

strawberry grower. The Wilson, for example, will produce fruit in abundance wholly isolated from any other variety, but the Crescent, similarly situated, will bear comparatively light crops. The reason of this is evident upon the examination of the flowers of the plants themselves, for we find the Wilson to be a perfect flower, having both stamens and pistils, as is shown in fig. 27, in which the central portion is a group of pistils, or organs of the flower in which the seed is produced. Around these may be seen a fringe of stamens, or



FIG. 27.



FIG. 28.

organs which bear upon their tips little pods called anthers, full of a fine yellow dust called pollen. Now unless the pistils receive a portion of this pollen the seed never will mature, and if the seed fails to mature, the strawberry, which is but the receptacle which holds the flower and later the seeds, will never develop. The Wilson, having a supply of its own, as represented, never fails in this respect, and is therefore called *perfect* or *hermaphrodite*. The Cres-

cent blossom, shown in fig. 28, has pistils, but is almost entirely lacking in stamens. It must, therefore, depend upon the pollen of some perfect variety growing near, as the Wilson, and is called *pistillate*. In addition to these two classes there is a third, or *staminate* class, in which the flowers have stamens, while the pistils are few and imperfect. These latter class, it is evident, can not bear fruit under any circumstances, whether near to or far from pistillate plants. This latter class does not exist among cultivated varieties, and hence Mr. Knapp's statement that strawberries may be divided into two classes, hermaphrodite and pistillate.

From the above it is evident that to attain the best results with pistillate varieties, hermaphrodites should be planted in proximity. Growers differ as to just what distance is necessary to attain the best results; some advising a row of pistillate every third or fourth row, while others think one in seven quite sufficient.

As to the kinds which succeed best in company, much success has been attained with Crescents (P), fertilized with Captain Jack (H), for quantity, or with Sharpless (H) for size; also with Manchester (P), fertilized with Sharpless (H).