propagated and sold by American nurserymen. When in flower it is a showy tree but lacks the charm of the normal species. A variety of the normal form with pendulous branches is in the Arboretum collection but has no particular interest or beauty, and a form with flower-heads surrounded by a double row of bracts, which was a good deal advertised a few years ago, has little to recommend it. Beautiful as it is the eastern Flowering Dogwood is surpassed by the species of the northwest coast region, *Cornus Nuttallii*, which is a tree sometimes seventy or eighty feet high with heads of bracts five or six inches across. *Cornus Nuttallii* grows in damp woods in the shade of large coniferous trees, and it is difficult to keep it alive beyond the limits of its native forests. It has never succeeded in the Arboretum and has flowered in Europe in only a few gardens. The Japanese Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus kousa*, and its Chinese variety are hardy and handsome little trees which flower later in the season than our native species, with which they do not compare in beauty of flowers, foliage or fruit.

The Sassafras in Autumn. In good years and bad years the Sassafras never fails to become a conspicuous object of beauty in October when its dark green leaves turn yellow and orange color more or less tinged with red. This statement gives little idea of the warmth of color which the Sassafras produces when it grows, as it often does, on the border of a forest of Oak-trees on which the leaves are still green. The Sassafras is a handsome tree at other seasons of the year. In winter it is conspicuous by its deeply furrowed dark cinnamon-gray bark and bright green branchlets which in early spring are covered before the leaves appear with innumerable clusters of small bright yellow flowers. The leaves, which are sometimes deeply three-lobed and sometimes entire on the same branch, are not attacked by insects. The fruit is a bright blue berry surrounded at the base by the much enlarged and thickened calyx of the flower raised on a long bright red stalk. Among northern trees only Magnolias produce such bright-colored fruits. There is little time, however, to enjoy the fruit of the Sassafras for birds eagerly seek it as it ripens.

Crataegus. A few of the Old World Hawthorns produce fruit as large and handsome as any of the American species. The largest and handsomest is that of the Manchurian and Chinese *Crataegus pinnatifida* which is cultivated in orchards by the Chinese for its dark red fruits. Very beautiful this year is a variety of the European *C. oxyacantha* (var. *Gireoudii*) with thick, slightly lobed, dark green leaves and bright red, lustrous, short-oblong fruits half an inch in length. The branches of the small tree in the new collection of exotic Thorns on Peter's Hill are covered from end to end with fruit clusters which make it one of the most brilliant plants in the Arboretum this week. *Crataegus hiemalis*, a European tree of doubtful origin and by some authors considered a hybrid, is covered this year with its lustrous, dark wine-colored, ellipsoidal fruit half an inch long, drooping on long slender stems. More beautiful is a tree growing near *C. hiemalis* in the old Crataegus Collection near the Shrub Collection with small deeply divided leaves and depressed-globose, shining, dark red-brown fruit three-

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