caped and now these plants are again covered with flowers. *Corylopsis* is a genus of the Witch Hazel Family and is confined to the Himalayas and to China and Japan. They are shrubs with leaves which generally resemble those of the Witch Hazel and drooping spikes of fragrant clear yellow flowers. Two species discovered by Wilson in western China, *Corylopsis Veitchiana* and *C. Willmottae*, are now in bloom on Bussey Hill, and on the lower side of Hickory Path near Centre Street there is a plant of the rare Japanese *C. Gotoana* also in flower. This plant, which is not rare in central Japan, appears to be little known in gardens. The Arboretum specimen was raised here from seed collected in Japan in 1905 by Mr. Jack, and has now flowered here for several years. The flower-buds seem less liable to injury by spring frosts than those of some of the other species, and it is probable that when this beautiful shrub is better known it will become popular for the decoration of the spring garden. The flowers are of a delicate canary-yellow color and paler than those of the other species.

Rhododendron praecox, "Little Gem." This is the first of the ever-green Rhododendrons to bloom; it is a variety of *R. praecox* which is a hybrid between the Himalayan *R. ciliatum* and the Siberian *R. dahuricum* mentioned in the last issue of these Bulletins. *R. praecox* is a shrub two or three feet high with thick oval leaves bright green on the upper surface and rusty below, and few-flowered clusters of pale purple or lilac flowers which in the variety Little Gem are somewhat larger and paler in color. This variety is a handsome plant and would be a desirable ornament for the spring garden were not the flowers too often destroyed by spring frosts. This spring, as they were last year, the plants are beautifully in flower and can be seen in the Rhododendron Collection at the base of Hemlock Hill.

Prunus mandshurica. This is a hardy Apricot tree which grows vigorously in the Arboretum, and can now be seen in flower in the Peach and Apricot Group on the slope above the Meadow Road beyond the piece of natural woods. By some authors this tree is considered a variety of the common Apricot (*P. Armeniaca*) but it is very distinct from that tree in the pale bark on the stem and branches and in the shape of the leaves. The flowers which have a deep red calyx and petals faintly tinged with rose are nearly an inch across and are just now conspicuous on the leafless branches. The fruit is nearly globular, not more than an inch in diameter, yellow spotted with red, with sweet succulent flesh; it is inferior to that of cultivated forms of the common Apricot, but as *P. mandshurica* is very hardy varieties may perhaps be developed with the fruit as good as that of the best cultivated Apricots, and hardy where that tree cannot be cultivated. This Apricot as it now grows in the Arboretum is an important addition to the group of hardy ornamental early-flowering trees.

Prunus dehiscens. This little almond is now in flower in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. It is a small, spiny, intricately branched shrub with small pale pink flowers

1917. "Rhododendron praecox, "Little Gem"." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(2), 6–6.

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