

types, each doing the work of four men in type setting; composing six lines per minute. Not only does the linotype set the letters, but it welds them together with molten metal, spaces them and finally makes a plate. Once a sheet of type is set a "proof" is printed. Back it goes to the proof readers for correction, and is returned at last to the press. For a morning paper the presses start operating about 10.30 p.m., and whirr away into the small hours.

Below the engine-room, which is kept as spotless as a drawing-room, are the paper stores, where enormous rolls of white and pink paper are stocked. Passing by these, we come out at last on Bazaar Terrace. The night is quiet; the search-light rakes the clouds; nothing but the busy motor-trucks would warn us that the building we have left was other than a great dark house.

To me, the most remarkable room is not the long gallery of linotypes, but the reporters' room. News of the whole world flows in daily. We in Perth are a thousand miles from the Eastern States, and goodness knows how far (your geography should be better than mine) from the Old and the New World. Yet all the doings of all the kingdoms, great and small, come tumbling into the reporters' room. Much of it bears the signature "Reuter," the London agent who deals in news, just as the greengrocer deals in cabbages. As a service to humanity, there are few things that can compare in organization with these newsagencies. You should read "Street of Adventure," by Phillip Gibbs, for a good study of their work.

To the late Lord Northcliffe, the greatest newspaper magnate of England, modern journalism owes a great debt. He, unquestionably, had his faults, but one forgets them when one considers his services. He found journalism cold and dull; he left it alive. The servants of his many papers speak every known language, and visit every known place. They are picked men who fear nothing, seek always, and are loyal. From frozen Greenland to the smoking equator their legion extends, and their efforts keep the wires ringing from Timbuctoo to Perth. And so, in that noisy reporters' room, we may feel ourselves in contact with lonely and invisible figures who tramp and climb and struggle for the ideal of keeping humanity informed.

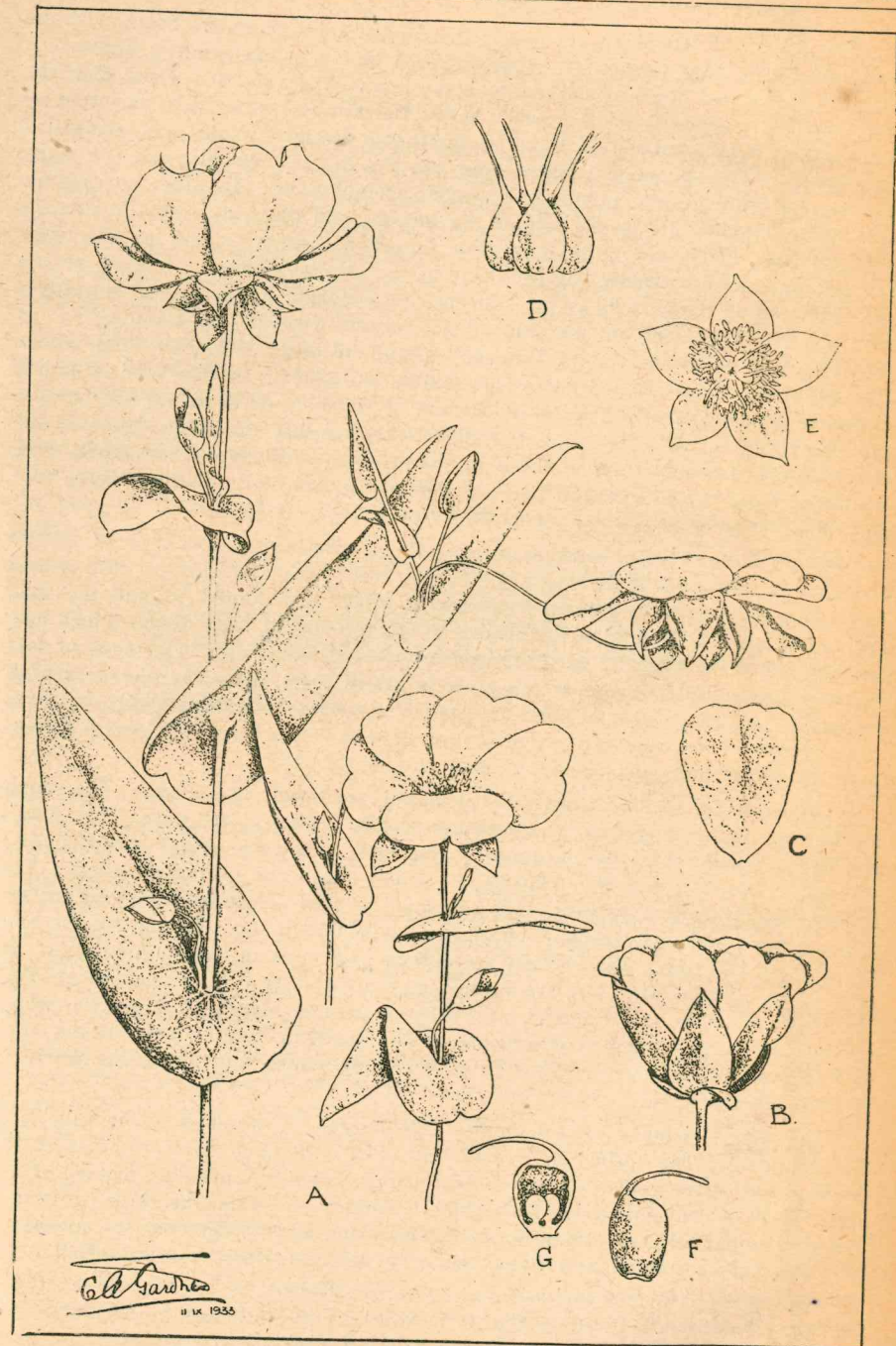
So when you remove the paper from your lunch, or push it away from the table, remember that it is a product of a most highly organized department of modern existence. Remember, too, that citizens of other countries very often have not the advantages that we have. Indeed in our own country not so long ago a newspaper was quite a treat, and had double uses. When table linen was rarer and dearer, an old farmer once came in from work, and seeing the table bare, bellowed, "Who tore up the table-cloth before I read it?"

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS.

### No. XXXIV.: The Perfoliate Hibbertia.

(*Hibbertia perfoliata*, Endl.)

The genus *Hibbertia* is a natural one, easily recognized by any one who observes flowers in the field. The five-petaled primrose-yellow or orange flowers are familiar to most of us, and the commonest species of all—*H. hypericoides*—which flowers almost throughout the year is sometimes known as the "Bush primrose." The resemblance to a primrose, however, is not very apparent, except in the colour of the flowers.



The Perfoliate Hibbertia.

(*Hibbertia perfoliata*, Endl.)

A, Habit of plant, showing perfoliate leaves, flowers and flower-buds. B, Opening flower, showing the sepals and the small bract at the base of the calyx. C, Petal. D, Carpels. E, View of flower from above, with the petals removed. F, Carpel. G, Carpel in section, showing the two ovules.  
KelmScott, W.A.

Icon. origin.

The species of *Hibbertia* are widely distributed throughout the State, with the exception of the drier parts of the interior, such as the mulga country, where it is unknown. The real home of the plants is the South-West, and the wheat districts, where many interesting forms occur. While the flowers show little variation as regards their petals and sepals, there is remarkable diversity in the arrangement of the stamens. The species illustrated here has five distinct carpels, and the many stamens are more or less regularly arranged around them. In other species the stamens are situated all on one side of the carpels, and there are infertile stamens—staminodia—which are reduced to thin thread-like stamen-stalks or filaments. These staminodia are situated on each side of the normal stamens, or again are on the same side of the carpels as the stamens, but external to them; and sometimes the stamens are present on one side of the carpels without any staminodia. In another group of *Hibbertia* the stamens, instead of being free, have their stalks (filaments) united into one stalk to the middle or higher. In this type of flower there are usually five such bundles or clusters of stamens; or there are five bundles and two free stamens. Although the stamens are usually numerous, there is one species which has only three stamens. It occurs near Albany. The carpels vary in number from two to five, and these carpels, which are really distinct fruits, contain from one to several ovules, according to the different species.

In leaf form there is considerable variation. The commonest type of leaf to be found in *Hibbertia* is the small narrow leaf with recurved margins—the ericoid form—but the leaves vary from large leaves which are joined around the stem (perfoliate), as in the species illustrated, to other forms of large leaves which may be petiolate or stalkless, of hard texture or soft and hairy, etc. This type of leaf is found among those species which grow in shady spots, or in the higher rainfall areas, such as the jarrah and karri forests. The species inhabiting sandy soil have small narrow leaves which are either obtuse, or with a spiny point. Several species have the flower-buds protected by hard shining bracts.

The characteristics of the *Hibbertia* flower are briefly as follows: The sepals are five in number and free, or sometimes shortly united at the base. The petals are five, and imbricate (overlapping) in the bud. They are yellow except in two species (*H. Mylnei* and *H. stellaris*), in which they are orange-coloured. The stamens are typically numerous, with a number reduced to filaments without anthers (staminodia), and are variously arranged as described above. In one species they are reduced to three. The anthers are oblong, and open in longitudinal slits. In place of the usual ovary there are a number of carpels—two to five—which are free from each other, or rarely shortly united by their inner margins. The styles which are terminal usually spread divergently. The fruitlets usually open at the apex by a narrow slit. Each carpel has from two to six ovules, and sometimes nearly as many seeds are ripened.

The genus belongs to the family *Dillemiaceae*, of which it is the only local representative. The species figured in this issue is a plant fairly common in the shady places of the jarrah forest of the Darling Range. A peculiar feature of the plant is the attachment of the leaf which surrounds the stem, the stalk projecting through the leaf. It is common between Mundaring and Bridgetown, the specimens from which the accompanying sketch was made being obtained from near Kelmescott.

The name *Hibbertia* commemorates George Hibbert, a London merchant and patron of botany who lived in the early years of the nineteenth century. The specific name *perfoliata* refers to the perfoliate leaves of this species.

There are fifty-three species of *Hibbertia* represented in Western Australia. Those which have their stamens in bundles were formerly placed in another genus—*Candollea*—and one leafless species with few stamens was placed in the genus *Pachynema*. All are now included under *Hibbertia*.