

of fossil ferns, in which the fructification is for the most part wanting, it is still more so, depending in great part on the form and venation of the divisions of the fronds.

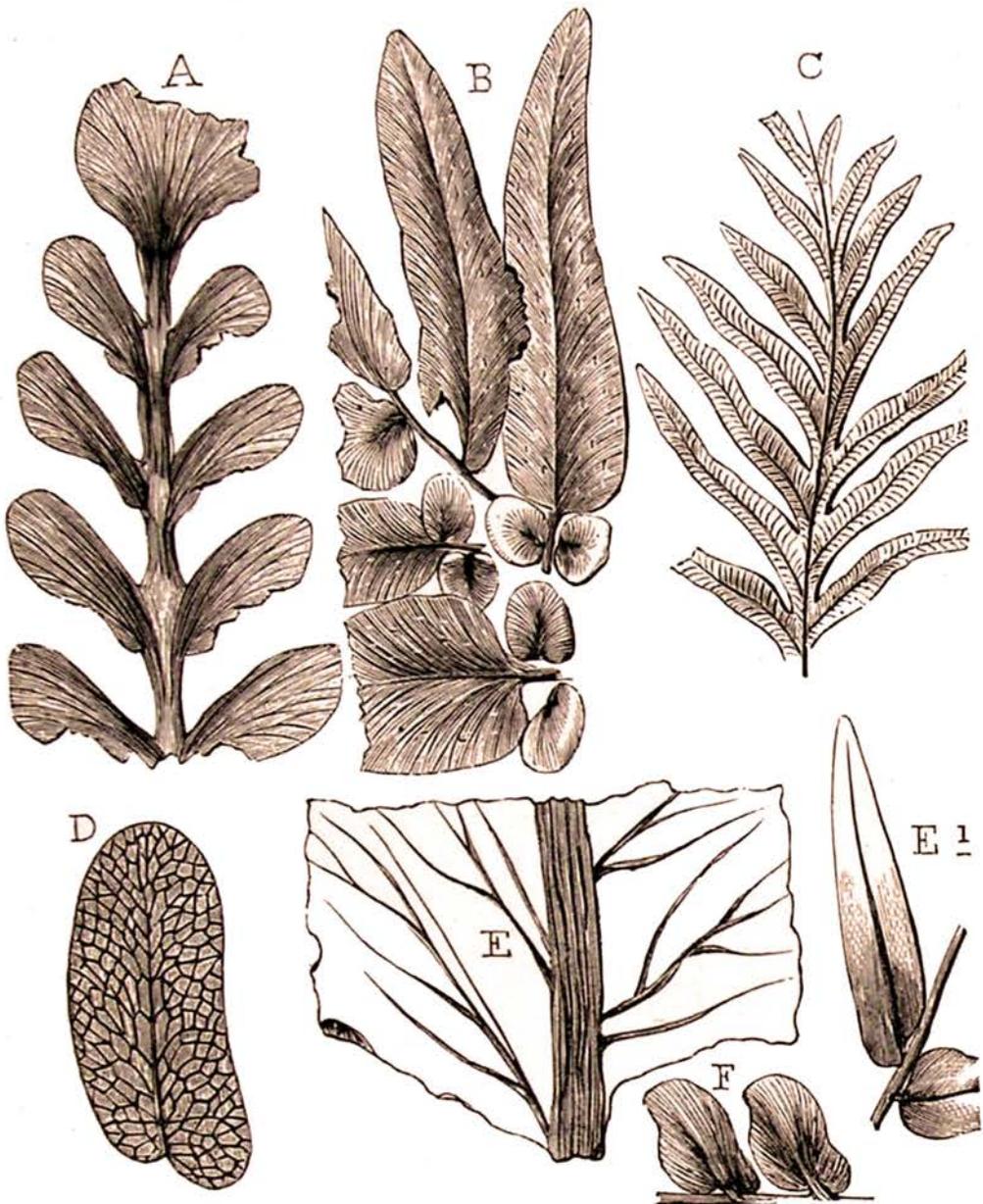


FIG. 51.—Group of coal-formation ferns. A, *Odontopteris subcuneata* (Bunbury). B, *Neuropteris cordata* (Brongniart). C, *Alethopteris lonchitica* (Brongniart). D, *Dictyopteris obliqua* (Bunbury). E, *Phyllopteris antiqua* (Dawson), magnified; E¹, Natural size. F, *Neuropteris cyclopteroides* (Dawson).

Of about eight families into which modern ferns are divided, seven are found in a fossil state, and of these, four at least, the *Cyathaceæ*, the *Ophioglosseæ*, the *Hy-*