

occurrence is not yet proved; the so-called *Petrophiloides* is now regarded as an alder (Fig. 424).⁷ During Middle Eocene time in the umbrageous forests of evergreen trees—laurels, cypresses, and yews—there grew species of ferns (*Lygodium*, *Asplenium*, etc.), also of many of our familiar trees besides those just mentioned, such as chestnuts, beeches, elms, poplars, hornbeams, willows, figs, planes, and maples. The subtropical character of the climate was shown by clumps of *Pandanus*, with here and there a fan-

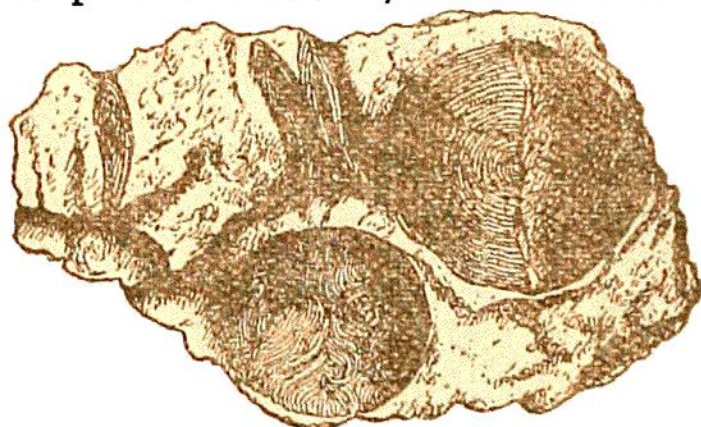


Fig. 425.—Nummulitic Limestone (3).

palm (Fig. 424) or feather-palm, a tall aroid or a towering cactus.⁸

The Eocene fauna of western and central Europe presents similar evidence of tropical or subtropical conditions. Especially characteristic are foraminifera of the genus *Nummulites*, which occur in prodigious numbers in the nummulite limestone (Fig. 425), and also occupy different horizons in the English and French Eocene basins. The assemblage of mollusca is very large, most of the genera being still living, though many of them are confined to the warmer seas of the globe (Figs. 426, 427).

⁷ J. S. Gardner, *op. cit.* p. 108.

⁸ J. S. Gardner, "British Eocene Flora," *Palæontograph. Soc.* 1879; L. Crié, "Recherches sur la Vegetation de l'Ouest de la France à l'Epoque Tertiaire," *Ann. Sciences Geol.* ix. 1877; Ettingshausen, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* xxx. 1880, p. 228; Comte de Saporta, "Le Monde des Plantes," 1879, p. 207.