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The early spring. The cold of last December exceeded the cold of any previous December in Massachusetts of which there is a record, and now in this month there have been the hottest May days eastern Massachusetts has known since a record of temperature has been kept. April, too, was warm and dry, and even the early-flowering shrubs bloomed earlier than usual. Lilac flowers, which last year did not open in time for Decoration Day were fading this year by the 19th of May, and *Viburnum Lentago*, which usually blooms here about the middle of June was opening its flowers on the 20th of May and for the last ten days has been one of the conspicuous plants in the Arboretum. Many plants, especially Crabapples, Pears, Lilacs, Hawthorns, Honey-suckles and Viburnums have not before flowered more profusely and those which normally bloom a week or two apart have this spring flowered simultaneously, with the result that during one or two weeks more flowers have been open in the Arboretum than in any other weeks in its history. The spring, however, has not been a satisfactory one, so many plants have flowered together that visitors have been unable to enjoy them all; and flowers forced by excessive heat to open before their natural time have been short-lived. Plants crippled by the winter have further suffered by the heat and drought of May which have seriously interfered with the recovery of some plants.

Some early-flowering Rhododendrons. During the past week several Rhododendrons have been in flower. One of the handsomest of these plants, *Boule de Neige*, shows no effects of a hard winter. The leaves

are as green as they were in October and the flower-buds have not been injured. It is a dwarf plant rarely growing to the height of three feet but the branches are wide-spreading and form a broad, compact, round-topped head. Little appears to be known of the history of this plant; it is evidently a hybrid and *R. caucasicum* is no doubt one of the parents. Judging by the leaves, *R. catawbiense*, or one of its hybrids, may be the other parent. The French name suggests that it was raised in France as does the name of the raiser, Oudieu, given in a recent English work on Rhododendrons. The Arboretum will be glad of information about the origin and parentage of this plant. Whatever these may have been Boule de Neige seems one of the hardiest Rhododendrons which can be grown successfully in this climate. Another dwarf Rhododendron, Mont Blanc, a variety or hybrid of *R. caucasicum*, flowered a few days earlier than Boule de Neige. It is a dwarfer plant and the flowers are rose color when they first open but soon become pure white. This is a plant which has bloomed in the Arboretum for several years and has never been injured. The history of its parentage and origin are not recorded. A hybrid, *R. caucasicum*, with rose-colored flowers, sold in nurseries as *R. Jacksonii* although that name properly belongs to another hybrid, has lost a good many leaves and some of the flower-buds. *R. carolinianum* is uninjured and has been flowering for the past ten days. The fact that it has been able to come through the past winter without losing a leaf or bud speaks well for the ability of this little southern plant to adapt itself to the New England climate. The form usually cultivated has pale rose-pink flowers, but the form with pure white flowers is the more common in the mountain forests of the Carolinas which is the home of this species. *R. Smirnowii*, uninjured by the winter, is again in bloom. This inhabitant of the Caucasus is a large shrub with pale gray-green leaves coated below with a thick mat of pale felt and large pink or rose-colored flowers. This plant is so hardy that it is not improbable that a new race of Rhododendrons adapted to this climate can be obtained by crossing it with *R. catawbiense*, *R. maximum* and other hardy species. The felt on the lower surface of the leaves protects them from the attacks of the lace-wing fly which has been so destructive to Rhododendrons here in recent years, but unfortunately the leaves of the hybrids of *R. Smirnowii* which have been raised have entirely lost this protection.

Cotoneaster hupehensis. The plants of this shrub in the Shrub Collection and on the southern slope of Bussey Hill are again covered with flowers. It is a broad tall shrub with wide-spreading, arching branches and small clusters of white flowers which stand up well above the leaves. The fruit is scarlet and lustrous. This species and the two mentioned in the fourth number of these Bulletins, *C. multiflora calocarpa* and *C. racemiflora soongorica* are the handsomest of the Cotoneasters discovered by Wilson in western China and perhaps the most valuable shrubs for the northern states which have been introduced by the Arboretum in recent years. *Cotoneaster divaricata* and *C. nitens* are both covered with their small pink flowers. The lustrous leaves of these plants are attractive through the season.

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