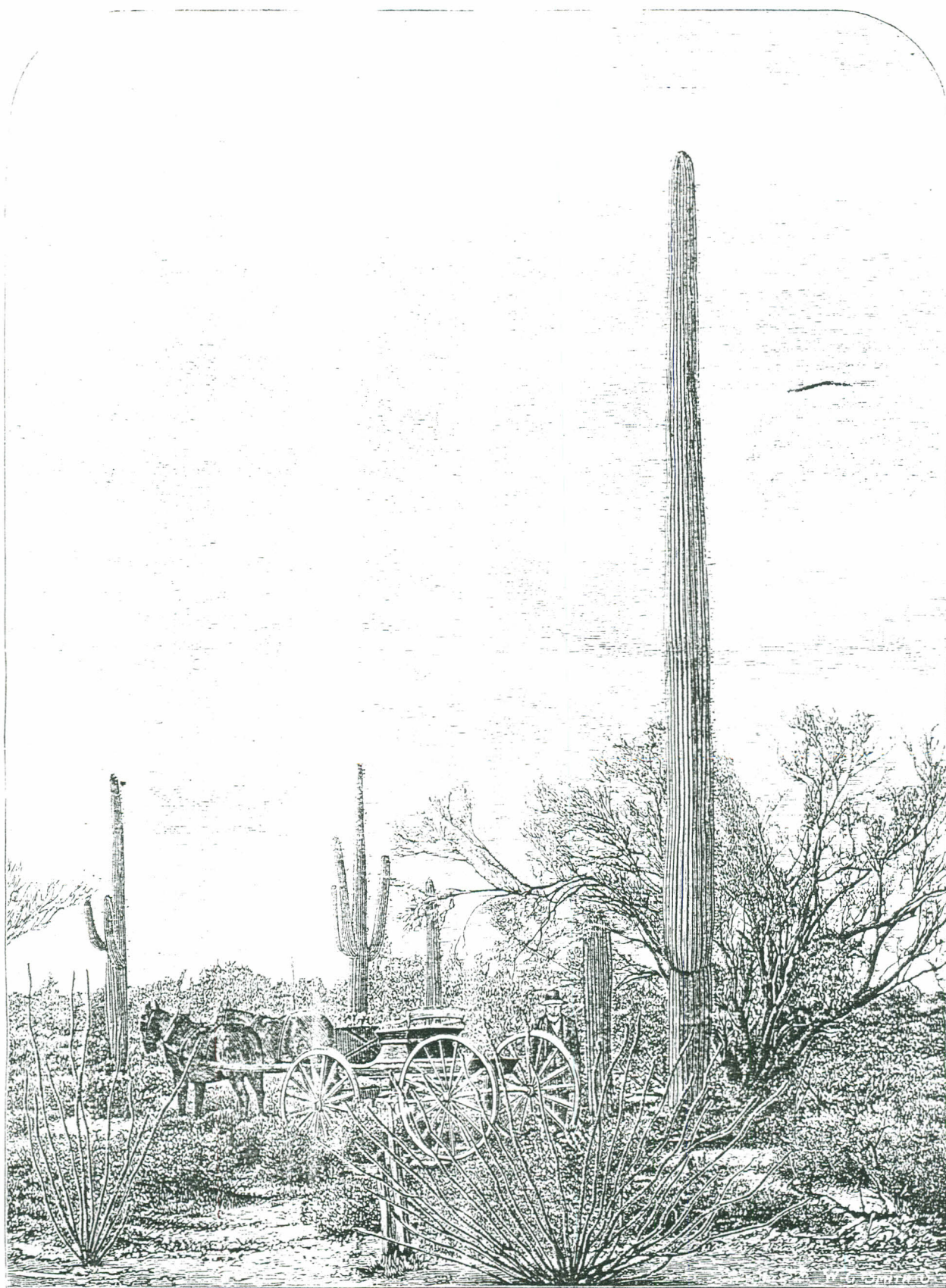


FIG. 39.—*CEREUS GIGANTEUS* IN ARIZONA, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH. (SEE P. 264)**CEREUS GIGANTEUS.**

OUR illustration of this stately Cactus (fig. 39) was taken from a photograph executed in the desert regions of Arizona by Mr. Herbert Green, and kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Worthington Smith. The figure, as it were, speaks for itself, but we may add from the *Treasury of Botany* the following descriptive note:—"While young the stems are of a globular form, gradually becoming club-shaped, and ultimately almost cylindrical, and from 50 to 60 feet in height, with a diameter of about 2 feet at middle height,

gradually tapering both upwards and downwards to about 1 foot. They are most frequently unbranched, but some of the older ones have branches which issue at right angles from the stem, and then curve upwards and grow parallel with it. The stems are regularly ribbed or fluted, the ribs varying in number from twelve to twenty, and have at intervals of about 1 inch thick yellow cushions bearing five or six large and many smaller spines. The flowers are produced near the summit of the stems and branches, and are about 4 to 5 inches long by 3 or 4 inches in diameter, having light cream-coloured petals. The fruits are

about 2 or 3 inches long, of a green colour and oval form, having a broad scar at the top caused by the flowers falling away; when ripe they burst into three or four pieces, which curve back so as to resemble a flower. Inside they contain numerous little black seeds embedded in a crimson-coloured pulp, which the Pimos and Papagos Indians make into an excellent preserve; and they also eat the ripe fruit as an article of food, gathering it by means of a forked stick tied to the end of a long pole." The plant is in cultivation at Kew and elsewhere, but we do not remember to have heard of its producing flowers.