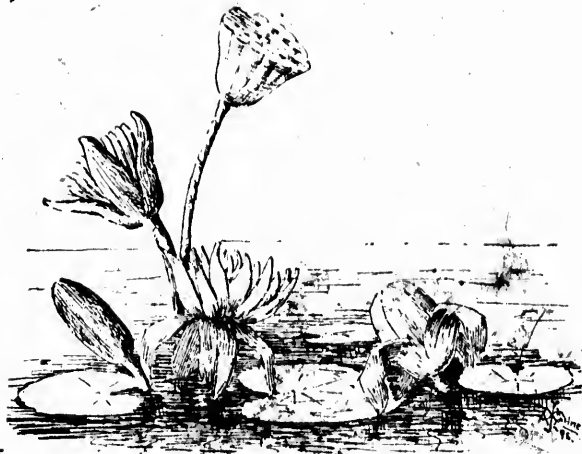
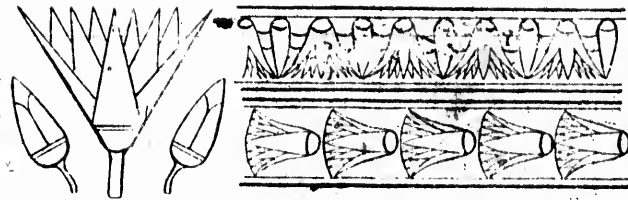




This is a sketch of the Egyptian Lotus. There were two varieties, differing only in color. One was blue and the other white. The leaves were nearly circular and floated on the surface of the water. The flowers and buds extended above the surface of the water from six inches to about a foot. The calyx consisted of four dark-green sepals, entirely enclosing the bud and as the flower opened the calyx expanded as in the flower to the left. When the flower began to fade the sepals curved downward and after a short time fell off. The petals never expanded more than shown in the picture, and after a time shrink up and fell off, leaving a seed case. The tall object like the spout of a watering-can is the seed case of the rose water lily or Indian Lotus. This kind was rare in Egypt and was not used in ornament.

The ornament of the Egyptians was symbolic, that is, the forms they used had a meaning beyond their mere beauty. The Lotus was emblematic of the sun and hence the symbol of life, resurrection and immortality. The crops in Egypt depend upon



the overflow of the Nile and as the Lotus appeared above the water shortly after the overflow, the people observed that a luxuriant growth of lilies was always followed by good crops. Then the Lotus was a symbol of plenty, of life. It is characteristic of Egyptian ornament and is found carved on temples and various vessels, also on tombs and mummy cases. When the bud and flower were used on temples and objects associated with activity and life, they were drawn in the natural position, but on tombs and mummy cases in the horizontal position or open part down. Examples of Lotus borders are shown.

As an exercise the teacher may draw the Lotus flower and bud as the Egyptians used it in ornament and the pupils may arrange them in borders.

The Lotus in various forms was used in the ornament of Chaldea and Assyria. It was from the Lotus that the Greeks got the suggestion of the Palmette or Anthemion. These nations copied it from the Egyptians but to them it had no significance beyond its beauty of form.