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NOTES ON SOME OTTAWA VIOLETS.

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While "Manual" writers, the compilers of local lists and American botanists in general were satisfied to lump into one species—one variety in fact—the several forms of what for so many years had been known as *Viola cucullata*, or *V. palmata*, var. *cucullata*, Canadian botanists have for more than a quarter of century known that this "species" or "variety" included many species and made repeated attempts to induce the recognized "authorities" to at least differentiate a number of varieties. In this they were uniformly unsuccessful. Dr. T. J. W. Burgess made at London, Ont., a special study of the violets of the *cucullata* and *sagittata* groups, Dr. Jas. Fletcher at the same time studied the violets of this vicinity, and Prof. John Macoun thirty years ago noted on his herbarium sheets the characters upon which several of the new Canadian species are founded. Other Canadian botanists have done work on similar lines.

The trouble in Canada was, and is, that none of our libraries, public or private, contained all the necessary books, monographs and revisions. When Canadian botanists discovered what they thought to be a new species they had but one course to follow. The specimens must be sent to some botanist in the United States or Europe and his decision was final. New discoveries were almost without exception given the names of well-known species. There is but little doubt that in one or other of the herbaria of the older Canadian botanists most of the species recently described by Dr. Greene have been separated from *V. cucullata*.