

CHAPTER VIII.

EXAMINATION OF COMMON PLANTS WITH KIPETALOUS STAMENS—DANDELION—WILD BERGAMOT.

53. **Dandelion.** The examination of this flower will be somewhat more difficult than that of any we have yet undertaken.

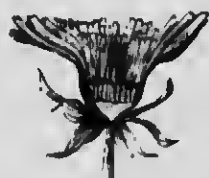


Fig. 50.

Provide yourselves with specimens in flower and in seed.

The root of the plant, like that of French Weed, is a tap-root.

The stem is almost suppressed, and, as in the case of the Anemone, the leaves are all radical. They are also net-veined.

The flowers are raised on scapes, which are hollow. At first sight the flower appears to have a calyx of many sepals, and a corolla of many petals. Both of these appearances, however, are contrary to facts. With a sharp knife cut the flower through the middle from top to bottom (Fig. 50). It will then appear that the flower, or rather *flower-head*, is made up of a large number of distinct pieces. With the point of your needle detach one of these pieces. At the lower end of it you have a small body resembling an unripe seed (Fig. 51). It is, in fact, an ovary. Just above this there is a short bit of stalk, sur-
mounted by a circle of silky hairs, and above this a yellow tube with one side greatly prolonged. This yellow tube is a corolla, and a close examination of the extremity of



Fig. 51.

Fig. 50. Vertical section of Dandelion flower.

Fig. 51.—Single floret.