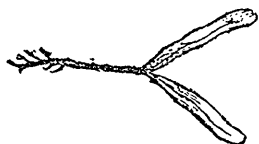
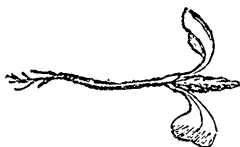


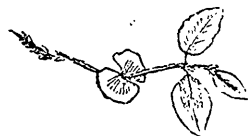
the nurseling uses up its provisions, but it is certain that it does use them. There are many things in "the history of a plant" which, like this, no one knows at present. I shall point them out as I come to them; because I wish you to see how, in the commonest and least of the works of God, there is much that we do not understand, although they have been looked at, and searched into, and thought about, by so many persons, and for so long a time; and also, because I hope to persuade some of you, young friends, to try to know all that can be known about these beautiful things which God hath made, and which he always feeds and clothes with so much care; and if I show you that there is something in them *to be found out*, I think you will be more willing to set about it in good earnest.



26



27



28

But here is a woodcut to help you to understand what I have been speaking of. These are "seedling" plants. That marked (26) is a kind of sycamore which comes from North America; it has a root and two "seed-leaves," but the bud is not open yet. The next (27), as you could guess, is the common mustard, and the leaves are appearing between the "seed-leaves," as they do when it is getting too "old" to be nice to eat. In (28), which is a

beech, the stem and several proper leaves have grown, and yet the "seed-leaves" remain. I must tell you that (26) and (28) are drawn very much smaller than they really are.

29

30



The second way in which the "seed-plant" begins to grow, you may see at (29), which represents a young oak-tree. The two "seed-leaves" of the acorn, you all know, fill up the whole of the shell, and are very thick and fleshy. When they swell and burst the shell, and the root has found its way into the soil, they do not spread out into curiously-shaped green leaves, but the little bud between them makes haste and puts forth, first one leaf, and then another, of its own; and the two "seed-leaves," which contain the first supply of food for the "seedling," keep their place until they have given it all the nourishment they can, and are shrivelled and brown, and quite dry; and at last they fall off. In the plant I made this drawing from, they had almost finished their work. It was, of course, very much larger than this drawing.

If you look at the woodcut marked (19), you will see the seed of a fir-tree cut open; and you cannot help noticing the short, thick "little plant" within. As soon as it sprouts, it becomes thin and long, like (30); and sometimes the husk will not fall off from the top of the "seed-leaves" till it is decayed, or the bud, growing out from the middle of them, pushes it off. This plant sprouts in the first way I mentioned.

Those plants whose seeds have but one "seed-leaf," begin to grow in the