494 FOSSIL CYCADEÆ IN DORSETSHIRE.

of graceful foliage surrounding the summit of a simple cylindrical trunk, it resembles a Palm. The trunk in the genus Cycas, is usually long. That of C. circinalis rises to 30 feet.* In the genus Zamia it is commonly short.

Our figure of a Zamia pungens,[†] (Pl. 59,) shews the mode of inflorescence in this Genus, by a single cone, rising like a Pine Apple, deprived of its foliaceous top, from within the crown of leaves at the summit of the stem.

The trunk of the Cycadeæ has no true bark, but is surrounded by a dense case, composed of persistent scales which have formed the basis of fallen leaves; these, together with other abortive scales, constitute a compact covering that supplies the place of bark. (See Pl. 58 and 59.)

In the Geol. Trans. of London (vol. iv. part 1. New Series) I have published, in conjunction with Mr. De la Beche, an account of the circumstances under which silicified fossil trunks of Cycadeæ are found in the Isle of Portland, immediately above the surface of the Portland stone, and below the Purbeck stone. They are lodged in the same beds of black mould in which they grew, and are accompanied by prostrate

* In Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 1828, Pl. 2826, Dr. Hooker has published an Engraving of a Cycas circinalis which in 1827 flowered in the Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. See Pl. 1. Fig. 33.

+ Copied from an engraving published by Mr. Lambert, of a plant that bore fruit at Walton on Thames, in the conservatory of Lady Tankerville, 1832.