

CARD-EXERCISE XLIII.

Crane's-Bill Flower, Leaf, and Bud from Nature.

At *a* we have the plan of the flower; at *b* the elevation; at *d* the leaf; at *c* the bud, whose shape gives the name, — crane's bill. The flower is pentagonal, also the leaf. Take notice of the symmetrical arrangement of petals and stamens about the centre of the flower at *a*. Compare the leaf at *d* with the leaf at *d* in the last card-exercise. This is deeply lobed and simple, while the other is compound. This is symmetrically balanced on its central rib; that is, on its rachis.

For at least a part of each year, botany should be taught in every primary school; and to a certain extent it should be taught in connection with drawing and designing. The reproduction with the pencil of the forms of leaves, buds, flowers, sprigs, vines, ferns, etc., would not only be good practice in drawing, even if the forms were only conventionalized, all the little details being omitted, but would quicken the perceptive powers much more than the mere act of observing the forms as a student of science, and thus would firmly fix the botanical knowledge in the mind. And, then, the study of the manner in which Nature, the great architect and decorator, uses her material, distributes and strengthens her lines, covers and beautifies surfaces, would reveal the laws that