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The Ohio Buckeye. This, the *Aesculus glabra* of botanists, is the first of the Horsechestnut family to open its flowers. It is a small tree rarely more than fifty feet tall and usually much smaller, with bark which on young trees is dark brown and scaly but on old trunks becomes ashy gray and deeply furrowed. It has pale yellow flowers, with petals shorter than the stamens and fruit covered with prickles like that of the European Horsechestnut; unlike those of that tree, the winter-buds are not resinous. It is one of the most widely distributed of the American Buckeyes as it ranges from western Pennsylvania to northern Alabama and to eastern Nebraska and Oklahoma. There is a variety in southern Arkansas with smooth pale bark which has been distinguished as var. *leucodermis*, and there is another variety in western Missouri with leaves composed of seven instead of five leaflets which is known as var. *Buckleyi*. The Ohio Buckeye and these two varieties have been in flower for several days in the Arboretum collection. Their flowers are much less showy than those of other Horsechestnuts and of most of their hybrids, but the Ohio Buckeye is interesting botanically as well as historically, for it is to this tree that one of the great and important states of the Union owes its popular name.

Rhododendron Kaempferi. This red-flowered Azalea from the mountains of central Japan promises to bloom well this spring for many of the plants are covered with flower-buds which are already showing color. There are masses of this hardy Azalea on both sides of Azalea Path and at the northern base of Hemlock Hill between the Hemlocks

and the Laurels. On Azalea Path the plants are fully exposed to the sun and the flowers, which are extremely delicate, soon wither. On Hemlock Hill where the plants are in partial shade they flower a week or ten days later, and the flowers remain longer in good condition and make one of the brilliant flower shows of the Arboretum year.

Rhododendron poukhanense. This is the Azalea which Mr. Jack introduced into the Arboretum from Korea. When it first flowered here it was described as *R. coreanum* before it was known that a French botanist had already named it for Poukhan, a Korean mountain where it had been found by a French missionary. It is a beautiful round-topped, compact shrub, with large, rosy pink, fragrant flowers. It appears to be perfectly hardy in the most exposed positions, and has flowered freely now in the Arboretum for several years. A double-flowered form of this plant, sent to this country from Japanese nurseries under the name of *Yodogawa* is a form of the Korean plant. A number of plants of *R. poukhanense* are now flowering on the upper side of Azalea Path.

Chinese Poplars in early spring. The beauty and interest of several of the Poplar trees of eastern Asia is increased by the bright red-bronze color of the young leaves. The unfolding leaves of Poplar trees from other parts of the world are not colored in this way, and those of *P. Maximowiczii*, *P. suaveolens*, *P. tomentosa*, *P. Simonii*, and *P. yunnanensis* of eastern Asia are green as they unfold. The young leaves of the other Chinese species, *P. szechuanica*, *P. Wilsonii*, *P. adenopoda*, *P. lasiocarpa*, *P. tremula*, var. *Davidiana* and its form *tomentella*, and the Japanese *P. Sieboldii* are all more or less deeply tinged with red. All the eastern Asiatic Poplars are now growing in the Arboretum with the exception of the Chinese form (var. *Duclouxiana*) of the Himalayan *P. rotundifolia* which has not been introduced, and they all prove to be hardy and fast-growing trees here with the exception of *P. lasiocarpa* which is not very hardy and suffers badly from borers here, and perhaps *P. yunnanensis* which has not been sufficiently tested yet in the Arboretum.

Hydrangea petiolaris. This vigorous Japanese climbing plant has usually been planted in this country to grow up the trunks of trees, and it does not appear to be generally known that it is one of the best plants that can be used in this climate for covering brick or stone walls to which it clings tenaciously. In such situations it grows rapidly and flowers more freely than when growing among the branches of trees. Its value as a wall covering is increased, too, by the early appearance of the dark green leaves which are nearly fully grown before there is the sign of a leaf on any of the Virginia Creepers or other deciduous-leaved climbing plants which can be grown here. All Hydrangeas need plenty of water, and probably *H. petiolaris* will do better on the north or east side of a building than in a southern exposure. A large specimen can be seen on the Administration Building.

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