

could be obtained by anchoring a glass or metal flower holder in the bottom of a vase with plaster of paris, providing it with small guy wires, or thin strips of metal. If a large quantity were desired they could probably be made in one piece by the pottery manufacturers.

EDGAR ANDERSON

**P**LANTS OF CURRENT INTEREST. THE Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) has burst quickly into flower during the last few days and is now a glorius sight. Unless the weather is unseasonably hot it should remain in fine condition until at least the end of June. Though no other single display can match it in interest, there is much to see in all parts of the Arboretum. Many Hawthorns are in flower on the north slope of Peters Hill. On the Lilac Path the Tree Lilacs are showing their great plumes of creamy flowers and the hybrid French Mock-Oranges are in full bloom. Along the Meadow Road the wild roses are bright pink every morning and several species of Dogwood are in blossom. In the Shrub Collection most of the rose species are in bloom. On the fence of the Bussey Institution along South Street may be seen a fine collection of Hybrid Climbing Roses.

The alternate-leaved Buddleia, *B. alternifolia* Maxim., is now in full flower on the Overlook and along the Centre Street Path. Earliest to flower of those species which are hardy here, it has a long season of bloom, covering the whole month of June and sometimes running well into July. Though it is often referred to as the hardiest of the Buddleias, it is a little too tender to do its best in New England gardens. Even in New York and Philadelphia it needs a dry slope, and careful attention to reach perfection. When well grown it is one of the loveliest of flowering shrubs; with us the bush is somewhat unsightly when not in flower and the flower buds are partly killed during cold winters.

Though discovered by a Russian expedition to China as early as 1875, it was not introduced into western gardens until much later. Farrer sent home seeds in 1914 and by 1922 these had produced fruiting bushes from which the Arboretum plants were raised. Farrer who saw the species in full flower in its native home, wrote of it as follows; "It prefers steep, dry banks and open warm places, where it grows like a fine-leaved and very graceful weeping willow, either as a bush or a



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