

internal structure of the stems. Of this family* the most remarkable tribe is the Cycadeæ, which are divided into two genera—*Cycas*, and *Zamia*. As several species of these plants are cultivated in our green-houses, their general aspect must be familiar to the reader. To the botanist they present an extraordinary character, that of having their seeds exposed; hence they are arranged in a distinct order (called Gymnospermous, *naked seeds*); the organization of their stems also differs from that of the other Coniferæ. (In Plate V. fig. 5. a transverse section of a stem is represented.)

Most of the *Zamiæ* are short plants, with stout cylindrical stems beset with thick scales, which are the bases of leaves that have fallen off: towards the summit they are garnished with a crown of elegant pinnated leaves with simple veins. The *Cycas* resembles the *Zamia*, but the trunk is generally longer, and in one species, *C. circinnalis*, attains a height of thirty feet. The leaves are tough, and in the young state are coiled up like a croisier, as in the ferns. Their fruit bears some resemblance to the cones of the pines, but the seeds are naked. They are the inhabitants of hot and humid climates, and

* Dr. Buckland has so fully and admirably elucidated the fossil remains of the whole family of Coniferæ, that it will not be requisite to enter in detail on this important division of fossil botany.