

ASIATIC POPLARS.

Under this vague heading, for want of a better, I will group a race of poplars hardly known to us; trees better suited to dry, cold climates than those of the *monilifera* and *nigra* types, at least one would suppose so from the fact that they are the street and garden trees from Moskow to Kazan, and South to Saratof, and in middle Russia. They do well on dry soils, yet do not maintain anything like the same healthy foliage during extreme drouth as the Volga forms of the Silver poplar. Neither are they trees of great size, at least not in their native climates. They seem related to our *Balsamifera* or Balm of Gilead, yet have leaves not pubescent but smooth and whitish on the under side, and in some forms singularly narrow.

P. LAURIFOLIA.—This, Mr. Maximowitch tells me, is a medium sized tree, usually 30 or 40 feet in height, and one foot in diameter of trunk, as growing on the Altai Mountains. Mr. M. had seldom seen it larger. It is a common street tree in North-Eastern Russia. It is a fast grower, has narrow leaves curled very much on their edges, and has angulated branches. A specimen in the Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg is nearly 50 feet in height, and I understood it to be but 26 years planted. It seems to be a faster grower than *Suavolens*.

P. SUAVOLENS is a native, says Mr. Maximowitch, of very cold districts in Eastern Siberia, also of Kamtschatka and the islands of the coast. It grows to a height of 50 or 60 feet, with a trunk two or three feet in diameter, and is a good street tree. Branches round.

P. SIBERICA is another variety; foliage slightly broader, and Mr. Wagner, of Riga, says it grows to be a good sized tree. This must be the *Siberica pyramidalis* of some catalogues, and is, I think, the tree we used so often to see planted in the gardens at the railway stations, and which looked at a distance very like a sweet cherry.

P. BALSAMIFERA in leaf in nursery is just like the above, but is said to grow into a tree of different form. We saw a specimen of it in the Botanic Garden at Kazan 50 feet in height and two feet diameter.