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## AN ATTEMPT AT AN IMPROVED CLASSIFICATION OF FRUITS.

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IN the course of my botanical labours, both as a teacher and a student of scientific characters, I have strongly felt the importance of great accuracy in the definition of the different kinds of fruits,—in reference not to mere external marks, but to their real nature and structural constitution. My acquaintance with a very great number of botanical treatises, has not yet introduced me to any arrangement entirely satisfactory to my mind; I have, therefore, made an attempt to supply the deficiency, which I lay before the Institute as a slight contribution to practical science, which can be best appreciated by those most immediately engaged in this class of studies.

I premise that the gynœcium, the germ-producing part of the flower—like the andrœceum, the corolla, and the calyx—consists of one or more circles of similar organs, each of which is in its essential nature a leaf modified in its development, as is abundantly proved by analogical reasoning and by monstrosities. In the case of the gynœcium, each distinct organ is called a carpel (carpellum); its tip being the stigma; its elongated extremity, when present, the style; and the germs being produced in some definite relation to it, most usually