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CATALOGUE
OF THE
FOSSIL PLANTS
OF THE
GLOSSOPTERIS FLORA
IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY.

A

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OF THE
GLOSSOPTERIS FLORA
IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY).

BEING A
MONOGRAPH OF THE PERMO-CARBONIFEROUS FLORA OF INDIA
AND THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

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PREFACE.

SINCE the publication of Mr. Kidston's Catalogue of the Palæozoic Plants in 1886, extensive additions have been made to the collection in the British Museum, and much research has been devoted to these fossils. The time seems therefore to have arrived for a series of more detailed Catalogues. The *Glossopteris* Flora has proved to be especially important, and it is not only of great geological and botanical interest, but also of practical value to the prospectors for coalfields in India and the southern hemisphere. As this Flora has not hitherto been the subject of any comprehensive treatise, it is thus appropriately dealt with in the present volume, which is the first special Catalogue of Palæozoic Plants issued by the British Museum. The work has been prepared with much care by Mr. E. A. Newell Arber, who has been able to add somewhat to the existing knowledge, which he has critically summarised.

A. SMITH WOODWARD.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY.

October, 1905.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IN this Catalogue I have made an attempt towards a complete summary of what is at present known on the subject of the *Glossopteris* Flora. It is hoped that reference will here be found to all the more important memoirs which have been published; a literature now not only large, but widely scattered. I have endeavoured to give some account of the less abundant, and consequently the less known species, in addition to the more characteristic types represented in the British Museum collection, and to revise, so far as possible, the older records in the light of our present knowledge. The task has not proved a light one. In many instances the rarer fossils are unrepresented in any European collection, and I have had to rely solely on the original descriptions and figures, both sometimes very inadequate, which have been published. I trust that, whatever imperfections this volume may be found to contain, it may be of use to those who are interested in the study of this ancient flora, especially to residents in our Greater Colonies of India, Australia, and South Africa, which at one time formed the principal provinces of a great southern continent, Gondwanaland, whose flora is the subject of the present work.

I have to express my acknowledgments to many friends to whom I have turned for information or advice at different times during the preparation of this volume. To Mr. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., I am especially indebted, not only for the information which he has on all occasions placed at my disposal, but for much kindly sympathy and encouragement.