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In the Pinetum. The collection of cone-bearing trees and shrubs is of special interest this autumn as during the past twelve months it has had to endure such severe weather conditions that plants which are now in good condition should be able to successfully support any extremes of heat, cold and dryness which they are likely to meet with in Massachusetts. In discussing the possibility of cultivating conifers in the northeastern United States it must be remembered that at its best this is not a favorable climate for these trees. There are only a few indigenous species here in New England, and all the exotic species which can be grown here grow better in other parts of the world. This is the region for trees and shrubs which lose their leaves in autumn and the man who wants to plant successfully and permanently here must use these plants, and not conifers or broad-leaved evergreens, unless he is prepared to suffer many disappointments. It is the business of a scientific establishment like the Arboretum to experiment with all plants which, judged by the region where they grow naturally, have any chance of success and to report failures as well as successes. Enough is now known of the habitat and climatic conditions necessary for the conifers of the world to make it possible to say that none of these trees which grow in any part of the world south of the equator can grow here. It is now known that none of the conifers of the southern United States, Mexico, Central America and the West Indies can be grown in the north. This is true, too, of the species of southern Europe, northern Africa, southern India, southwestern China, Formosa and the southern islands of the Japanese empire. Of the conifers of the Pacific coast of North America only a few can grow at all in the east. The planter of conifers therefore in the

New England, middle and middle western states must make his selection from native species, and from the species of northern Japan, Korea, northern China, Siberia, the Caucasus and eastern and northern Europe. That is, the largest and some of the handsomest and most interesting trees in the world cannot be successfully grown in the United States except in the south, and in western Washington, Oregon and California where the climate is better suited to the successful cultivation of conifers perhaps than that of any other part of the world, with the exception possibly of New Zealand where conifers from all parts of the world have grown with astonishing rapidity and vigor, and in the case of some species to a larger size than individuals of the species attain in their native lands.

In spite of the unusual and prolonged cold of the winter which followed a dry summer, the cold spring and the drought which lasted from April to September the Arboretum conifers are not in bad condition, and it is now possible to discuss with more confidence the value of many exotic species than it has been before. Only one species has been entirely lost from the effects of the severe winter. This is the blue-leaved form of *Cedrus atlantica*, a native of the mountains of Algeria. There was only one specimen in the Arboretum where it has been growing for many years in a sheltered position in the middle of a Pine grove. This beautiful tree sometimes grows fairly well south of Cape Cod, but there is little hope that it will live for more than a few years at a time in Massachusetts.

Some of the species of the northeastern states have suffered more than any of the exotic species, and several plants of the Red Spruce (*Picea rubra*) were killed or so badly injured that it was necessary to destroy them. If any coniferous tree should be hardy here it is the Red Spruce which grows on some of the high mountains of New England and close to the seashore of Maine and New Hampshire where it is fully exposed to the gales from the Atlantic. The Red Spruce, although there are now a number of healthy individuals in the Arboretum, does not take very kindly to cultivation and always grows slowly. Another eastern American tree, the short-leaved Pine (*Pinus echinata*) was injured by the winter. This tree finds its northern home on Staten Island, New York, and there have been a number of trees raised from seeds collected at this northern station growing in the Arboretum for twenty years. These all lost their leaves and several were killed; the others produced new leaves in June and now look nearly as well as ever. One specimen of this Pine raised here in 1879 from Missouri seeds also lost all its leaves but is now in comparatively as good health as it was a year ago. Several plants of the White Cedar of the eastern states (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) lost their tops and were a good deal injured by the winter although none were killed. This plant has not taken kindly to the conditions the Arboretum affords it, but it is surprising that it is not more hardy here, as within twenty miles of Boston there are hundreds of acres of low ground covered with forests of this tree.

Cedar of Lebanon. The Cedars of Lebanon raised here from seeds gathered on the Anti-Taurus, which have been growing in the Arboretum for sixteen years and which have not before been injured by heat

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