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The Arboretum is perhaps as beautiful at the present moment as at any time of the year. Nearly all the trees are just pushing into growth and among the young unfolding leaves every shade of green is present and in contrast there are the grays, pinks, and ruddy browns of the Oaks' expanding buds. The tracery of the branches is not yet hidden and the crowns of all the deciduous trees look light and airy. There is also a good deal of blossom to be seen no matter where one may walk. The collections of the Arboretum represent in epitome the woody flora of northern lands and the beauty of the arborescent wealth of the boreal regions of Europe, Asia, and North America invites the visitor. Not least at the moment is the Flowering Dogwood, one of the most delightful of the smaller trees of North America. Rarely is it that Massachusetts enjoys for two seasons in succession the Flowering Dogwood in all its beauty. Thanks to the mild winters, the Dogwood was splendid last season and it promises to be equally good this year. People who live on Long Island and southward are accustomed to an annual display of white saucers on their Dogwood trees, but here the free blossoming is only occasional and when it happens it is an event worth noting. In the Arboretum this Dogwood has been freely planted alongside the drives and on the margins of woodlands, where at the moment it is conspicuous. A worthy companion is the Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), whose clustered rose-purple, pea-like blossoms stud the naked branches. For associating with the Flowering Dogwood in thicket and margin of woodland there is no better flowering tree. The color is not all that could be desired but from a distance and when neighbored by white it is very effective. Its specific name notwithstanding, the plant never knew Canada as a wild tree, for it is not indigenous north of the state of New Jersey.

Bussey Hill remains the center of attraction. Many of the double flowered Japanese Cherries are still at the height of beauty. Several Hawthorns are in blossom and Wilson's Pearl bush (*Exochorda Giraldui Wilsonii*) is a sheaf of the purest white; *Rhododendron Schlippenbachii* is still beautifully in flower. Some of the early

Cytisus and Barberries are expanding their blossoms, and the flower buds are swelling on scores of other shrubs. The most conspicuous plant at the moment is perhaps the Korean Azalea (*Rhododendron yedoense poukhanense*), bearing thousands of fully expanded rosy purple, exquisitely fragrant blooms. Many people object to the color but when massed together they are certainly a compelling sight and the odor is as sweet as that of any hardy flower. This Azalea is a very hardy shrub of excellent habit, low-growing, twiggy and well-suited for massing. It was introduced into cultivation by seeds collected in Korea in 1895 by Mr. J. G. Jack and has never known winter injury in the Arboretum. The largest plants are now about 5 feet high and much more in diameter and each year completely hide themselves in flowers. Beneath the old White Pines, whose picturesque appearance adds so much to the landscape, the Torch Azalea (*R. obtusum Kaempferi*) is opening a myriad dazzling flowers. This is really an astonishing plant; year after year it puts forth such a profusion of blossoms that one marvels that it does not die from sheer exhaustion, and musing on this Azalea one wonders how so much beauty can withstand the fierceness of the New England climate. Introduced into cultivation in 1892 by seeds collected in Japan by Professor C. S. Sargent, this plant ranks among flowering shrubs as one of the very best gifts that has come to the shores of Massachusetts Bay. For some years after its arrival fears as to its hardiness were freely expressed but these have long since vanished and the plant is one of the hardiest of all Azaleas. The flowers vary a good deal in shade of color, ranging from salmon to a brick red but they blend well one with another. For the best effect this plant should be thickly massed. In youth it is of spindly habit but it quickly improves and becomes an intricately branched flattened bush, usually from 4 to 5 feet tall and as broad. Under the shade of trees it grows taller and is in habit less compact but the flowers keep their color under those conditions better than when fully exposed to the sun. Good air and root drainage are essential and granted these the plant is perfectly happy in this part of Massachusetts and in similar regions where an acid soil prevails. Just beyond the thicket of Torch Azaleas the Pontic Azalea (*R. luteum*) is opening its yellow fragrant flowers. Less hardy than the species mentioned before, this plant has benefited from the last two mild winters and the several bushes are now a wealth of blossom. This Azalea is native of the mountains bordering the Black Sea and it also occurs in one or two isolated parts of central Europe. It has been much used by the hybridist for crossing with different American species and has given rise to the Ghent Azaleas, a race of beautiful multicolored plants, unfortunately, scarcely hardy and not long-lived in this part of Massachusetts. The above Azaleas may all be seen in blossom on the slopes of Bussey Hill, but mention must be made of two groups of *Rhododendron Vaseyi* on either side of Meadow Road. This, the most winsome of all Azaleas, is just opening its pure pink blossoms.

Berberis Dielsiana is one of the best of the Chinese Barberries and one of the earliest to blossom. It is a dense, much-branched bush,



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