the branches at some distance from the ground grow more rapidly than those at the base of the trunk, and overshadow and gradually kill them. The oldest of these trees in cultivation were raised from seed collected by Dr. C. C. Parry in 1862 and are thus only fifty-three years old. One of these original trees is growing in the Arboretum on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where, although it is a pathetic object, it is kept to show the planters of this tree what they may expect of it long before it attains half its natural size. For many years there have been growing in the Arboretum what have been considered the finest specimens in cultivation of the second of the Colorado Spruces, *P. Engelmannii*; they formed narrow and compact pyramids with slender trunks furnished to the ground with short branches, and it was believed until recently that this tree which is so handsome on the high slopes of the Colorado mountains would prove to be the most desirable of all Spruce-trees for this climate. In the last two or three years, however, the lower branches of these trees have begun to die and, although the trees appear otherwise perfectly healthy and are still growing rapidly, their beauty as specimen trees is much injured.

Exotic Conifers. The conifers of western and northern Europe are generally hardy here but often short-lived. The Firs, Spruces and Pines of Japan are nearly all hardy in this climate, and although we have had a much shorter experience with the Chinese conifers than with those from Japan there is every hope that many of them will prove hardy in this climate and that some of them may be valuable ornamental trees.

The Cedar of Lebanon. The Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*) in the Arboretum shows the importance of careful selection of the seeds from which to raise trees for any particular climate. One of the Fir trees of Asia minor, *Abies cilicica*, has been growing for many years in New England where it has proved to be one of the best of all conifers of its class to cultivate here as an ornamental tree. With this Fir the Cedar of Lebanon grows in Asia Minor on the Anti-Taurus, far north of the Lebanon Range in Palestine and in a much colder climate. As the Palestine Cedar is not hardy here in New England the Arboretum had seeds of this tree collected on the Anti-Taurus with the view of attempting to introduce a hardy race of Cedars into New England. The seeds were sown here in the spring of 1902 and a large number of plants were raised. They all proved perfectly hardy, not one having suffered from drought or cold. Some, however, have been lost in attempts at transplanting, for no other tree here has proved so difficult to move. The average height of all these young Cedars in the Arboretum is now about thirteen feet. The tallest is twenty-one feet high and there is another specimen twenty feet high. It is doubtful if any other conifer can be grown in New England from seed to the height of twenty-one feet in thirteen years.

Torreya nucifera. Of the genus *Torreya*, which is related to the Yews, there are four species found in Florida, California, Japan and China. The Japanese species *T. nucifera* is well established in the

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