

brilliant should exist always unseen in the very structure of the living plant, ready to be developed at any time by proper selective or accidental circumstances. Some of the colors may be produced by the oxidation of the green chlorophyll in person; others are actually present in the green leaf itself, though completely masked during the period of vigor by the preponderance of the natural pigment, which owes its color to a due mixture of them all. When it is considered, however, that colors like these lie ready and waiting in the tissues of every plant, showing themselves wherever the chlorophyll is not present in its most active form, alike in the young leaves or sprouting shoots of spring, and in the dying foliage of autumn, it is, I suppose, somewhat easier to understand how the beautiful and brilliant petals of flowers have been developed by the selective action of insects. The red and orange and blue pigments were potentially there already; the insect's part was only to seize upon and favor them whenever special circumstances happened to bring them out.