

flowers, the nectary aborts; all the petals become alike both in shape and colour; the stamens are generally reduced in number and become straight, so that the whole flower resembles that of the allied genus *Erodium*. The correlation between these changes is well shown when one of the two upper petals alone loses its dark mark, for in this case the nectary does not entirely abort, but is usually much reduced in length.¹⁵

Morren has described¹⁶ a marvellous flask-shaped flower of the *Calceolaria*, nearly four inches in length, which was almost completely peloric; it grew on the summit of the plant, with a normal flower on each side; Prof. Westwood also has described¹⁷ three similar peloric flowers, which all occupied a central position on the flower-branches. In the Orchideous genus, *Phalænopsis*, the terminal flower has been seen to become peloric.

In a Laburnum-tree I observed that about a fourth part of the racemes produced terminal flowers which had lost their papilionaceous structure. These were produced after almost all the other flowers on the same racemes had withered. The most perfectly pelorised examples had six petals, each marked with black striæ like those on the standard-petal. The keel seemed to resist the change more than the other petals. Dutrochet has described¹⁸ an exactly similar case in France, and I believe these are the only two instances of pelorism in the laburnum which have been recorded. Dutrochet remarks that the racemes on this tree do not properly produce a terminal flower, so that (as in the case of the *Galeobdolon*) their position as well as structure are both anomalies, which no doubt are in some manner related. Dr. Masters has briefly described another leguminous plant,¹⁹ namely, a species of clover, in which the uppermost and central flowers were regular or had lost their papilionaceous structure. In some of these plants the flower-heads were also proliferous.

Lastly, *Linaria* produces two kinds of peloric flowers, one having simple petals, and the other having them all spurred. The two forms, as Naudin remarks,²⁰ not rarely occur on the same plant, but in this case the spurred form almost invariably stands on the summit of the spike.

The tendency in the terminal or central flower to become peloric more frequently than the other flowers, probably results from "the bud which stands on the end of a shoot receiving the most sap; it grows out into a stronger shoot than those situated lower

¹⁵ It would be worth trial to fertilise with the same pollen the central and lateral flowers of the pelargonium, or of other highly cultivated plants, protecting them of course from insects: then to sow the seed separately, and observe whether the one or the other lot of seedlings varied the most.

¹⁶ Quoted in 'Journal of Horti-

culture,' Feb. 24, 1863, p. 152.

¹⁷ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1866, p. 612. For the *Phalænopsis*, see *ibid.*, 1867, p. 211.

¹⁸ *Mémoires . . . des Végétaux*, 1837, tom. ii. p. 170.

¹⁹ 'Journal of Horticulture,' July 23, 1861, p. 311.

²⁰ 'Nouvelles Archives du Muséum,' tom. i. p. 137.