

- Irides'cent.* Reflecting light, (from Iris the rainbow.)
Irreg'ular. Differing in figure, size, or proportion of parts among themselves.
Irritability. The power of being excited so as to produce contraction; this power belongs to vegetables as well as animals; sensation is thought to imply the existence of internal properties not possessed by plants; though some have attributed sensation to plants, as well as animals.

J.

- Jag'ged.* Irregularly divided and sub-divided.
Jaws. See Faux.
Joints. Knots, or rings in culms, pods, leaves, &c.
Ju'gum. A yoke; growing in pairs.
Juxta-position, (from *juxta*, near, and *pono*, to place,) nearness of place.

K.

- Keel.* The under lip of a papilionaceous flower.
Keel'ed. Shaped like the keel of a boat or ship.
Ker'nel. See Nucleus.
Kia'ney-shaped. Heart-shaped without the point and broader than long.
Knee. A joint being geniculate.
Knob'bed. In thick lumps, as the potato.
Knot. See joints.

L.

- La'biate.* Having lips as in the class Didynamia.
Lacin'rate. Jagged, irregularly torn, lacerated.
Lactes'cent. Yielding a juice, usually white, like milk, sometimes red, as in the blood-root.
Lac'teus. Milk white.
Lacus'tris. Growing about lakes.
Læ'vis. Smooth, even.
Lamel'lated. In thin plates.
Lam'ina. The broad or flat end of a petal, in distinction from its claw.
La'nate. Woolly.
Lance'olate. Spear-shaped, narrow, with both ends acute.
Lance'o-vate. A compound of lanceolate and ovate, intermediate.
Lat'eral. On one side, (from *latus*.)
La'tent. Hidden, concealed, (from *lateo*, to hide.)
Lar'va. The caterpillar state of an insect.
Lax. Limber, succid.
Leaf'et. A partial leaf, part of a compound leaf.
Leaf-stalk. See petiole.
Leg'ume. A pod or pericarp having its seeds attached to one side of suture; as the pea and bean.
Legu'minous. Bearing legumes.
Lepan'thiums. A term used for a petal-like nectary; like that of the larkspur and monkshood.
Li'ber. The inner bark of plants. Immediately under the cuticle is a succulent, cellular substance, for the most part of a green colour, especially in the leaves and branches. Under this cellular integument

- is the bark consisting of but one layer in plants or branches only one year old. In older branches and trunks of trees, it consists of as many layers as they are years old; the innermost and newest being called the *liber*: it is in this layer only that the essential vital functions are carried on for the time being, after which it is pushed outwards with the cellular integument, and like that, becomes a lifeless crust.
- Lig'neous.* Woody.
Lig'num. Wood.
Lig'ulate. Strap or ribbon like, flat, as the florets of the dandelion.
Lilia'ceous. A corolla with six petals gradually spreading from the base.
Limb. The border or spreading part of a monopetalous corolla.
Lin'ear. Long and narrow with parallel sides as the leaves of grasses.
Lip. The under petal in a labiate corolla.
Littora'lis. Growing on coasts, or shores.
Liv'idus. Dark purple.
Lobe. A large division; or distinct portion of a leaf or petal.
Loc'ulus. A little cell, from *locus* a place.
Lo'ment. A pod resembling a legume, but divided by transverse partitions.
Longifoli'us. Long leaved.
Longis'simus. Very long.
Lu'cidus. Bright and shining.
Lu'rid. Of a pale dull colour.
Lu'teus. Yellow.
Ly'rate. Pinnatifid, with a large roundish leaflet at the end.

M.

- Macula'tus.* Spotted.
Marces'cent. Withering.
Margin. The edge, or border.
Mara'time. Growing near the sea.
Medul'la. The pith or pulp of vegetables. The centre or heart of the vegetable. Various opinions have been entertained respecting the importance of the pith; Linnæus considered that it was the seat of life and source of vegetation: that its vigour was the principal cause of the shooting forth of branches, and that the seeds were formed from it. It is now generally thought that the pith does not perform so important a part in the economy of vegetation as was supposed by Linnæus.
Mellif'erosus. Producing, or containing honey.
Mem'branous. Very thin and delicate.
Mid'rib. The main or middle rib of a leaf running from the stem to the apex.
Minia'tus. Scarlet, vermilion colour.
Mola'res. Back teeth, grinders.
Mol'lis. Soft.
Mollus'cosus. Such animals as have a soft body without bones; as the oyster.

- Monodel'phous.* Having the stamens united in a tube at the base.
Monili'form. Granulate, strung together like beads.
Monocotyl'edous. Having but one cotyledon.
Monoc'ious. Having pistillate and staminate flowers on the same plant.
Monopet'alous. The corolla composed of one petal.
Monophyl'lous. Consisting of one leaf.
Monosep'alous. A calyx of one piece or sepal.
Monosper'mus. One seed to a flower.
Monta'nus. Growing on mountains.
Moon-form. See Crescent-form.
Mosses. The second order of the class Cryptogamia.
Mu'cronate. Having a small point or prickle at the end of an obtuse leaf.
Multiflo'rus. Many flowered.
Mult'iplex. Many flowered, petals lying over each other in two rows.
Mult'us. Many.
Mu'ricate. Covered with prickles.

N.

- Naked.* Destitute of parts usually found.
Na'nus. Dwa: fish, very small.
Nap. Downy, or like fur, tomentose.
Napiform'is. Resembling a turnip.
Narcot'ic. (from the Greek word *narce*, torpor.) A substance which has the power of procuring sleep—Opium is highly narcotic.
Na'tant. Floating.
Natural Character. That which is apparent, having no reference to any particular method of classification.
Natural History. The science which treats of nature.
Nectary. (from nectar, the fabled drink of the gods.) The part of a flower which produces honey: this term is applied to any appendage of the flower which has no other name.
Nemor'ous. Growing in groves, often given as a specific name, as *Anemone nemorosa*; the ending in *a* denotes the adjective as being in the feminine gender: the adjective in Latin varying its termination to conform to the gender of the substantive.
Nerves. Parallel veins.
Nerved. Marked with nerves, so called, though not organs of sensibility like the nerves in the animal system.
Nic'titans. From a word which signifies to twinkle, or wink; applied as a specific name to some plants which appear sensitive; as the *Cassia niticans*.
Ni'ger. Black.
Nil'idus. Glassy, glittering.
Niv'eus. Snow white.
Nod'ding. Partly drooping.
Node, Nodus. Knot.
No'men. A name.
Notch'ed. See Crenate.
Nu'cleus. Nut, or kernel.

- Nu'dus.* See Naked.
Nut, Nux. See Nucleus.
Nu'tant. See Nodding, Pendulous.

O.

- Ob.* A word which, prefixed to other terms, denotes the inversion of the usual position; as *obcordate*, inversely cordate.
Obcon'ic. Conic with the point downwards.
Obcor'date. Heart-shaped with the point downwards.
Ob lance'olate. Lanceolate with the base the narrowest.
Obli'que. A position between horizontal and vertical.
Oblong. Longer than oval, with the sides parallel.
Obo'vate. Ovate with the narrowest end towards the stem, or place of insertion.
Obsolete. Indistinct, appearing as if worn out.
Obtu'se. Blunt, rounded, not acute.
Odora'tus. Scented, odorous.
Officinalis. Such plants as are kept for sale as medicinal, or of use in the arts.
Oid, Oi'des. This termination imports resemblance, as *petaloid*, like a petal; *thalictroides*, resembling a *thalicttrum*, &c.
Opa'que. Not transparent.
Oper'culum. The lid which covers the capsules of mosses.
Opposite. Standing against each other on opposite sides of the stem.
Orbic'ular. Circular.
Orchid'eous. Petals like the orchis, four-arched; the fifth longer.
Ornithol'ogy. That department of zoology which treats of birds.
Os. A bone. A mouth.
Os'seous. Bony, hard.
Ovary. A name sometimes given to the outer covering of the germ, before it ripens.
Ovate. Egg-shaped, oval, with the lower end largest.
Ovip'arous. Animals produced from eggs, as birds, &c.
Ovules. Little eggs; the rudiments of seeds which the germ contains before its fertilization; after that the ovules ripen into seeds.
Ovum. An egg.

P.

- Palate.* A prominence in the lower lip of a labiate corolla, closing or nearly closing the throat.
Palea'ceous. See Chaffy.
Palmate. Hand-shaped; divided so as to resemble the hand with the fingers spread.
Palus'tris. Growing in swamps and marshes.
Pandul'riform. Contracted in the middle like a violin or guitar.
Pan'icle. A loose, irregular bunch of flowers, with sub-divided branches, as the oat.
Pan'icled. Bearing panicles.
Papil'io. A butterfly.
Papilion'a'ceous. Butterfly-shaped—an irregular corolla consisting of four petals; the upper one is called the banner, the two side

- wings, and the lower one the keel, as the pea. Mostly found in the class Diadelphia.
- Papillose*. Covered with protuberances.
- Pappus*. The down of seeds, as the dandelion; a feathery appendage. See Egret.
- Parasitic*. Growing on another plant, and deriving nourishment from it.
- Parenchyma*. A succulent vegetable substance; the cellular substance; the thick part of leaves between the opposite surfaces; the pulpy part of fruits, as in the apple, &c.
- Partial*. Used in distinction to general.
- Partition*. The membrane which divides pericarps into cells, called the dissepiment. It is parallel when it unites with the valves where they unite with each other. It is contrary or transverse when it meets a valve in the middle or in any part not in its suture.
- Parted*. Deeply divided: more than cleft.
- Patens*. Spreading, forming less than a right angle.
- Pauci*. Few in number.
- Pectinate*. Like the teeth of a comb, intermediate between fimbriate and pinnatifid.
- Pedale*. Having a central leaf or segment and the two side ones which are compound, like a bird's foot.
- Pedicel*. A little stalk or partial peduncle.
- Peduncul*. A stem bearing the flower and fruit.
- Pellicle*. A thin membranous coat.
- Pellucid*. Transparent or limpid.
- Peltate*. Having the petiole attached to some part of the under side of the leaf.
- Pendant*. Hanging down, pendulous.
- Pencilled*. Shaped like a painter's pencil or brush.
- Peregrinus*. Foreign, wandering.
- Perennial*. Lasting more than two years.
- Perfoliate*. Having a stem running through the leaf; differs from connate in not consisting of two leaves.
- Perforate*. Having holes as if pricked through; differs from punctate, which has dots resembling holes.
- Petri*. Around.
- Petianth*. A sort of calyx.
- Pericarp*, (from *peri*, around, and *karpos*, fruit.) A seed vessel or whatever contains the seed.
- Perigynous*, (from *peri*, around, and *gynia*, pistil.)
- Perisperm*, (from *peri*, around, and *sperma*, seed.) Around the seed
- Permanent*. Any part of a plant is said to be permanent when it remains longer than is usual for similar parts in most plants.
- Persistent*. Not falling off. See Permanent.
- Personate*. Masked or closed.
- Petal*. The leaf of a corolla, usually coloured.
- Petiole*. The stalk which supports the leaf.
- Phenogamous*. Such flowers as have stamens and pistils visible, including all plants except the cryptogamous.
- Physiology*, (derived from the Greek.) A discourse of Nature

- Phytology*. The science which treats of the organization of vegetables; nearly synonymous with the physiology of vegetables.
- Pileus*. The hat of a fungus.
- Pillar*. See Columella and Column.
- Pilose*. Hairy, with distinct straightish hairs.
- Pilus*. A hair.
- Pimpled*. See Papillose.
- Pinna*. A wing feather; applied to leaflets.
- Pinnate*. A leaf is pinnate when the leaflets are arranged in two rows on the side of a common petiole, as in the rose.
- Pinnatifid*. Cut in a pinnate manner. It differs from pinnate, in being a simple leaf, deeply parted, while pinnate is a compound of distinct leaflets.
- Pistil*. The central organ of most flowers, consisting of the germ style, and stigma.
- Pistillate*. Having pistils, but no stamens.
- Pith*. The spongy substance in the centre of the stems and roots of most plants. See Medulla.
- Plaited*. Folded like a fan.
- Plane*. Flat, with an even surface.
- Plaitus*. See Plaited.
- Plumose*. Feather-like.
- Plumula*, or *Plume*. The ascending part of a plant at its first germination.
- Plurimus*. Very many.
- Pod*. A dry seed vessel, most commonly applied to legumes and siliques.
- Podosperm*, (from *podos*, a foot, and *sperma*, seed.) Pedicel of the seed.
- Pointal*. A name sometimes used for pistil.
- Pollen*, (properly, fine flour, or the dust that flies in a mill.) The dust which is contained within the anthers.
- Polus*. Many.
- Polyandrous*. Having many stamens inserted upon the receptacle.
- Polygamous*. Having some flowers which are perfect, and others stamens only, or pistils only.
- Polymorphous*. Changeable, assuming many forms.
- Polypetalous*. Having many petals.
- Polyphyllous*. Having many leaves.
- Polysepalous*. A calyx of more than one sepal.
- Pome*. A pulpy fruit, containing a capsule, as the apple.
- Porous*. Full of holes.
- Præmorse*. Ending bluntly, as if bitten off; the same as abrupt.
- Prasinus*. Green, like a leek.
- Pratensis*. Growing in meadow land.
- Prickle*, differs from the thorn, in being fixed to the bark; the thorn is fixed to the wood.
- Prismatic*. Having several parallel flat sides.
- Proboscis*. An elongated nose or snout, applied to projecting parts of vegetables.
- Process*. A projecting part.
- Procumbent*. Lying on the ground.

- Proliferous*. A flower is said to be proliferous when it has smaller ones growing out of it.
Prop. Tendrils and other climbers.
Proximus. Near.
Pseudo. When prefixed to a word, it implies obsolete, or false.
Pubescent. Hairy, downy, or woolly.
Pulp. The juicy cellular substance of berries and other fruits.
Pulverulent. Turning to dust.
Pumilus. Small, low.
Punctate. Appearing dotted as if pricked. See Perforated.
Pungent. Sharp, acrid, piercing.
Purpureus. Purple.
Pusillus. Diminutive, low.
Putamen. A hard shell.

Q.

- Quadrangular*. Having four corners or angles.
Quaternate. Four together.
Quinate. Five together.

R.

- Raceme*, (from *raz*, a bunch of grapes, a cluster.) That kind of inflorescence in which the flowers are arranged by simple pedicels on the sides of a common peduncle; as the currant.
Rachis. The common stalk to which the florets and spikelets of grasses are attached; as in wheat heads. Also the midrib of some leaves and fronds.
Radiate. The legulate florets around the margin of a compound flower.
Radix. A root; the lower part of the plant, which performs the office of attracting moisture from the soil, and communicating it to the other parts of the plant.
Radical. Growing from the root.
 — The part of the corculum which afterwards forms the root—also the minute fibres of a root.
Ramiferous. Producing branches.
Ramus. A branch.
Ray. The outer margin of compound flowers.
Receptacle. The end of a flower stalk; the base to which the different parts of the organs of fructification are usually attached.
Reclin'd. Bending over with the end inclining towards the ground.
Rectus. Straight.
Recurv'd. Curved backwards.
Reflexed. Bent backwards more than recurved.
Refrigerant, (from *refrigero*, to cool.) Cooling medicines.
Reniform. Kidney-shaped, heart-shaped without the point.
Repand. Slightly serpentine, or waving on the edge.
Repens. Creeping.
Resupinate. Upside down.
Reticulate. Veins crossing each other like net-work.

- Retuse*. Having a slight notch in the end, less than emarginate.
Rever'ed. Bent back towards the base.
Revolute. Rolled backward or outward.
Rhomboid. Diamond-form.
Rib. A nerve-like support to a leaf.
Rigid. Stiff, not pliable.
Ring. The band around the capsules of ferns.
Ringent. Gaping or grinning; a term belonging to the labiate corollas.
Root. The descending part of a vegetable.
Rootlet. A fibre of a root, a little root.
Rosa'ceous. A corolla formed of roundish spreading petals, without claws, or with very short ones.
Rose'ous. Rose coloured.
Rostel. That pointed part of the embryo which tends downward at the first germination of the seed.
Rostrate. Having a protuberance like a bird's beak.
Rotate. Wheel-form.
Rotundus. Round.
Rubra. Red.
Rufous. Reddish yellow.
Rugose. Wrinkled.
Runcinate. Having large teeth pointing backwards, as the dandelion.
Rupes'tris. Growing among rocks.

S.

- Sagittate*. Arrow-form.
Sali'ferous. Bearing or producing salt.
Salsus. Salt tasted.
Salver-form. Corolla with a flat spreading border proceeding from the top of a tube; flower monopetalous.
Sam'ara. A winged pericarp not opening by valves, as the maple.
Sap. The watery fluid contained in the tubes and little cells of vegetables.
Sapor. Having taste.
Sarmentose. Running on the ground and striking root from the joint only, as the strawberry.
Sarcocarp, (from *sarx*, flesh, and *karpos*, fruit.) The fleshy part of fruit.
Scaber, or *Scabrous*. Rough.
Scandens. Climbing.
Scape. A stalk which springs from the root, and supports flowers and fruit but no leaves, as the dandelion.
Scariosus. Having a thin membranous margin.
Scattered. Standing without any regular order.
Scions. Shoots proceeding laterally from the roots or bulb of a root.
Segment. A part or principal division of a leaf, calyx, or corolla.
Sempervirens. Living through the winter, and retaining its leaves.
Sep'al. A leaf of the calyx.
Serrate. Notched like the teeth of a saw.
Serrulate. Minutely serrate.

- Sessile*. Sitting down; placed immediately on the main stem without a foot stalk.
- Seta*. A bristle.
- Setaeaeous*. Bristle-form.
- Shaft*. A pillar, sometimes applied to the style.
- Sheath*. A tubular or folded leafy portion including within it the stem.
- Shoot*. Each tree and shrub sends forth annually a large shoot in the spring, and another in June.
- Shrub*. A plant with a woody stem, branching out nearer the ground than a tree, usually smaller.
- Siccus*. Dry.
- Silicle*. A seed vessel constructed like a silique, but not longer than it is broad.
- Silique*. A long pod or seed vessel of two valves, having the seed attached to the two edges alternately.
- Simple*. Not divided, branched, or compounded.
- Sinuate*. The margin hollowed out resembling a bay.
- Sinus*. A bay; applied to the plant, a roundish cavity in the edge of the leaf or petal.
- Sori*, (plural of *Soros*.) Fruit dots on ferns.
- Spathe*. An elongated receptacle of flowers, commonly proceeding from a spathe.
- Spatha*. A sheathing calyx opening lengthwise on one side, and consisting of one or more valves.
- Spatulate*. Large, obtuse at the end, gradually tapering into a stalk at the base.
- Species*. The lowest division of vegetables.
- Specific*. Belonging to a species only.
- Sperma*. Seed.
- Spike*. A kind of inflorescence in which the flowers are sessile, or nearly so, as in the mullein, or wheat.
- Spikelet*. A small spike.
- Spindle-shaped*. Thick at top, gradually tapering, fusiform.
- Spine*. A thorn or sharp process growing from the wood.
- Spinous*. Thorny.
- Spiral*. Twisted like a screw.
- Spur*. A sharp hollow projection from a flower, commonly the nectary.
- Spur-red-rye*. A morbid swelling of the seed, of a black or dark colour, sometimes called ergot; the black kind is called the malignant ergot. Grain growing in low moist ground, or new land, is most subject to it.
- Squamosus*. Scaly.
- Squarrose*. Ragged, having divergent scales.
- Stamen*. That part of the flower on which the artificial clasps are founded.
- Staminate*. Having stamens without pistils.
- Standard*. See Banner.
- Stellate*. Like a star.
- Stem*. A general supporter of leaves, flowers, and fruit.
- Stemless*. Having no stem.
- Sterile*. Barren.

- Stigma*. The summit, or top of the pistil.
- Stipe*. The stem of a fern, or fungus; also the stem of the down of seeds, as in the dandelion.
- Stipitate*. Supported by a stipe.
- Stipule*. A leafy appendage, situated at the base of petioles, or leaves.
- Stoloniferous*. Putting forth scions, or running roots.
- Stramineous*. Straw-like, straw coloured.
- Strap-form*. Ligulate.
- Stratum*. A layer, plural strata.
- Striate*. Marked with fine parallel lines.
- Strictus*. Stiff and straight, erect.
- Strigose*. Armed with close thick bristles.
- Strobilum*. A cone, an ament with woody scales.
- Style*. That part of the pistil which is between the stigma and the germ.
- Stylides*. Plants with a very long style.
- Suaavis*. Sweet, agreeable.
- Sub*. Used as a diminutive, prefixed to different terms to imply the existence of a quality in an inferior degree; in English, may be rendered by somewhat: it also signifies under.
- Suberosus*. Corky.
- Submersed*. Growing under water.
- Subterraneous*. Growing and flowering under ground.
- Subtus*. Beneath.
- Subacute*. Somewhat acute.
- Subsessile*. Almost sessile.
- Subulate*. Awl-shaped, narrow and sharp pointed. See Awl-form.
- Succulent*. Juicy; it is also applied to a pulpy leaf, whether juicy or not.
- Succus*. Sap.
- Sucker*. A shoot from the root, by which the plant may be propagated.
- Suffruticose*. Somewhat shrubby; shrubby at the base; an under shrub.
- Sulcate*. Furrowed, marked with deep lines.
- Super*. Above.
- Supradecomposed*. More than decomposed; many times sub-divided.
- Superior*. A calyx or corolla is superior, when it proceeds from the upper part of the germ.
- Supinus*. Face upwards. See Resupinatus.
- Suture*. The line or seam formed by the junction of two valves of a seed vessel.
- Sylvestris*. Growing in woods.
- Syncarpe*, (from *sun*, with, and *karpos*, fruit.) A union of fruits.
- Syngenesious*. Anthers growing together, forming a tube; such plants as constitute the class Syngenesia, being also compound flowers.
- Synonyms*. Synonymous, different names for the same plant.
- Synopsis*. A condensed view of a subject, or science.

T.

Taxonomy, (from *taxis*, order, and *nomus*, law.) Method of classification.

Tegens. Covering.

- Tegument.** The skin or covering of seeds; often burst off on boiling, as in the pea.
- Temperature.** The degree of heat and cold to which any place is subject, not wholly dependent upon latitude, being affected by elevation; the mountains of the torrid zone produce the plants of the frigid zone. In cold regions white and blue petals are more common; in warm regions, red and other vivid colours; in the spring we have more white petals, in the autumn more yellow ones.
- Tendril.** A filiform or thread-like appendage of some climbing plants, by which they are supported by twining round other objects.
- Tenellus.** Tender, fragile.
- Tenuifolius.** Slender leaved.
- Tenuis.** Thin and slender.
- Terete.** Round, cylindrical, tapering.
- Terminal.** Extreme, situated at the end.
- Ternate.** Three together, as the leaves of the clover.
- Tetradynamous.** With four long, and two short stamens.
- Tetrandrous.** Having four stamens.
- Thorn.** A sharp process from the woody part of the plant; considered as an imperfect bud indurated.
- Thread-form.** See Filiform.
- Thyrse.** See Panicle.
- Tige.** See Caulis.
- Tinctorius.** Plants containing colouring matter.
- Tomentose.** Downy; covered with fine matted pubescence.
- Tonic,** (from *tono*, to strengthen.) Medicines which increase the tone of the muscular fibre.
- Toothed.** See Dentate.
- Trachea.** Names given to vessels supposed to be designed for receiving and distributing air.
- Transverse.** Crosswise.
- Trichotomous.** Three forked.
- Trifid.** Three cleft.
- Trifoliate.** Three leaved.
- Trilobate.** Three lobed.
- Trilocular.** Three celled.
- Truncate.** Having a square termination, as if cut off.
- Trunk.** The stem or bole of a tree.
- Tube.** The lower hollow cylinder of a monopetalous corolla.
- Tuber.** A solid fleshy knob.
- Tuberous.** Thick and fleshy, containing tubers, as the potato.
- Tubular.** Shaped like a tube, hollow.
- Tunicate.** Coated with surrounding layers, as in the onion.
- Tarbinate.** Shaped like a top or pear.
- Twining.** Ascending spirally.
- Twisted.** Coiled.

U.

- Uliginosus.** Growing in damp places.
- Umbel.** A kind of inflorescence in which the flower stalks diverge from one centre, like the sticks of an umbrella.

- Umbelliferous.** Bearing umbels.
- Unarmed.** Without thorns or prickles.
- Uncinate.** Hooked.
- Unctuosus.** Greasy, oily.
- Undulate.** Waving serpentine, gently rising and falling.
- Unguis.** A claw.
- Unguiculate.** Inserted by a claw.
- Uniflorus.** One flowered.
- Unicus.** Single.
- Unilateral.** Growing on one side.
- Urceolate.** Swelling in the middle, and contracted at the top in the form of a pitcher.

V.

- Valves.** The parts of a seed vessel into which it finally separates, also the leaves which make up a glume or spatha.
- Variety.** A subdivision of a species distinguished by character which are not permanent; varieties do not with certainty produce their kind by their seed. All apples are but varieties of one species; if the seeds of a sour apple be planted, perhaps some will produce sweet apples.
- Vaulted.** Arched over; with a concave covering.
- Veined.** Having the divisions of the petiole irregularly branched on the under side of the leaf.
- Ventricose.** Swelled out. See Inflated.
- Vernal.** Appearing in the spring.
- Verucose.** Warty, covered with little protuberances.
- Vertical.** Perpendicular.
- Verticillate.** Whorled, having leaves or flowers in a circle round the stem.
- Vesicular.** Made up of cellular substance.
- Vesperine.** Flowers opening in the evening.
- Villosus.** Hairy, the hairs long and soft.
- Violaecous.** Violet coloured.
- Virescens.** Inclining to green.
- Virgate.** Long and slender. Wandlike.
- Viridis.** Green.
- Virgultum.** A small twig.
- Vitrose.** Nauseous to the smell; poisonous.
- Viscid.** Thick, glutinous, covered with adhesive moisture.
- Vitel'us.** Called also the yolk of the seed; it is between the albumen and embryo.
- Vitreus.** Glassy.
- Viviparous.** Producing others by means of bulbs or seeds germinating while yet on the old plant.
- Vulnerary,** (from *vulnus*, a wound,) medicines which heal wounds.

W.

- Wedge-form.** Shaped like a wedge, rounded at the large end, obovate with striatish sides.

Wheel-shaped. See Rotate.

Whorled. Having flowers or leaves growing in a ring.

Wings. The two side petals of a papilionaceous flower.

Wood. The most solid parts of trunks of trees and shrubs.

Z.

Zool'ogy. The science which treats of animals.

Zo'ophytes. The lowest order of animals, sometimes called animal plants, though considered as wholly belonging to the animal kingdom. They resemble plants in their form, and exhibit very faint marks of sensation.

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.

Mankind in all ages have delighted to personify flowers, to imagine them as possessing moral characters corresponding with their outward appearance;—thus we speak of the modest violet, the humble daisy, the proud tulip, and the flaunting peony. In those nations where the imagination is lively, and leads men to the use of figurative language, flowers are often made to speak the sentiments of the heart, in a manner more delicate and impressive than could be done by words.

Even with us, who are not a people remarkable for brilliancy of fancy, flowers form an interesting medium of communication, and often awaken tender recollections. When our parlours or gardens show us these living witnesses of a friend's kindness or affectionate remembrance, we feel a pleasing emotion steal upon our hearts. A shrub or tree presented us, by a departed friend, is a perennial monument to his memory, more touching to the heart than an inscription on marble.

It is a fact which may ever be noticed, that those who love flowers are social in their tastes, and delight to share their enjoyments with others. In a sordid love of money, we see the reverse of this; here, so far from the wish to communicate to others, the heart seems to become more and more dead to sympathies and benevolence. We should seek to improve our affections and to calm our spirits by such pursuits as seem best calculated to produce this effect. Hence, we may indulge a fondness for flowers, as not only innocent, but favourable to the health of the soul.

Among the ancients, flowers were used in their religious celebrations. Christians, even to this day, decorate their churches with flowers and evergreens in seasons of peculiar solemnity.

In many countries the dead are decked with flowers for their burial, and the tombs are ornamented with garlands and festoons. Thus Mrs. Hemans says:

“Bring flowers, pale flowers, o'er the bier to shed,
A crown for the brow of the early dead!
For this, through its leaves has the white rose burst,
For this in the woods was the violet nurs'd;
Though they smile in vain for what once was ours,
They are love's last gift—bring flowers, pale flowers.”

The bride of almost every nation is adorned with flowers; the rose and orange blossom are among the favourites for this purpose.