

CHAPTER VII.

EXAMINATION OF A PLANT WITH EPIGYNOUS STAMENS—
WATER-PARSNIP.

51. **Water-Parsnip.** This is a common ewamp plant in Canada ; but if any difficulty be experienced in procuring specimens, the flower of the common Carrot or Parsnip or of Parsley may be substituted for it, all these plants being closely related, and differing but slightly in the structure of their flowers.



Fig. 18. Fig. 17.

Notice first the peculiar appearance of the flower cluster (Fig. 47). There are several pedicels, nearly of the same length, radiating from the end of the peduncle, and from the end of each pedicel radiate in like manner a number of smaller ones, each with a flower at its extremity. Such a cluster is known as an *umbel*. If, as in the

present case, there are groups of secondary pedicels, the umbel is *compound*. As the flowers are very small we shall be obliged to use the lens all through the examination. Even with its aid you will have a little difficulty in making out the calyx, the tube of which, in this flower, adheres to the surface of the ovary, as in Willow-herb, and is reduced above to a mere rim or border of five minute teeth. The petals are five in number, and free from each other. Observe that each of them is *incurved* at its extremity

Fig. 17. — Compound umbel of Water-Parsnip.

Fig. 18. Single flower of same. Fig. 19. — Vertical section of the ovary.