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CHAPTER IX.

FORMS OF LEAVES AND FLOWERS.

STUDY OF BOTANY.

It has already been said, that Nature often builds upon marked geometrical forms. In details she is irregular, but usually the reverse in general outlines. That this is true of leaves and flowers, will be seen from the exercises which immediately follow. Among leaves, some have the general form of the ellipse, others of the oval, others of the triangle, while others are modelled upon the pentagon. Among flowers, there is a less variety of forms, since their petals are usually arranged symmetrically around a centre.

Request each pupil to bring to school the leaf of any designated tree, shrub, flower; as the maple, rose, lily. Each pupil having in his hand the same variety of leaf, proceed to give a lesson on its form and structure, teaching at the same time both botany and the principles of practical design. For a second lesson, take the same leaf, but add another, and teach the pupils to compare the two. Thus proceed from one leaf and flower to another, and at last require each pupil to bring to school the largest possible number of different leaves, and again of flowers. This work should, of course, be done at the most favorable season of the year.

Acquaint the pupils with the proper botanical