

In a number of these plants the seed-capsules split at the top and form a toothed edge. The night-flowering catchfly and other members of the allied genera, *Silene* and *Lychnis*, are examples of this class. The teeth, although in appearance looking as if they were merely the result of the top splitting open to let out the seeds, in reality also answer quite another purpose, namely, to scatter the seeds as they are shaken out, so that they may not fall too closely together. A rather more complicated example to gain the same end is shown in the seed pod or capsule of the common garden poppy. Here there is a cap to prevent the seeds from being shaken out too fast, and small holes round the sides just below the cap. In fact, it is a natural sifter from which the seeds are shaken out a few at a time, usually by the wind. Indeed the only method whereby the seeds can get out is by the plant being shaken or broken down, and this latter alternative would be only accidental and therefore does not need to be taken into consideration here.

There are a great many other modifications of this group which will suggest themselves to the observant student. A large number of seeds are, however, scattered by the wind that are only partly modified for the purpose, and with some plants it is difficult to tell whether they are in any way adapted for that special purpose.

#### IV. SEEDS THAT ARE SPREAD BY CLINGING AND STICKING.

Seeds of this group depend principally upon mammals for their distribution. They contain among their best known forms those seeds which are commonly called 'burs,' though several grasses are also included in the group.

'Burs' are known to most people, especially to owners of thick haired dogs. Yet how few consider why they cling to almost any thing that comes in contact with them!

To a Nature student the reason is at once apparent. They have become adapted to clinging so that they may be carried to new localities and so become spread by degrees over wide areas.

Examples of this class of seeds or seed pods will be found everywhere. The different blue-burs, cockle-burs, bur marigolds and wild liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza*) are common examples, but there are many more, some consisting of a single seed, while in others the whole pod with several seeds is carried.

A different method of distribution is found in seeds which