rose color, cover the leafless branches from end to end and are more fragrant than those of any other Cherry in the collection. Another Cherry which should find a place in collections for the beauty of its dark lustrous birchlike bark is *Prunus serrula thibetica*, an inhabitant of the forests which cover the high mountains of the Chinese Thibetan border. It has a low, broad, round-topped head with a trunk unusually large for the height of the tree. This tree has not yet flowered in the Arboretum. *Prunus Dielsiana*, in habit and color of its bark, resembles the European *Prunus avium*, but the flowers are slightly larger and sometimes faintly tinged with pink. *Prunus pilosiuscula* is a tree of medium size and is chiefly valuable for the earliness of its flowers which open with those of *P. concinna* and *P. tomentosa*; they appear before the leaves and are pink, and solitary or in small two- or three-flowered short-stalked clusters.

New Chinese Pear-trees. Among the Pear-trees raised from seeds collected by Wilson in western China *Pyrus Calleryana* has created the most interest among American pomologists who now believe that they have in it a stock on which to graft the garden Pears more resistant to blight than any that has yet been tried; and the seeds now produced in large quantities by the trees in the Arboretum are sought by the Department of Agriculture of the United States and by nurserymen who are anxious to provide the country with a possible remedy for the disease which has destroyed many American Pear-orchards. The new Chinese Pears have grown even more rapidly than the Chinese Cherries, and among them are beautiful clean-stemmed specimens from seventeen to twenty feet high, only twelve years old from the seed, and now giving every promise of reaching the height of fifty feet which these trees often attain on their native mountain sides. *P. Calleryana* is a shapely pyramidal tree more compact in habit than the other Chinese species. The flowers are smaller, and the globose brown fruit is hardly more than a third of an inch in diameter. To students of cultivated fruits *Pyrus serotina*, another of Wilson's introductions, is of particular interest, for this tree of the mountain forests of western China is now believed to be the origin of the brown or yellowish, round, hard and gritty Sand Pears which in many varieties the Japanese have cultivated from time immemorial and which must have been introduced into Japan probably by the way of Korea. In the early days of western intercourse with Japan many varieties of the Sand Pear were brought to the United States and Europe, but except for the beauty of their flowers and fruits they have proved to be of little value, for the fruit is so hard and so full of grit that it is not even worth cooking. It was probably forms of the Sand Pear crossed with one of the cultivated garden Pears which produced the Leconte and Keiffer Pears from which much was at one time expected in this country, especially in the southern states, but which have proved so susceptible to blight that the cultivation of these trees has been now largely abandoned. The flowers of *Pyrus serotina* are larger than those of *P. Calleryana*, but there is little beauty in their small brown fruit; and the habit of the tree with its long spreading branches forming an

open irregular head is not particularly attractive. Of better habit is *Pyrus serrulata*, a fast-growing tree with large flowers which have been only sparingly produced in the Arboretum. The Chinese form of *Pyrus pashia* raised from Wilson's seeds is also established in the Arboretum where it is now flowering. The Himalayan form of this tree was first sent to Europe in 1825, but has not been tried in the Arboretum where it would probably not be hardy. In addition to the four Pear-trees from western China there are five other Chinese species established here, *P. ussuriensis*, the wild Pear-tree of Korea and Manchuria, and extending into northern China and into Japan; *P. Bretschneideri*, a northern tree with juicy yellow fruit of good flavor; *P. ovoides*, another northern species with yellow fruit tapering from a broad base to a narrow apex, and *P. betulaeifolia* and *P. phaeocarpa*, species with small brown fruit, that of the latter globose on some individuals and pyriform on others. Taken as a whole the Chinese Pear-trees make one of the interesting groups in the Arboretum, and as early spring flowering trees they take rank with the Crabapples, although the open flowers, which are often tinged with pink while in the bud, are white and so lack the variety of colors which add so much beauty to the flower-buds and flowers of the Asiatic Crabapples.

Two Korean Azaleas. Two of its most beautiful plants have come to the Arboretum from Korea, *Rhododendron* (*Azalea*) *Schlippenbachii* and *R. (Azalea) poukhanense*. The former is a shrub which on the wind-swept, grass-covered cliffs of the Korean coast rises only a few inches above the surface of the ground, but in the forests of the north is a shrub twelve or fifteen feet high with a tall, stout stem. The leaves of this *Azalea* are clustered at the ends of the branches, and are broadest at the apex; they are larger than those of most *Azaleas*, becoming sometimes three inches long and an inch or an inch and a half wide. The flowers, which appear before the leaves, are in clusters, pale pink with dark spots at the base of the upper three lobes of the corolla, and three inches in diameter. There can be little doubt of the hardiness of this *Azalea*, for in northern Korea it grows to its largest size where the thermometer falls to 30° below zero Fahrenheit and a freezing temperature is not uncommon in August. In the Arboretum the flower-buds were not injured by the cold winter of 1917-18 on plants growing in an exposed position. Although known to Russian botanists as long ago as 1870 this plant does not appear to have attracted the attention of western gardeners until 1892 when the late J. H. Veitch found a plant growing in a nursery in Tokyo and sent it to England. In the edition of the Catalogue of the Yokohama Nursery Company, of 1901, *Azalea Schlippenbachii* appeared, and at about this time it was imported by Mr. Thomas E. Proctor and planted in his garden in Topsfield, Massachusetts, where the plants are still growing. These are the oldest and largest in the United States, for the Arboretum plants were raised here from seeds brought home by Mr. J. G. Jack from Korea. *R. Schlippenbachii*, although it has remained exceedingly rare in western gardens, will probably be much better known in a few years, for in the autumn of 1917 Mr. Wilson sent from Korea a large

1919. "New Chinese Pear-trees." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 5(3), 10–11. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320907>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/239291>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320907>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320907>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not in copyright. The BHL knows of no copyright restrictions on this item.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.