

remain dark green. The flowers, each developed from a separate bud, are clustered at the end of the shoot. The corolla is flattened, bright red-purple and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across. There is a variety *sempervirens* with persistent, smaller leaves and smaller flowers but it has little value as an ornamental plant. The variety *mucronulatum* is a better garden plant than the type and its flowers are more pleasing in color, being a cheerful rosy purple and devoid of any suspicion of magenta. The corolla is more bell-shaped with pointed lobes and the plant is exceedingly floriferous. It is entirely deciduous, blossoming a little later than the species, and in consequence suffers less from late frosts in spring. In its typical form the variety looks quite distinct from the species but every connecting link exists. This plant is very common in Korea, where in open forests of Larch it is an erect twiggy bush often 10 feet tall. It is also found in the Chinese province of Chihli and in general may be regarded as a southeastern form of the species. It was discovered on the mountains west of Peking about 1835 by Dr. P. Y. Kirilow, but was not introduced into cultivation in this country until 1882, when Dr. E. Bretschneider sent seeds to the Arboretum. It flowered for the first time in the spring of 1888 and each season since has never failed to produce abundant blossom in the spring and a mass of pleasingly tinted foliage in the autumn. Along with it on Bussey Hill may be seen a newly recognized variety, (*ciliatum*) which, however, is indistinguishable except for the presence of a few hairs on the margins of the leaves and petioles. There is said to be a white variety (*album*), but we have not seen it in cultivation. In Europe, the British Isles in particular, a favorite and very early-flowering Rhododendron is *R. praecox*, a hybrid between *R. dauricum* and the Himalayan *R. ciliatum*. This has persistent foliage and broad, funnel-form, rose-purple to lilac-colored flowers, each about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. Unfortunately, in the Arboretum this plant merely exists and each year the foliage and flowers are ruined by frosts, indeed, so far as New England is concerned *R. praecox* is worthless as a hardy shrub, but those who have greenhouses will be well advised to grow this plant in tubs since it is really one of the most delightful of early-flowering Rhododendrons.

*Cornus officinalis* has not before blossomed so abundantly in the Arboretum. The bushes on the right of Meadow Road just beyond the Phellodendron trees are now a most pleasing sight with their clustered, star-shaped, clear yellow blossoms with prominent stamens. This is the Oriental relative of the familiar Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) and is native of central and southern Korea; also it is said to grow wild in the Chinese province of Chekiang. In Japan it has long been cultivated for its fruits, considered by the peoples of the Orient to possess valuable medicinal properties. In Korea *C. officinalis* as a wild tree grows about 35 feet tall with a trunk 4 feet in girth and an erect-spreading, rather irregular crown. The fruits are bright red, thinner and more oblong than those of the better known *Cornus mas*. In New England this Cornel ought to be generally grown. At present it is little known and quite rare in gardens, although named and figured in 1839 by Siebold and Zuccarini in their "Flora Japonica," vol.



I, page 100, t. 50. The barks of trees often afford good and obvious distinguishing characters when those of flower and foliage are lacking or obscure. *C. officinalis* is a very good case in point. In flower and leaf this and the Cornelian Cherry (*C. mas*) are well-nigh indistinguishable—at any rate, they are so much alike that only a skilled observer notes the difference. The bracts enclosing the flowers are less concave and more sharply pointed, the pedicels are longer, the sepals a little larger and more acute, the petals narrower and more pointed and less recurved in *C. officinalis*; but these differences are all relative and inconstant. When grown side by side the flowers of *C. officinalis* are seen to be of a brighter yellow and the inflorescence rather more lax. The barks, however, are totally different. That of *C. mas* is close in texture, dark grey, blackish in appearance, and is firmly adherent on the branches for many years, becoming rough and flaking off in small patches and showing a grey undersurface on the trunk and old branches. In *C. officinalis* the bark is red-brown, splitting and peeling the second or third year into translucent papery shreds which cling to the branches and with the light showing through, present a pleasing appearance; on the trunk it is grey, soft and spongy in texture, and, peeling off, exposes a pale brown undersurface.

**Cornus mas.** Before the advent of the Oriental Witch-Hazels this was greatly appreciated in gardens as the first of spring-flowering shrubs to open its blossoms. In New England it has been very generally planted and in the early spring, when its naked twigs are starred with yellow and in the autumn, when laden with its scarlet fruits, the tree is pleasant to look upon. In southeastern Europe the inspissated juice of this fruit is made into sherbet.

**The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University** is situated in Jamaica Plain, Boston, some five miles from the State House on the main parkway and near the Forest Hills terminus of the Elevated Railway. It is easily reached by automobile or by trolley car and is open from sunrise to sunset every day in the year. It was established in 1872 for the cultivation and study of all the woody plants that can withstand the climate of Massachusetts. Its present area is about 260 acres and the collections comprise some 6,500 species and varieties of tree, shrub and vine. There are nine entrance gates, of which Forest Hills Gate may be considered the principal one. The Administration Building containing offices, library and herbarium is situated just within the Jamaica Plain Gate. At this building an illustrated guide book, price 50 cents, and picture postcards, price 50 cents per set of twelve, are on sale; a sketch map of the Arboretum may be obtained free.

E. H. W.

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