

CHAPTER IX.

EXAMINATION OF PLANTS WITH DICEIOUS FLOWERS—
WILLOW—MAPLE.

60. **Willow.** The flowers of most kinds of Willow appear in spring or early summer before the leaves. They grow from the axils in long, close clusters called *catkins* or *aments*. Collect a few of these *from the same tree or shrub*.

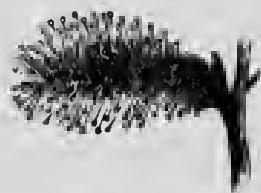


Fig. 59.

You will find them to be exactly alike. If the first one you examine is covered with yellow stamens (Fig. 59), all the rest will likewise consist of stamens, and you will search in vain for any appearance of a pistil. If, on the other hand, one of your catkins is evidently destitute of stamens, and consists of oblong pistils (Fig. 60), then all the others will in like manner



Fig. 60.

be found to be without stamens. Unlike our Cucumber plant, the staminate and pistillate flowers of the Willow are borne on *different* plants. These flowers are therefore said to be *dicacious*. As a general thing, staminate and pistillate catkins will be found upon trees not far apart. Procure one of each kind, and examine first the staminate one. You will probably find the stamens in pairs. Follow any pair of filaments down to



Fig. 61.

Fig. 59.—Staminate catkin of Willow.

Fig. 60.—Fertile catkin.

Fig. 61.—Single staminate flower.