

five inches across. On the Japanese plants the heads of bracts are rarely three inches and a half in diameter. The Chinese plant flowered in the Arboretum for the first time two years ago, and the flower-buds have never been injured by cold. It is flowering more freely this year than it has before and is now an object of much beauty. Like the Japanese plant the Chinese *Cornus kousa* has grown here as a shrub, but there seems no reason why it cannot be trained into a tree, as in China it is a small tree with a trunk sometimes a foot in diameter. If it fails to produce seed here the Chinese plant can probably be grafted successfully on *Cornus florida*. Although the Asiatic flowering Dogwoods do not make such a display of flowers as our American trees, their flower-buds are hardier judging by the effects of the winter of 1917-18, and if the future confirms this they will flower further north than *Cornus florida*. The fact that they bloom when the leaves are nearly fully grown and when the flowering time of most trees is over makes these Asiatic Cornels valuable, and it now seems probable that in the Chinese form of *Cornus kousa* the northern states have an important ornamental tree. The Japanese and Chinese plants are now in bloom, the former on Hickory Path near Centre Street and the latter with the other Chinese plants on Bussey Hill.

*Aesculus turbinata*, the Japanese Horsechestnut, first came to the Arboretum from France in 1881; this plant was lost, and in 1893 it was raised from seeds collected in Japan by Professor Sargent. These plants were also lost, but another supply was raised in 1900 from seeds produced by the fine specimen in the nursery of Ellwanger & Barry in Rochester, New York, and one of these plants has flowered this year. In Japan this Horsechestnut is a magnificent tree, often growing to a height of eighty or ninety feet and forming a tall trunk occasionally seven feet in diameter. Like the European Horsechestnut the leaves are composed of seven leaflets, but these are thinner and more lustrous, and the leaf-stalks are longer. The Japanese tree in summer therefore appears less dark and massive than the common Horsechestnut. The flower-clusters are narrower and the flowers, which are white with scarlet markings at the base of the petals, are handsomer. *Aesculus turbinata*, which grows to its largest size in central and northern Japan, is perfectly hardy in New England. Time only can show if it is able to live as long and grow to as large a size here as in its native country. If it succeeds here as the Horsechestnut of the mountains of Greece has succeeded during the last hundred years it will prove to be one of the handsomest exotic trees which has been planted in eastern North America. *Aesculus turbinata* is one of the five largest deciduous leaved trees of eastern Asia. The others are *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Populus Maximowiczii*, *Acanthopanax ricinifolium*, and *Zelkova serrata*. These five trees are now established in the Arboretum.

**Early Flowering Hydrangeas.** The first Hydrangea to flower in the Arboretum is the so-called climbing Hydrangea, *H. petiolaris*, which has been covered with flowers during the past ten days. A few days later the plants in a group of shrubby Chinese species opened their flowers which are arranged in broad flat-topped clusters surrounded by a ring of large, pure white ray flowers. The best known of these plants, *Hydrangea Bretschneideri*, a native of the mountains





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