Mountain Ashes. Many of these trees are now growing well in the Arboretum, and some of them are unusually full of fruit this year and handsome and interesting objects. Mountain Ashes have leaves divided into numerous narrow leaflets, compact clusters of white flowers which are followed by scarlet, yellow, orange-colored, pink or white, usually globose fruit which varies from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The best known and most commonly planted of these trees in the United States is the European *Sorbus Aucuparia*, the Rowan tree of Scotland. It is a tree from forty to sixty feet tall, of pyramidal habit while young, with erect branches which as the tree grows older spread out into a broad and graceful head. Here the leaves retain their color until the autumn is far advanced, and during September and October the contrast between the bright green leaves and the drooping clusters of brilliant red fruit makes this tree an attractive object until the birds strip it of its fruit. This Mountain Ash is common and widely distributed over the cooler parts of Europe and was probably early introduced into North America where it has been much planted in the extreme northern states and in Canada. Several varieties are recognized. The handsomest of these is the Moravian Mountain Ash (var. *moravica* or *dulcis*) of northern Austria. This is a tall tree with a smooth stem, leaves with narrower leaflets than those of the type and larger and sweeter fruit. It is used as food in central Europe. This Mountain Ash has grown in the Arboretum very rapidly and promises to become a large tree. Two specimens in the plantation near the top of Peter's Hill are now covered with fruit and are among the handsomest of the small trees in the Arboretum. There are forms of the Rowan tree with pendulous branches (var. *pendula*) and with fastigiate branches (var. *fastigiata*). There is a form with yellow fruit and a variety from eastern Europe (var. *lanuginosa*) the leaves of which are covered on the upper surface with stiff hairs and are downy on the lower surface.

Asiatic Mountain Ashes. In recent years a number of these trees have been brought from eastern Asia to the Arboretum and some of them promise to be valuable trees here. The Japanese *Sorbus commixta* was the first of them which was planted here and it has now been growing in the Arboretum since 1888. There is a tall specimen of this species on the right-hand side of the path leading to the Shrub Collection from the Forest Hills Gate. It has smaller flower-clusters than the European species, the bright red fruit is smaller and its chief value is in the bright orange and red color of the leaves in autumn. A much handsomer plant is *Sorbus pekinensis*, a native of northern China, which is now well established in the Arboretum. It is a slender tree with narrow leaflets, compact clusters of flowers and lustrous pink or yellowish fruit in drooping clusters. The color of the fruit is unusual among Mountain Ashes. The narrow leaflets give this tree a particularly open and attractive appearance. There are a number of specimens in the Sorbus Collection in the low ground near the group of Swamp White Oaks on the Valley Road, but the largest and handsomest spec-

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