

the lining of an anther, and is supposed to have some connection with the opening of that organ. In its naked state, uncombined with membrane, it is supposed to be very rare. On the surface of some seeds, as *Collomia linearis*, it has been observed in this condition in great abundance, in the form of spiral threads of a highly elastic nature.

Vegetable Fibre should not be confounded with the woody fibre of plants, which consists of tough straight tubes either single or adhering in bundles. It is this which forms the thread of hemp, flax, and the like. [TISSUES, VEGETABLE.]

FIBRE, VEGETABLE, one of the most elementary forms of vegetable tissue. It consists of excessively delicate threads, twisted spirally in the interior of a cell or tube. It is uncertain whether the fibre is solid or hollow, its tenuity being such as to baffle all microscopical observers who have yet examined it. It is this elementary fibre which, being turned spirally round a long delicate tube with its spires in contact, forms the elastic spiral vessel. It occurs in the interior of common cells, when its turns cross each other and produce a netted appearance. It is frequent in the cellular tissue which forms