Davidia, *Eucommia*, and *Ehretia acuminata*. As space permits reports on the losses caused by the winter in other groups of plants will appear in later issues of these bulletins.

Early-flowering Shrubs. Fortunately frost has not injured this spring the buds of many of the trees and shrubs which open their flowers in April and several of these have been unusually fine this year and have remained in good condition for a longer time than usual. After some of the Willows the earliest shrubs in the Arboretum to bloom this year were the Buffalo Berry (*Shepherdia argentea*) and the Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*). The latter began to bloom on the 7th of April, nearly three weeks earlier than last year, and unfaded flowers are still to be seen on this eastern American shrub. A large group of these plants on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road is one of the interesting early spring features of the Arboretum. The flower-buds of garden Peach-trees have been generally killed in Massachusetts by the cold of the winter, but the wild Peach-tree of northern China (*Prunus Davidiana*) opened its uninjured flower-buds in the Arboretum on the 15th of April. This is an attractive small tree with erect branches and lustrous red-brown bark. As a flowering tree in this climate, however, it is hardly worth a place in gardens for the flowers open so early that they are ruined by late frosts. The fruit is small and of no value, but pomologists are interested in this tree as a stock on which to work the common Peach-tree for it is hardy north of the region where Peaches flourish.

Early-flowering Rhododendrons. The bright rose-colored flowers of the Siberian and Mongolian *Rhododendron dahuricum* opened this year as early as the 10th of April and remained in good condition until the end of the month. It is a small shrub with dark green leaves which in this climate remain on the branches until late in the winter, and it would be a good garden plant here if the flowers were not so often ruined by late frosts. There is a variety *sempervirens* with more persistent leaves and darker-colored flowers which has bloomed this year with the species on the upper side of Azalea Path. In the Rhododendron Collection at the base of Hemlock Hill a group of a hybrid of *R. dahuricum* with the Himalayan *R. ciliatum*, known as *R. praecox*, Early Gem, is now covered with flowers. This is a perfectly hardy plant but, unfortunately, blooms too early in this climate and the flowers are generally injured by frost. More valuable here is the north China *R. mucronulatum* which this year began to flower a little later than *R. dahuricum* and is still covered with its pale rose-colored flowers. It is a tall, hardy, deciduous-leaved shrub which has flowered freely in the Arboretum every spring for the last twenty years. The flowers open before the leaves appear and are not injured by spring frosts. This year they have been in good condition for nearly three weeks. In this climate this is the most valuable of the Rhododendrons and Azaleas which bloom in April.

Early-flowering Magnolias. The flower-buds and the flowers of the Japanese *Magnolia stellata*, *M. Kobus* and its variety *borealis*, and of

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