

years associated with the forest, we shall speak more fully in dealing with Buckhurst Hill; and of Queen Elizabeth's fondness of frequenting its sylvan glades for the purposes of the chase, on reaching Chingford.

Fisher, in his "Companion to the History of England," states that "Henry VIII. went out with his hounds, and breakfasted under a great tree in Epping Forest the very day that his once-lov'd wife (Anne Boleyn) was to perish in the Tower."

still a text-book for botanists. Indeed, nearly every part of the forest is profuse in mosses, wild flowers, grasses, and fresh-water algae.

In the less frequented parts, and especially in the damp and boggy places, many interesting, and, indeed, uncommon plants occur. Let us hope that the wholesale drainage will not be continued so as to utterly destroy the plants peculiar to naturally damp situations. One of the smallest and most lovely of these Epping Forest plants is the blue Ivy-leaved Bell-flower (*Campanula hederacea*) seen

at the bottom of our illustration; another, the rose-coloured Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*) seen on the right, and below it the Round-leaved Sun-dew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), an insectivorous plant studied and described by Charles Darwin. Another bog



FLOWERS FROM EPPING FOREST.

But the site of this tree is not known, and the story may not be true.

Of the geology of this district there is little at present to be said; and for the best of all reasons: because the Essex Field Club has only just taken the subject seriously in hand. It may be said, however, generally, that the surface of the district is mainly composed of London clay, which overlies the primitive stratum of chalk, and which here and there is capped with patches of gravel and Bagshot sand.

Epping Forest is intersected by railways, with stations at short intervals, so as to furnish points of approach in all directions. It has all the charms of hill and dale, open plain and pleasant avenue, with deep umbrageous recesses here and there, comprising altogether every variety of forest scenery, fringed with far-spreading landscapes, reaching into half-a-dozen counties. As a rule, the oaks and other trees are of somewhat stunted growth, but there are, of course, exceptions. Of the famous Fairlop Oak we shall speak in dealing with Hainault Forest. The neighbourhood of Woodford is particularly rich in its flora, and the "Plantæ Woodfordiensis" of Richard Warner is

plant is illustrated on the top right of our illustration in the lovely drooping Marsh Thistle (*Carduus palustris*). A decidedly uncommon orchid is common not far from High Beech, viz.: the Smaller Butterfly Orchis (*Habenaria bifolia*), illustrated at the top left; many other orchids may be found, notably the Helleborine and Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis latifolia* and *E. palustris*. The Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), also grows in wet places, a most beautiful, interesting, and curious plant. The Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) may also be found in many damp spots, together with its near ally the Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*). The Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)—probably the true Shamrock—is very frequent; so are many diverse species of St. John's Wort