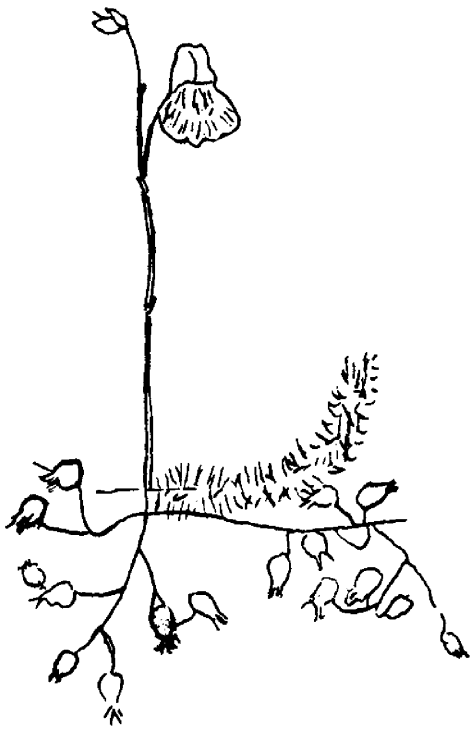

FIG. 1876.

of the species all of the branches are supplied with leaves, the bladders being distributed among them ; other species have the foliage and bladders on separate branches.

The bladders are constructed in such a manner that each is a trap specially designed to catch very small animals. Their form and general appearance is shown in Fig. 1877, considerably magnified. The opening into the bladder is at the base of the stiff tapering bristles, which are so placed around it as effectually to prevent any other than animals small enough to enter the orifice from even approaching. The entrance is formed with four rounded angles, nearly square in outline. The under side or threshold is strongly thickened, from which a solid cushion projects inward. To the upper side or lintel, is fastened a thin transparent valve which closes upon the cushion, completely shutting the aperture. The valve is so elastic that it can be easily pushed up by the tiniest animal on the outside and so get within ; as soon as it has entered, the valve instantly springs back to its normal position, and the venturesome prisoner is a captive for life. Over the entrance might most truly be written,

"Who enters here leaves hope behind."

See Fig. 1878 showing in outline the cushion and valve magnified. Sooner or later the captives die and decay. Lining the interior surface of this prison house are cells specially

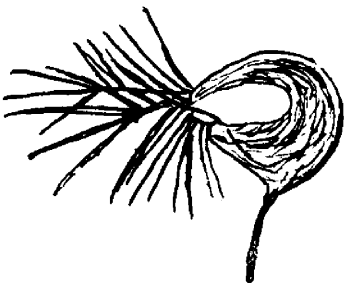

FIG. 1877.

designed to absorb the products of this decay, which thus become a source of nitrogen to the plant. We learn from Kerner that the number of animals thus captured is comparatively large, that most of them are small crustaceans, supplemented by larvæ of gnats and other small insects. That they must need be small, is evident from the fact that the bladders themselves do not exceed 5 millimeters in diameter, about one-fifth down to one-twelfth of an inch. What is it

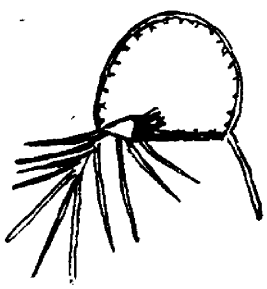

Fig. 1878.