



## OUR CANADIAN WILD- FLOWERS

EVERYBODY knows the lily pads, photographed above. There are more of these delightful, floating poems of peace in Canada than in any other country in the world. The white and gold water lily may be regarded as essentially, though not of course, exclusively, a Canadian flower.

ALMOST everybody recognizes as a familiar Canadian blossom of the wild wood, the wood anemone shown at the right of the pond lilies. These brilliant little prodigalities bloom in great profusion, but are not likely to be seen by people who hesitate to go far from the beaten tracks of other people.

FOR photographs and descriptions of the two remaining flowers on this page we are indebted to Mr. A. B. Klugh, who contributed a series of similar photos and sketches last year.

### THE FRINGED POLYGALA.

AQUAINT and dainty little flower which is now in bloom in our woods and in the wooded margins of the peat-bogs, he says, is a species which is frequently mistaken for an Orchid. I have several times been asked by some of my non-botanical friends what kind of Orchid it is, and I have known beginners in botanical field-work to try to "look it up" in the key to the family Orchidaceae. "Bird-flower" has always struck me as a name which would be very appropriate for it; as a group of them certainly look not at all unlike tiny pink birds with out-spread wings, though perhaps nowadays "aeroplane-flower" would be considered even more fitting. The two sepals which form the wings and the petals are rose-pink, and the fringe on the lower petal is white.

### THE INDIAN PIPE.

A FLOWER which differs very materially from the majority of flowers is the Indian Pipe, so much so that it is often taken for some kind of a fungus. Yet it is a true Seed-plant and a member of the Heath Family, to which the Blueberries, Cranberries, Heathers, Laurels and Wintergreen belong.

The whole plant is pure white and firm and waxy in texture and the leaves are reduced to little white scales. The secret of this lack of green colour which is so prominent a character of most Seed-plants is found in the way in which this plant obtains its food. In the case of green plants the chlorophyll under the action of light converts the water of the soil and the carbon dioxide of the air into starch. But the Indian Pipe does not manufacture its food from the raw materials in this manner; it derives its nourishment from the dead remains of other plants in the soil, thus feeding in a way similar to a good many fungi. This species is found only in deep woods where the soil is rich in organic remains. The Indian Pipe is sometimes known as Ghost Flower, a name not at all inappropriate.

