

the margin of the ripe pistil. Find a ridge which divides the pistil lengthwise on each side. Carefully cut or pull away the lobes, and this ridge will remain, presenting now the appearance of a narrow loop, with a very thin membranous partition stretched across it. Around the edge, on both sides of the partition, seeds are suspended from slender stalks (Fig. 29). There are, then, *two carpels united together*, and the pistil is, therefore, *syncarpous*.

31. French Weed is a type of a large and important Order, the *Crucifera*, or Cress Family. Other common examples, which should be studied and compared with it, are Shepherd's Purse, the garden Stock (*single* flowers are best for examination), Water-Cress, Wild Mustard of the wheat-fields, Radish, Sweet Alyssum of the gardens, etc. All these plants, while differing in unimportant particulars, such as the colour and the size of the petals and the shape of the pod, agree in presenting the following characters :

1. *The sepals and petals are each four in number.*
2. *The stamens are tetradynamous (and hypogynous).*
3. *The fruit is syncarpous, and is 2-celled by reason of a thin partition stretched between the carpels.*
4. *It may be added that the plants are generally pungent to the taste, and the flowers are almost invariably in terminal clusters, like that of French Weed.*