

concentration of the water took place as to give rise to extensive accumulations of salt and gypsum. In a few localities, fluviatile and lacustrine deposits of the Pliocene period have been preserved, from which numerous remains of terrestrial vegetation and mammals have been obtained.

The Pliocene flora is transitional between the luxuriant evergreen and sub-tropical vegetation of the Miocene period and that of modern Europe. From the evidence of



Fig. 442.—Pliocene Plants.

a, *Glyptostrobus europæus*, Brongn. ($\frac{1}{2}$); b, *Hakea exalata*, Heer.

the deposits in the upper part of the valley of the Arno, above Florence, it is known to have included species of pine, oak, evergreen-oak, plum, plane, alder, elm, fig, laurel, maple, walnut, birch, buckthorn, hickory, sumach, sarsaparilla, sassafras, cinnamon, glyptostrobus, taxodium, sequoia, etc.⁹¹ The researches of Count de Saporta have shown that the flora of Meximieux, near Lyons, comprised species of bamboo, liquidambar, rose-laurel, tulip-tree maple,

⁹¹ Gaudin, "Feuilles fossiles de la Toscane"; Gaudin and Strozzi, "Contributions à la Flore fossile italienne"; Lyell, "Student's Elements." 4th edit. p. 172.