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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Mons.^r Richard, a most able physiological botanist, has thrown much light upon the Seed: vessels & seeds of plants, in his Analyse du Fruit, translated into english by M. John Lindley in 1819. We have only to regret that the subject is encumbered with too many new, generally needless, terms, of which the editor seems to have been aware.

The chief novelties in this publication, besides various particular corrections, & a luminous precision of observation throughout, consist, ^{first,} in the author's peculiar idea of ~~what~~ ~~constitutes~~ a Pericarpium taken as a whole. Whatever substances occur between the cuticle & the internal skin, or parietal membrane, the latter immediately surrounding the seed, M. Richard considers as one body or organ, under the name of Sarcocarp, ^{meaning} the Flesh of a fruit. Thus the flesh of a Peach or Plum is identified with the shell of ~~its~~ its nut or stone, & that of an Apple with its core. This may be called a difference of words only, but it seems incorrect in fact. There is from the first a distinct line drawn between the shell of a stone fruit, & its surrounding pulp, nor does it appear to me that any thing is gained by confounding them. The next novelty which M. Richard proposes, is no less than a new primary principle of ~~stages~~ natural classification, founded indeed, like the old one, on the ~~ground~~ of germination of plants, but not

but not on the same part of the Embryo. It
will be more easily explained when we come
to consider the structure of a Seed, in a
subsequent part of this chapter.