

and air. The plant is anchored or fixed in the soil by the roots. Plants have been called "earth parasites."

The Foliage Part. — The *leaves precede the flowers* in point of time or life of the plant. *The flowers always precede the fruits and seeds.* Many plants die when the seeds have matured. The whole mass of leaves of any

plant or any branch is known as its *foliage*. In some cases, as in crocuses, the flowers seem to precede the leaves; but the leaves that made the food for these flowers grew the preceding year.

The Plant Generation.

— The course of a plant's life, with all the events through which the plant naturally passes, is known as the plant's **life-history**. The life-history embraces various stages, or epochs, as *dormant*



FIG. 11. — PLANT OF A
WILD SUNFLOWER.

FIG. 12. — FRAME-
WORK OF FIG. 11.

seed, germination, growth, flowering, fruiting. Some plants run their course in a few weeks or months, and some live for centuries.

The entire life-period of a plant is called a **generation**. It is the whole period from birth to normal death, without reference to the various stages or events through which it passes.

A generation begins with *the young seed*, not with germi-