

and which from their appearance are called "fossil birds' nests" by the quarrymen. Some, however, must have attained a considerable height so as to resemble palms.

The cycads, with their simple, thick trunks, usually marked with rhombic scars, and bearing broad spreading crowns of large, elegantly formed pinnate leaves, must have formed a prominent part of the vegetation of the northern hemisphere during the whole of the Mesozoic period. A botanist, had there been such a person at the time, would have found this to be the case everywhere from the equator to Spitzbergen, and probably in the southern hemisphere as well, and this throughout all the long periods from the Early Trias to the Middle Cretaceous. In a paper published in the "Linnæan Transactions" for 1868, Dr. Carruthers enumerates twenty species of British Mesozoic cycads, and the number might now be considerably increased.

The pines present some features of interest. We have already seen their connection with the broad-leaved *Cordaites*, and in the Permian there are some additional

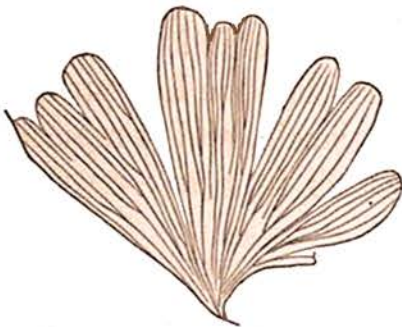


FIG. 66.—*Salisburia* (Ginkgo) *Sibirica*, Heer. L. Cretaceous, Siberia and North America.

types of broad-leaved coniferæ. In the Mesozoic we have great numbers of beautiful trees, with those elegant fan-shaped leaves characteristic of but one living species, the *Salisburia*, or ginkgo-tree of China. It is curious that this tree, though now limited to eastern Asia, will grow, though it rarely fruits, in most parts of tem-

perate Europe, and in America as far north as Montreal, and that in the Mesozoic period it occupied all these regions, and even Siberia and Greenland, and with many and diversified species (Fig. 66).