemble it, but are stated by De Bey, after comparing specimens, to be all more or less distinct.

The distribution of this Fern in England is almost limited to a thin band, only a few inches thick, in the leaf-patch under the Highcliff Mansions at Bournemouth. In this layer it was abundant, and numerous specimens were obtained by residents, in some of whose collections they are still preserved. It was only after an interval of many years that some small fragments were found last autumn, the result of extended digging in a neighbouring patch. Its restricted distribution here should be taken into account in generalising on the absence of *Gleicheniæ* in the Miocene of Europe.

The position in which the remains are found, overlying a marly bed, penetrated everywhere by its rootlets, seems to imply that it flourished in a considerable patch in a wet clayey hollow.

Mr. Wanklyn kindly lent the specimens figs. 1, 3, 4, 6, Pl. VI; Mr. Pender figs. 2 and 5; and the Woodwardian Museum figs. 2, 3, 4, Pl. X.

Anemia subcretacea (*Saporta*). Plates VIII and IX.

Asplenium subcretaceum, *Saporta*. Flor. Foss. Sézanne, Mém. Soc. Géol. France, 3e sér., vol. viii, p. 315, pl. xxiii, fig. 4. 1868.

Gymnogramma Haydenii, *Lesquereux*. U. S. Annual Report, 1871, p. 295 and Tertiary Flora, U. S. Geol. Survey of the Territories, vol. vii, p. 59, pl. v, figs. 1—3. 1878.

A. stipite dichotoma, fronde bi-tripinnata, pinnis ovato-oblongis, pinnulis adnato-sessilibus, subdecurrentibus lanceolatis vel lanceolato-linearibus, acuminatis, grosse dentatis vel inciso-lobatis, lobis acutis integerrimis vel crenulatis; loborum nervatione more Cyclopteridis simplicis æqualis, nervis tenuissimis valde congestis, mediano vix prominente.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The materials for the determination and description of this Fern are abundant and

exceptionally well preserved. Pl. IX, fig. 2, represents an almost perfect frond (unfortunately reduced in the engraving to one fourth the natural size), in which there is a double forking of the stipes and a tripinnate limb. The pinnæ are ovate in general outline, with sessile pinnules, almost decurrent at their base, as in Pl. VIII, fig. 1, or more rarely, and in the lower part of the pinnæ only, shortly stipitate (Pl. IX, fig. 2). The pinnules vary from broadly to linear lanceolate, and are very acuminate at the apex. The margins are coarsely toothed, laciniate-dentate to lobed, the lobes being acute or crenulate. The venation, magnified on Pl. VIII, figs. 3 and 4, is of the type of *Cyclopteris simplex æqualis*. There is either no midrib, as in the fig. 4 referred to, or it is faintly visible, as in fig. 3, and the veins are very slender and close together. No traces of fertile pinnæ have hitherto been met with.

The repeated forkings of the stipes and the type of venation point more to the genus *Anemia* than to *Asplenium*, as dichotomy is characteristic of the *Schizæaceæ*, and similar forked branching occurs in *Anemia*, either in the stipes of the sterile fronds only, or in both the fertile and sterile fronds.

Saporta and Heer do not agree in our determination, and the former has kindly stated at some length his reasons for differing: they are, that no known living *Anemia* has so lanceolated and attenuated a form, nor so coriaceous a texture; and that each segment, whether entire or subdivided, is attached directly to the rachis as a pinnule or pinna, and is never either decurrent or confluent. *Anemia*, he thinks, is adiantoid in growth, and has nothing in common with this Fern. On the other hand, he felt, when he described it from Sézanne, extremely doubtful whether it should be placed with *Asplenium*; and, these doubts being now further confirmed, he has suggested [1] that, since it appears to be an extinct form with doubtful affinities, a new genus, perhaps allied to *Todea* through *T. barbara*, should be formed to receive it.

Dr. Stur, from an examination of the plates and a small specimen which I forwarded to him, believed it to be an *Osmunda*. We cannot find, however, that any existing *Osmunda* more closely resembles it than *O. regalis*, and this seems so unlike in general growth that the data for placing it in that genus appear to us insufficient. Neither are we able to consider it an *Asplenium;* for, although many species of that genus resemble it somewhat in their general free growth, cutting, and venation, yet no vestiges of the sori, so abundant and persistent on the fronds of *Asplenium*, have ever been found in any locality upon any of the great number of specimens examined. It seems almost certain that the fertile pinnæ were separate; and, as we have seen in the similar cases of *Chrysodium* and *Osmunda*, therefore rarely, if ever, preserved. Notwithstanding that it does not agree very closely with any existing species of *Anemia*, the general form and dichotomy of the frond, the venation, the length and strength of the stipes, the separation of the fertile and barren pinnæ, have, after much consideration, induced us to place it in the genus *Anemia*.

In addition to the genera mentioned, it is also not unlike *Thyrsopteris* and some

[1] In letter.

Davalliæ, but no known Fern resembles it so closely as *Anemia adiantifolia*,[1] Sw., an inhabitant of Cuba, Bahamas, Florida, and Mexico to Bahia.

Saporta has kindly compared specimens from Bournemouth with those of Sézanne, and writes respecting them, "Je n'hésite pas à déclarer qu'il s'agit *d'une seule et même espèce*." Lesquereux, to whom we are much indebted, has also compared Bournemouth specimens with those from the Eocene of North America, and has written, "I do not see any difference whatever."

Asplenium Fœrsteri, Deb. and Ett., described in the 'Urweltliche Acrobryen des Kreidegebirges von Aachen,' pl. ii, figs. 4, 7, 11, is also closely related to, if not identical with, *A. subcretacea*. De Bey sees in them a close resemblance, but not identity. The specimens figured by Heer in the 'Kreide-Fl. der Arct.-Zone,' p. 93, pl. xxvi, fig. 1, as *A. Fœrsteri*, seem to belong to quite a different species, and Dr. De Bey writes that this and other identifications were made without any comparison with his specimens.

This Fern is found more especially to the east of Bournemouth Pier, and appears to have attained its greatest luxuriance when growing with Aroïds and Conifers. It decreases in size and abundance in the beds westward, towards Poole Harbour, and at Branksea small pinnæ only are met with, such as are drawn on Pl. IX, figs. 3 and 5. The specimen, pl. vi, fig. 6, 'Lignites of Bovey Tracey,' from Bovey, may belong to this species. Heer is confident that he has seen it from Alum Bay, but it may possibly have been erroneously labelled.

A fragment of this Fern, probably the one just alluded to, was named *Asplenium Martinsi* by Heer, but not figured, and has been referred to in several subsequent works.

(G) *Schizæaceæ*.

LYGODIUM KAULFUSSI, *Heer*. Plate VII, figs. 1, 3—8; Plate X, fig. 11.

LYGODIUM KAULFUSSI, *Heer*. Flora of Skopau, Beiträge zur näher Kenntniss d. Sachs-Thüring. Braunkohle, p. 409, pl. viii, fig. 21; pl. ix, fig. 1, 1861.

— NEUROPTEROIDES, *Lesquereux*. Annual Report U.S. Survey, 1870, p. 384; 1871, p. 284. Tertiary Flora, U.S. Survey of the Territories, vol. vii, p. 61, 1878, pl. v, figs. 4—7; pl. vi, fig. 1.

ANEMIA KAULFUSSI, *Heer; Crié*. L'ouest de la France à l'époque tertiaire, p. 22, pl. A, fig. 3, 1878.

[1] Ett., 'Farnkräuter,' pl. clxxiii, figs. 7, 8.

L. fronde fertili superne simpliciter, inferne bi-vel ternato-pinnata, pinnis simplicibus vel bi-tripartitis, laciniis integris, dentatis, fructiferis spicas lineari-oblongas compressas obtusiusculas formans; fronde sterili inæqualiter bi-tri-quadri-partita vel simplice, undulata; lobis inæquilongis, sub angulis acutis, variis divergentibus, e basi plus minusve dilatata, elongato-lanceolatis, apice obtusis; nervatione Cyclopteridis compositæ, nervis primariis inæquilongis subflexuosis; nervis secundariis densis, sub angulis acutissimis orientibus, prominentibus tridichotomis.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

The pinnæ in this species, as in most *Lygodia*, are variable, and may be entire when little developed or cleft palmately into two, three, or four divisions. All these forms are represented on Pl. VII, and might have occurred on the same plant. The lobes are usually unequal, and diverge from each other at angles of from 30° to 60°. They are narrow, lanceolate, sometimes very elongate, generally widened at the base, where they are confluent, undulate, more or less acuminate, but sometimes obtuse at the terminations. The venation, enlarged in fig. 6, is that of *Cyclopteris composita*. The primary veins are divergent and curved from the base, sinuous, attenuated upwards, excurrent or lost in the lamina (fig. 7). The secondary veins are close together, and given off at acute angles of from 10° to 30°, thrice forked, and so sharply defined throughout their whole course that their ramifications are discernible without the aid of a lens. The lobes of the fertile pinnæ are petiolated (Pl. X, fig. 11); in the upper part solitary or undivided, but in the lower part two or three occur together or are twice or thrice divided. The pinnules are linear, elongated, rather obtuse, and finely toothed on the margin, and the rachides were not winged. A small fragment was figured by Heer from the Eocene beds of Skopau. His enlargement is in form and venation identical with ours, and they cannot be specifically separated, as was indeed first pointed out by Heer[1] himself. A comparison, by Lesquereux, of actual specimens from Bournemouth has shown, as appeared evident from the plates and description, that *L. neuropteroides* and the English species were one. Lesquereux says[2] that "it is positively identical." Dr. Crié also has found it in the Eocene "Grès de la Sarthe." Other allied species, *L. parvifolium* and *L. exquisitum*, have been found at Aix in Provence, and Count Saporta informs us that the fertile fronds in these are identical with the British form. Since pinnæ are comparatively rare in all these widely separated localities we may infer that *Lygodium* had a still greater geographical range in Eocene times.

The two fossils described by Watelet as *Lygodium*, from the Paris Basin, belong to one species, and this bears little resemblance to any belonging to that genus.

L. Kaulfussi appears nearly allied to the form described as Miocene. Heer, in his 'Tertiärflora der Schweiz,' vol. i, pp. 41—43, distinguishes five species; but, from the figures, the propriety of giving them specific rank seems doubtful, especially in a Fern

[1] In letter. [2] In letter.

bearing fronds of such unequal size, and so variable that the number and angle of divergence of the lobes differ strikingly in the same plant, while the primary veins may also be either excurrent or merged, free to the base or united. If the Swiss species are united, it is seen that the British form differs from them in having, on the average, considerably larger and longer, slightly undulating lobes. It also bore simple fronds, none of which have been met with in the latter. The lobes in the former always diverge at acute angles, whilst in the latter they frequently diverge at obtuse angles. In the British form the venation is more pronounced and the veins more crowded together. Count Saporta has met with one of these, *L. Gaudini*, in the Upper Oligocene of Céreste, and has again found that the fertile fronds are identical with those of Bournemouth. Another very similar form has been described in De Bey and Ettingshausen's 'Kreide-Flora von Aachen,' from mere fragments. Lesquereux, in the 'U.S. Geol. Survey of the Territories,' vol. vii, 1878, describes three other species, two of which, however, appear to us to have been founded on scarcely sufficient material.

Among recent species, *L. palmatum*, inhabiting Florida to Massachusets, bears the closest resemblance to *L. Kaulfussi*, especially in the form of the fertile fronds. The barren fronds of the fossil were much larger, and tapered to the base; yet no other existing *Lygodium* has such a thin and sinuous mid-rib, nor precisely the same form of fertile frond. It is remarkable, as Saporta has pointed out,[1] that all the fossil *Lygodia* yet described are referable to the section of the genus now represented by the single species *L. palmatum*.

L. Kaulfussi is found sparingly at Bournemouth, associated with dicotyledonous leaves of forest trees; more rarely in company with other Fern remains. It is occasionally found in the leaf-beds under the High Cliff Hotel, but more generally in the beds at the western termination of the Bournemouth Cliffs, near Poole Harbour. The bases of the fronds are seldom preserved either in this or the Miocene form, whilst the ends of the lobes are constantly doubled over, as if they were of soft consistence and could not withstand maceration. The fertile fronds have not been met with associated with the barren fronds, but were found under the High Cliff Mansions by Mr. A. Baldry, junior, to whom we are indebted for the opportunity of figuring them.

(H) *Osmundaceæ*.

OSMUNDA LIGNITUM, *Giebel* (sp.). Plate IV, figs. 1—3.

PECOPTERIS LIGNITUM, P. CRASSINERVIS, P. LEUCOPETRÆ, P. ANGUSTA, *Giebel*. Zeitschrift für die gesammten Naturwissenschaften, vol. x, pp. 303—307, pl, ii, 1857.

[1] In letter.

ASPIDIUM LIGNITUM, *Heer*. Beitr. Sächs.-Thüring. Braunk., p. 424, pl. ix, figs. 2, 3, 1861.

DRYANDRA RIGIDA, *Heer*. Ib., p. 427, pl. x, fig. 15.

ASPIDIUM MEYERI, *Ludwig* (non *Heer*). Palæontographica, vol. viii, p. 63, pl. xii, fig. 3, 1860.

PECOPTERIS LIGNITUM, *Heer*. Lignites of Bovey Tracey, Phil. Trans., vol. clii, p. 1047, pl. lv, figs. 5 and 6 (not fig. 4); pl. lvi, figs. 2—11 (not fig. 1), 1861.

OSMUNDA GRUTSCHREIBERI, *Stur*. Jahrbuch der k. k. Geol. Reichsanstalt, vol. xx, p. 9, pl. ii, 1870.

— LIGNITUM, *Heer*. Ueber die Braunkohlen-Flora des Zsily-Thales, Jahrbuch der k. Ungar. Geol. Anstalt., vol. ii, p. 9, pl. 1, figs. 2, 3, 1872.

O. fronde pinnata, pinnis elongato-linearibus, subcoriaceis, apice valde attenuatis et acuminatis, basi breviter petiolatis, margine profunde inciso-serratis rarius remote denticulatis vel basi undulatis; nervatione Pecopteridis veræ, nervo primario basi valido prominente, subrecto, apicem versus attenuato, indiviso; nervis secundariis numerosis, angulis acutis egredientibus, plus minusve flexuosis sub apicibus loborum plerumque furcatis; nervis tertiariis inferioribus furcatis sub angulis minus acutis orientibus, rarius elongatis convergenti-arcuatis, sinum attingentibus; nervis tertiariis superioribus sub angulis acutissimis orientibus, sæpe simplicibus subcurvatis flexuosisve.

Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth and Bovey Tracey.

The pinnules are found in layers in some of the black clay beds both east and west of the pier at Bournemouth. Whole slabs are often covered with these pinnules, which are always detached. When first found they are perfectly preserved and of a substance like coal, but on exposure to the air the leaves crack and dry up from the matrix in a few moments, and their preservation is difficult. Occasionally well-preserved pinnules are also found in the Fern-beds under the Marine Beds; elsewhere they are rare, and towards Poole I have found but a solitary fragment. They occur precisely as at Bovey, and are equally associated with terminal buds of a Sequoia-like Conifer, rush-like leaves, and spines of Cactus. Stur has figured a specimen with pinnæ attached, which he has named *O. Grutschreiberi;* and he has obliged us by stating that he still considers the presence of a small basal expansion on the under-side of the pinna as of specific value. In the 'Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society,' vol. xxvi, pl. 24, p. 349, Carruthers described and figured a Fern-stem under the name of *Osmundites Dowkeri*, from the Thanet Sands, which was so beautifully preserved that even the starch granules were replaced by silica and so preserved. It belonged to a larger species than *O. regalis* (see p. 53).

The following corrections have, in our opinion, to be made in Prof. Heer's description of *Osmunda lignitum* (*Pecopteris*, Heer), from the 'Lignites of Bovey Tracey.'

Pl. v, figs. 9, 10, 11, 'Lignites of Bovey Tracey,' represent circinate vernation, found as-

sociated with abundant remains of *Goniopteris stiriaca* and *Osmunda lignitum*, and assumed by Heer to belong to the latter (*op. cit.*, p. 31), "as being the commonest" Fern. Nothing of this nature has been met with at Bournemouth in beds in which the pinnæ of *Osmunda* are alone massed together; but at La Rochette,[1] where *Osmunda lignitum* is absent and *Goniopteris stiriaca* present, identical remains are found and described by Heer as portions of the latter Fern.

Pl. iv, figs. 4 *a*, 5, 6,[2] represent parts of the rachis of a Fern, but there is nothing to support Prof. Heer's idea that these belong to his *Pecopteris lignitum* (*op. cit.*, p. 30), as no pinnules were found attached to them. Against his views we have the fact, that the rachis of *Osmunda* is rarely met with in the fossil state, and is easily recognised by the deep scars left by the deciduous pinnæ, also that pinnæ have never been found attached under the conditions in which the Bovey and Bournemouth specimens are preserved; they have in fact but once been met with attached, and that under totally different conditions of preservation.[3] Indeed, Prof. Heer's own figures show them in closer juxtaposition with *G. stiriaca*, the pinnæ of which have everywhere been met with attached to this kind of rachis. The enlarged fig. 6, pl. vi, is no portion of this *Osmunda;* but (when reduced to its natural size) is seen to be a fragment of *Anemia*. Compare our fig. 1, Pl. VIII.

Pl. vii, fig. 1, represents a fossil very abundant at Bovey, and of which specimens are still preserved in the Museum at Jermyn Street. They are called by Heer "large rhizomes quite covered with petioles" (*op. cit.*, p. 31). We are assured, however, by Mr. Baker, of the Kew Herbarium, associated with Sir W. Hooker in his 'Synopsis Filicum,' that, in his opinion, they are not even portions of any Ferns, but apparently more like stems of the Australian Grass-trees; and in this view we entirely coincide. The rhizomes with cicatricules, fig. 2, *loc. cit.*, also do not appear to us to belong to *Osmunda*.

Perhaps the most remarkable, because completely unfounded, of the assertions which Heer made regarding this Fern is to be found at pages 25 and 33, *op. cit.*, where, only because he fancied it might be an arborescent *Hemitelia*, and the pinnæ are abundant, he states that its stems and those of *Sequoia* "certainly contribute the greatest amount of lignite," and "in the shade of the forest throve numerous Ferns, one species of which (*P. lignitum*) seems to have formed trees of imposing grandeur." The facts, however, as far as we know them, are that no vestiges of stems of Tree-ferns have ever been found at Bovey or in any British Eocene bed; while Tree-ferns in their native habitats, as in Australia, seem to form a mere undergrowth to trees which are really of imposing grandeur.

It is strange that in each case in which Heer has figured this Fern he has permitted the lithographer to make the leaf an impossible one, by colouring the outer pair of veins

[1] Heer, 'Flor. Tert. Helv.,' vol. i, p. 32, pl. viii, fig. 7.

[2] 'Lignites of Bovey Tracey.'

[3] See reference to *O. Grutschreiberi*, Stur, in list of synonyms The original specimen is in the Imperial Geological Institute at Vienna.

as if they were the margins of the leaf; for example, 'Lignites of Bovey,' pl. vi, fig. 2, 'Flora of Skopau,' pl. ix, figs. 2 *b*, 2, 3; 'Flora des Zsilythales,' pl. i, figs. 2, 3; and in each case he has given it a different name. We find it described by him as *Aspidium*, *Pecopteris* (in the belief that it was a *Hemitelia*), *Dryandra*, and *Osmunda*. The last name did not appear in his works until two years after its true affinity was pointed out by Stur; and yet it so exactly resembles the wide-spread and well-known *O. javanica* that not even a good specific distinction can be pointed out. It might,

FIG. 22.—*Dryandra rigida*, Heer (Skopau).

FIG. 23.—*Aspidium lignitum*, Heer (Skopau).

FIG. 24.—*Osmunda lignitum* (Bournemouth).

perhaps, have been thought that the invariable absence of any traces of spores on the pinnæ would at least have directed his attention more especially to those genera which have fructification like *Osmunda*. When determining the Bovey plants Prof. Heer "sought in vain for sori amongst many hundreds of pinnules," and hesitated to name it *Hemitelia*, "till the fruits are found, which certainly will be soon" (p. 31).

In the 'Flora Fossilis Arctica' Heer compares a fragment named by him *Pecopteris Torellii* with this Fern; but the two do not at all resemble each other.

This fossil *Osmunda* appears to have been simply pinnate, the barren pinnæ cuneate at the base, slightly stalked, with sharply-toothed margin, and of almost coriaceous texture.

It has been frequently described, for it is met with in many localities of France and Germany, from the Tongrian and Aquitanian stages. It was not a Miocene Fern in Europe, so far as we know at present, but was essentially characteristic of the Middle Eocene and Oligocene. Notwithstanding its great abundance, fertile pinnæ have not been remarked, and only in one instance (*O. Grutschreiberi*) have the pinnæ been found attached to the rachis.

A separate specific name appears almost superfluous, for the fossil species so closely resembles some of the forms of *Osmunda javanica*, Blume, as to be indistinguishable. In the latter the pinnæ are petiolated, and very readily become detached, leaving a pit-like scar on the stem, and this structural character, rare in *Osmunda*, seems to account satisfactorily for the detached state in which the fossil pinnæ have been found. The fertile pinnæ in the living plant are made up of numerous sessile clusters of too dense a nature,

perhaps, to preserve any distinct form if fossil. *O. javanica* ranges from Kamschatka to Java and Ceylon, and is described by the Rev. C. P. Parish as a magnificent plant, similar to *Cycas* in growth.[1]

OSMUNDITES DOWKERI, *Carruthers.*

OSMUNDITES DOWKERI, *Carruthers.* Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. xxvi, p. 349, pls. xxiv, xxv, 1870.
— — — Geol. Mag., vol. ix, p. 52, 1872.

Thanet Sands, Kent.

This species is based upon a portion of a stem found at Herne Bay, and is admitted to have been derived from the Thanet Sands. The whole of the tissues are replaced by silica, so that the cells and vessels, and even the starch granules, which abound in the parenchyma of Ferns, are exquisitely preserved. The structure, minutely described by Mr. Carruthers, is seen to agree with similar portions of the stem of *O. regalis*, which are figured by him for comparison. The fossil has been a larger plant than our recent *O. regalis*. In discussing the paper Mr. Etheridge mentioned the discovery of fossil Fern stems of somewhat similar character at Bromsgrove.

PTERIS (?) PRESTWICHII, *Ett. and Gard.* Plate X, fig. 8.

P. pinnis elongatis lanceolato-linearibus, margine integerrimis, nervatione Neuropteridis acrostichaceæ, nervo primario prominente, apicem versus sensim attenuato; nervis secundariis sub angulis acutis orientibus, valde approximatis, bi- vel trifurcatis, ramis inter se parallelis, cum nervo primario angulum acutum formantibus.

Woolwich and Reading Beds, Counter Hill, near Lewisham.

Our illustration is copied from that given by Professor Prestwich in the 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, p. 156, pl. iii, fig. 6. We have not been able to ascertain that any of the original specimens are now preserved. Prestwich describes it as "one of the recent discoveries by the Rev. Mr. De la Condamine at Counter Hill. This Fern is probably an *Asplenium;* the leaflets occur in some numbers, and are associated with fragments of monocotyledonous leaves, . . . and one or more dicotyledonous leaves" (p. 156).

There is no particular reason to suppose it to be a *Pteris;* but in the absence of contradictory generic characters we have thought it convenient to consider it as belonging

[1] See a sketch in the Kew Herbarium.

to that genus, especially as it seems to differ but slightly from *Pteris pennæformis*, Heer, *P. pseudopennæformis*, Lesquereux, and other Eocene Ferns.

The specimens figured by Heer in the 'Flora Tert. Helvetica,' vol. i, as *P. Parschlugiana*, *P. pennæformis*, and *P. Gaudini*, belong, with perhaps one exception, to a single species. He only separates them on account of the occasionally twice-forking veins and the slightly-toothed margin of the latter. Both characters, however, are seen to be shared by *P. pennæformis*, the first in pl. xii, fig. 1 *c*, and the second in fig. 1 *b*. *P. Gaudini* is also identical, and the species is described merely on a rather smaller pinna. Fig. 2 *a* seems to be an entirely different form.

PTERIS (?) HOOKERI, *Heer* (sp).

PECOPTERIS HOOKERI, *Heer*. Lignites of Bovey Tracey, p. 33, pl. vii, fig. 3, 1863.

FIG. 25.—*P. Hookeri*. Traced from Mr. Fitch's drawing.

P. pinnis elongato-lanceolatis, tenue-serratis; nervatione Alethopteridis genuinæ, nervo primario tenui, nervis secundariis angulo acutissimo orientibus, ramis elongatis.

Middle Bagshot, Bovey Tracey.

The drawing reproduced is from the original study by Mr. Fitch, which is not, as stated by Heer, of the natural size, but enlarged two or three times. The specimen itself was lost before Heer described it, but Mr. Fitch's experience and reputation in delineating Ferns is so great that the accuracy of his drawing cannot be questioned. It slightly resembles portions of the *Pteris Eocenica* of Bournemouth; and approaches, both in its venation and serration, the apices of pinnules of a number of existing species of *Pteris*, as well as of other Ferns.

(1) *Marattiaceæ*.

MARATTIA HOOKERI, *Ett. and Gard.* Plate XII, figs. 1—7.

M. fronde quadri- (?) pinnatifida, submembranacea, rhachide anguste alata, segmentis oblique oblongis parce dentatis; nervatione Craspedopteridis, nervo primario e rhachide angulo acuto oriente, tenui, nervis secundariis paucis tenuissimis, vix distinctis.

Lower Bagshot, Alum Bay.

This species appears to have been closely allied to the existing *Marattia Kaulfussii*, J. Smith; and its fronds were probably, as in the recent species, tri-quadripinnatifid, and of large size. Although the pinnules figured are fragmentary and mostly detached, this condition appears to have resulted mainly from the accidents of collection. The pinnules are lanceolate and profoundly pinnatifid. The segments are obliquely lanceolate, largest on the upper side next the rachis, and with acuminated apex; toothed towards the base of the pinnules, becoming simple and finally confluent at their apex. The rachis is slender and very distinctly winged. The texture seems to have been herbaceous to membranaceous. The primary veins of the segments are sharply defined and distinct to the apex, but the secondary veins are very indistinct, and only traceable on one specimen (figs. 4 and 4 *a*), in which they seem to be few, simple, slightly curved, forming an obtuse angle with the mid-rib, and terminating in the marginal teeth; and on another (fig. 6, 6 *a*), from apparently a basal pinnule, in which they are seen to be more complex. In the existing species the synangia are situated on the secondary veins of the segments, not easily removed, and leave behind them the basal part of the short stalk by which they are attached. No trace of even this attachment, however, is discernible in the fossils, except in one instance where there is an appearance of the synangia themselves being preserved (fig. 6). The fragment, barely two centimètres in length (Pl. XII, fig. 7), presents greater decurrence in the segments, and might on this account have been considered separate, but that this character is seen to an even greater extent in the ends of the pinnules of *M. Kaulfussii*.

Fig. 26.—*Marattia Kaulfussii.*

Marattia Kaulfussii is the only species belonging to the group *Eupodium*, separated on account of its short-stalked synangia without an involucre. Its fronds measure three to four feet in length. It inhabits the West Indies and Columbia to Ecuador and Rio Janeiro. *M. Hookeri* is distinguishable by its more elegant and slender pinnules, the more sharply lanceolate and less deeply toothed segments, and less amply winged rachis, resembling in these respects, very closely, the young fronds of the existing species with which it is compared.

No fossil Fern distinctly belonging to *Marattia* had previously been described.

M. Hookeri seems not to have been rare at Alum Bay, but it had been overlooked in collections owing to its superficial resemblance to Conifers with which it had been found associated. There is now but little hope that better specimens will be obtained from the locality.

Filices incertæ sedis.

I. The specimen figured in Pl. II, fig. 6, presents no sufficient characters for

determination. It is apparently an oval leaf, sessile on a stem, something like *Potamogeton*. The venation is "*Cyclopteris*," and therefore cannot be that of a Monocotyledon, and, although obscure, is seen to be converging, and the veins may have been united to the stalk. In one place, near the base, a distinct forking is seen. Heer regards it as referable to *Alisma* or *Potamogeton*.

II. A fragment of a leaf (fig. 27), from Reading was figured, together with others, by Professor Prestwich, in the 'Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,' vol. x, pl. iv, fig. 11. Sir Joseph Hooker, who examined it, remarks (op. cit., p. 166) that it resembled a fragment of a Fern frond, "but equally well represents a portion of the pinnatifid leaf of a composite or umbelliferous plant, and may, indeed, be referred to very many other natural orders." Leaves of composite or umbelliferous plants, however, are not met with in the Eocenes, while Ferns are seldom absent from any assemblage of their vegetable remains; since, therefore, the form closely approaches to that of some Ferns, as *Asplenium dimorphum*, &c., it seems most probable that its place is among them. It bears a resemblance to forms, from the supposed Cretaceous rocks of Greenland, described by Heer as *Jeanpaulia*.

Fig. 27.—Fern leaf from Reading, after Prof. Prestwich's figure.

III. Pl. X, fig. 7, represents the only fragment of Fern yet found at Bromley. It might be placed in *Aspidium* or *Gleichenia*, and there are fossil forms figured in Heer's 'Arctic Floras' with which it could possibly be united.

IV. There are, in addition to the Ferns described above, indications of a variety of other forms from Bournemouth, which we have thought too uncertain or fragmentary to be worth including in our descriptions. Three of these appear to be *Polypodia*, one recalling *P. serpens* and another *P. bifrons*.

Perhaps the most striking fact brought to light during the progress of our work thus far, is the identity, or at least similarity, of the majority of our British Eocene Ferns with those of other fossil floras containing dicotyledons, already described from Europe or America. All of them are well represented elsewhere, with the exception principally of our group of *Phymatodes*, *Hewardia*, and *Marattia*. This, and other facts connected with them, will be best brought out by tabulating them according to Sir W. Hooker's classification (omitting, however, all those about whose determination we feel any degree of doubt), and uniting with them their fossil allies. Although each of the groups so composed only comprises forms which might apparently be united, since they seem to come within the limits of variation seen in analogous species of existing Ferns, yet it is most desirable to retain all specific names which mark constant differences. Not only may these become of the greatest value in determining the relative ages of fossil floras in the absence of stratigraphical evidence, but by a due appreciation of the slight, but progressive changes in what must, in a broad sense, be considered as the same species

of plant, we may hope to trace its life-history. Thus, it can scarcely be doubted that we are already in possession of a series of modifications of the species of *Lygodium* now represented by *L. palmatum*, a form so distinct at the present day that it is the only type of one section of the genus, and the history of which, traced back to pre-Eocene times, is marked by slight but frequent modifications in the form of the barren fronds, while the fertile fronds have remained almost unchanged.* On the other hand we see, for example, that hardly any modification has taken place in *Chrysodium aureum*, and none is perceptible in *Osmunda Javanica* since Eocene times.

TABLE OF THE MORE DISTINCTIVE OF THE BRITISH EOCENE FERNS, WITH THEIR NEAREST FOSSIL AND EXISTING ALLIES, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SIR W. HOOKER'S CLASSIFICATION.

	In Europe.				In America.	In Arctic Regions.	Range of nearest existing representative (for details, consult Hooker's 'Synopsis Filicum.')
	Lower Eocene and below.	Middle Eocene.	Oligocene.	Miocene.	Eocene	Eocene (?)	
Sub-order I. GLEICHENIACEÆ.							
Genus *Gleichenia*.							
† G. Hantonensis . . .	1	—					G. dichotoma, Tropics of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
Sub-order II. POLYPODIACEÆ.							
Tribe VI, Pterideæ.							
Genus *Adiantum*.							
A. apalophyllum . . .	—						A. capillus-veneris, Sub-tropical and S. temperate regions of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
Sub-genus *Hewardia*.							
†H. regia		—					H. Wilsoni, Tropics of Western hemisphere.
Genus *Pteris*.							
P. eocenica. (P. Gaudini, Heer, Osmunda (?) eocenica, Sap., &c.)		—	—		?		P. cretica, Sub-tropical and S. temperate regions of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
P. Bournensis. (P. Aquensis, Sap., P. Œningensis, Ung., and very many others) . .	2	—	—		?	—	P. aquilina, Northern and temperate to tropical regions of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
Tribe VII, Blechneæ.							
Genus *Woodwardia*.							
* W. Rœssneriana, Ung. (This, although not a British fossil, is tabulated in place of the more doubtful W. venosa) .		6	—	—	5		W. radicans, sub-tropics, Eastern and Western hemisphere.
Tribe XI, Polypodiæ.							
Sub-genus *Goniopteris*.							
* G. Bunburyi. (G. polypodioides, G. Œningense, A. Braun, &c.)		—	—				G. diversifolium, Tropics of Western hemisphere.

* We are indebted to Count Saporta for information concerning the fertile fronds.

	In Europe.				In America.	In Arctic Regions.	Range of nearest existing representative (for details, consult Hooker's 'Synopsis Filicum.')
	Lower Eocene and below.	Middle Eocene.	Oligocene.	Miocene.	Eocene	Eocene (?)	
G. Stiriaca. (G. Dalmatica, and many others) . . . Sub-genus *Phymatodes.*		—				?	G. proliferum, Tropics of Eastern hemisphere.
*† P. polypodioides . . .		—					P. geminatum, Tropics of Western hemisphere.
Tribe XIII, ACROSTICHEÆ. Sub-genus *Chrysodium.*							
* C. Lanzæanum . . .		—	—				C. aureum, Tropics of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
SUB-ORDER III. OSMUNDACEÆ. Genus *Osmunda.*							
* O. Heerii, Gaudin. (O. petiolata, O. Obergiana, Heer, &c.) Tabulated as British (?) through O. Dowkeri.		—	—			—	O. regalis, Arctic to sub-tropical regions of Eastern and Western hemispheres.
* O. lignitum		—	—				O. Javanica, Tropics, &c., of Eastern hemisphere.
SUB-ORDER IV. SCHIZÆACEÆ. Genus *Anemia.*							
A. subcretacea. (A. Fœrsteri, Deb. & Ett.) . . . . Genus *Lygodium.*		—	—		—	.....	A. adiantifolia, Sub-tropics, &c., of Western hemisphere.
L. Kaulfussi. (L. Gaudini, Heer, L. exquisetum, Sap., &c.) .	 3	—	—	4	—		L. palmatum, Sub-tropics, Western hemisphere.
SUB-ORDER V. MARATTIACEÆ. Genus *Marattia.*							
M. Hookeri		—	—				M. Kaulfussii, Tropics of Western hemisphere.

* Signifies that the form is almost specifically indistinguishable from existing species. † Indicates that the fossil species has only been met with in England. ... That the form is represented by a less closely allied species. 1, 2, 3, are Aix-la-Chapelle species. 4, L. Kargii, *Heer*, of Oeningen. 5, W. latiloba, *Lesq.* 6, W. venosa. The allied species are enclosed in ( ).

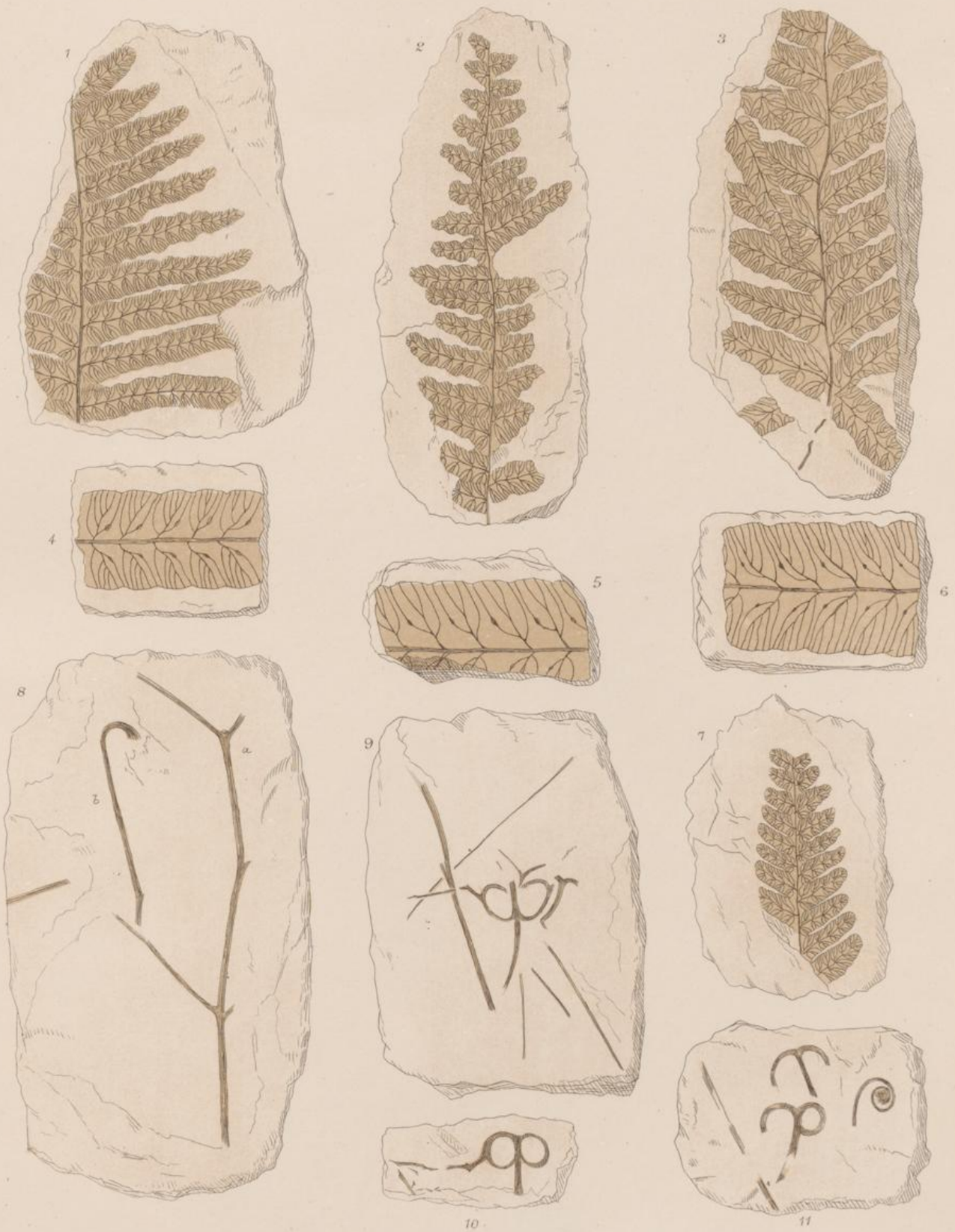
The above table comprises fifteen species, which have been described from such exceptionally ample and well-preserved specimens that it seems unlikely that doubt can arise respecting the accuracy of their determination. The list might have been extended, yet even as it stands no striking group is omitted except the Tree-ferns of Sézanne, and it is thus remarkable that nearly all the distinctive forms and those of most value for comparison should belong to our British Eocene flora. Compared with the total number of existing Ferns they appear very few; yet, contrasted with the present fern-flora of North America, which contains but fifty species, with that of Europe, which possesses but sixty, or still more so with that of Great Britain, which has but thirty-six, their number does not appear insignificant.

PLATE VI.

From the Middle Bagshot Beds, Bournemouth.

Gleichenia Hantonensis (Wanklyn).

Fig. 1. Portion of pinna. (From Mr. Wanklyn's Collection.)
2. Another specimen showing the apex. (From Mr. Pender's collection.)
3. Another, showing the base of the pinna. (From Mr. Wanklyn's collection.)
4, 5, 6. Details of above magnified, showing variations in the venation and pits left by sori. (Figs 4 and 6 Mr. Wanklyn's Collection, fig. 5 Mr. Pender's.)
7. The apex of a pinna.
8. Part of the stipes.
9, 10. Fragments with hook-like tendrils.
11. Tendrils and vernation. (Figs. 7 to 11 in Gardner Collection.)



EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE VII.

FROM THE MIDDLE BAGSHOT, BOURNEMOUTH.

Lygodium Kaulfussi (Heer).

Figs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7. Pinnæ of various sizes.

8. Pinna; the specimen should have been an inch longer, and only a part is engraved.

6. Portion magnified to show venation.

Hewardia regia, Ett. and Gard.

2. Fragment for comparison with Lygodium.

(The above in the Gardner Collection.)

EOCENE FERNS.

West, Newman & Co. imp.

PLATE VIII.

From the Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

Anemia subcretacea, Saporta.

Fig. 1. Part of a large pinna.
2. A small pinna.
3, 4. Portions enlarged from different parts of frond for comparison of venation.

(The above in the Gardner Collection.)

W.West & Co.imp.

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE IX.

FROM THE MIDDLE BAGSHOT, BOURNEMOUTH.

Anemia subcretacea, Saporta.

Figs. 1, 3, 5. Fragments of pinna. (Gardner Collection.)
4. Parts of pinnules. (Mr. Pender's Collection.)
2. A large frond, reduced to one fourth the natural size. (Gardner Collection.)

West, Newman & Co. imp.

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE X.

From the Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

Fig. 1. *Adiantum apalophyllum*, Saporta. (Gardner Collection.)
1 *a*. Part enlarged.
2. *Gleichenia Hantonensis*, Wanklyn, showing hooks and foliage attached, and sori.
2 *a*. Enlargement, showing two sori to each set of veins.
2 *b*. A sorus magnified.
3. Pinnæ with sori.
4. Pair of hooks, with fragments of the midribs of pinnæ attached. (Figs. 2 to 4 in Woodwardian Museum.)
5. *Woodwardia venosa*, Ett. and Gard.
5 *a*. Enlargement. (Gardner Collection.)
6. *Hewardia regia*, Ett. and Gard.
6 *a*. Enlargement. (Gardner Collection.)
9. *Goniopteris** *Bunburii*, Heer. A nearly entire pinna.
9 *a*. Enlargement of the venation,
10. Venation of another pinna enlarged. (Gardner Collection.)
11. *Lygodium Kaulfussi*, Heer. Fertile frond. (Mr. Baldry's Collection.)

From the Oldhaven Beds, Bromley.

7. Fragment of Fern, undetermined.
7 *a*. Enlargement. (Gardner Collection.)

From the Woolwich and Reading Beds, Counter Hill.

8. *Pteris Prestwichii*, Ett. and Gard.

* Termed *Phegopteris* on p. 38.

West Newman & Co imp.

EOCENE FERNS.

PLATE XI.

From the Middle Bagshot, Bournemouth.

Hewardia regia, Ett. and Gard.

Fig. 1. A magnificent specimen, showing marginal sori.
2, 3. Parts of smaller pinnæ.
4. Portion enlarged, showing anastomosing venation.

(Gardner Collection.)

West Newman & C° imp.

EOCENE FERNS.