

PREFACE

IN the Preface to Volume III I expressed my thanks for help given to me by many friends in the course of the preparation of the subject-matter of Volumes III and IV, but Dr Scott has again earned my gratitude by very willingly and to very good purpose continuing the tedious task of reading the proofs. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the help received from the Staff of the University Press.

Since the publication of Volume III Palaeobotany has been deprived of the services of three senior investigators, Professor C. E. Bertrand of Lille, Monsieur Grand'Eury, and Mr Clement Reid, men whose researches along different lines of inquiry have played a prominent part in the progress of the science during the last few decades. By the death of Miss Ruth Holden, a graduate of Harvard University and a Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, Palaeobotany has lost an unusually gifted and promising worker: though a citizen of a country which was then neutral her strong sense of duty led her to lay aside, temporarily as we hoped, botanical research for work with a British Medical Unit in Russia where she died in April of last year. Miss Holden's last contribution to Palaeobotany ('On the Anatomy of two Palaeozoic stems from India'; *Annals of Botany*, vol. xxxi. p. 315, 1917) was published too late to be considered in Volume III.

If it is possible to carry out my intention of supplementing the descriptive treatment of plants, which forms the basis of Volumes I-IV, by a general review of the Floras of the Past the results will be published as an independent work more intelligible, I hope, to the general reader than the text-book which, with a certain sense of relief, is now brought to a conclusion.

A. C. SEWARD.

BOTANY SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE,
May, 1918.