The parentage of these hybrids, however, have not been kept, and published statements of their parentage are often mere guesswork. Certainly many of these hybrids have been obtained by crossing not only species but hybrids. This mingling of plants, themselves often of unknown or uncertain origin, has produced difficulties of determination which no amount of study will probably ever overcome; and of all hybrid Azaleas the parentage only of this Wellesley plant is really known, a fact which certainly adds to its value and interest.

The third Japanese species which is now well established in the Arboretum is *Rhododendron reticulatum*, the oldest name for the plant more generally known as *R. rhombicium*. This plant is common over a large part of Japan, growing on open wind-swept hillsides, on the borders of the forest and in the shade of thick woods. The flowers are deep magenta color, red-purple or rose-color, and do not harmonize with those of several other Azaleas, but when *R. rhombicium* is isolated or planted with white-flowered plants it is when in flower one of the most beautiful and distinct of all hardy Azaleas. A white-flowered form (var. *albiflorum*) is known to Japanese botanists but this plant, which is said to be rare, is not in gardens.

**Early-flowered American Azaleas.** Before the flowers of *Rhododendron Vaseyi* have entirely faded those of the two most widely distributed species of eastern North America, *R. nudiflorum* and *R. canescens*, begin to open. These plants are common from New England to Texas; they have pink, very fragrant flowers which open before and as the leaves emerge from the bud, and very similar in general character, will perhaps sometime be considered varieties of one species. They have been planted in considerable numbers in the Arboretum and grow equally well in open borders or in the partial shade of woods. Before their flowers fade those of the flame or yellow-flowered Azalea (*R. calendulaceum*) of the Appalachian Mountains, the most splendid of American Azaleas, will begin to open.

**The Rowan Tree,** as the European Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Aucuparia*) is often called, has certainly not before in the Arboretum been more thickly covered with its wide clusters of white flowers or appeared to be in a most satisfactory condition. The largest and best of the Arboretum trees were sown by birds; there are several of these trees in different parts of the Arboretum and others are constantly springing up. Handsome at this season of the year, they are more beautiful in the autumn when the branches bend under the weight of the clusters of scarlet fruit which birds eagerly seek. Several plants of a Chinese Mountain Ash, *Sorbus discolor* (sometimes called *S. pekinensis*) in the group of these plants on the left hand side of the Valley Road near the Swamp White Oaks, now covered with flowers, show the oramental character of this tree at this season of the year. This Mountain Ash is a tall, slender, hardy tree with leaves composed of narrow, long-pointed leaflets pale on the lower surface, broad open clusters of snow-white flowers, which are followed by small yellowish white fruits in drooping clusters. *Sorbus alnifolia* is also very full of flowers; it is a common Japanese tree, one of the species of an Old World section of the genus with
simple leaves, that is leaves not divided like those of the Rowan Tree into numerous leaflets, which in Japan sometimes grows to the height of sixty feet. In the Arboretum, where this tree has been growing for twenty-five years, there are shapely pyramidal specimens from twenty to thirty feet tall. The leaves are dark green, three or four inches long, and nearly full grown when the flowers open; these are small and arranged in compact six- to twelve-flowered clusters, and are followed by small, scarlet and orange fruits which remain on the branches after the leaves fall and until eaten by birds. There is a specimen of this Sorbus near the Cherries on the right hand side of the Forest Hills Road. The species and varieties of Sorbus were first planted in a group in the Arboretum on the bank above the Shrub Collection near the Forest Hills entrance. Several of these trees, including the eastern American species, are still growing here; but as this bank was too hot and dry, and not large enough for more than a few plants, another plantation of Sorbus has been made in the cooler ground by the Meadow Road. The plants grow better here but the group, like most of the large groups of trees in the Arboretum, requires more room for a proper display of all the interesting species and varieties. Mountain Ashes (Sorbus) suffer severely from the attack of scale insects and can only be kept in good condition by the annual use of the sprayer.

**Rosa omeiensis** has opened its flowers this year several days before *R. Hugonis* and *R. cinnamomea* which are usually the first Roses to flower in the Arboretum. This Chinese Rose, which is common on the mountains of western China, gets its name from Mt. Omei, one of the sacred mountains of the Empire, where it is common. It is a hardy, fast-growing shrub with erect stems covered with bright red prickles, white fragrant flowers hardly more than an inch in diameter, and bright red fruit on elongated fleshy, yellow stalks. On its native mountains it sometimes grows to the height of twenty feet. Judged by the way it has grown in the Arboretum, this Rose should make an excellent hedge for New England gardens.

**Aesculus georgiana** is covered again with its compact clusters of large red and yellow flowers. This southern Buckeye has not been injured by the severe winters of 1917-18 and 1919-20, and is certainly one of the best new plants which have been brought into our gardens in recent years. When first discovered it was believed to be confined to the neighborhood of Stone Mountain in central Georgia, and to be always a shrub in habit, but is now known to range northward in the Piedmont region to North Carolina, and often to grow into a small tree. The oldest plants in the Arboretum are beginning to assume a treelike habit, and in the parks at Rochester, New York, *Aesculus georgiana* is a shapely small tree with a straight well developed trunk. Many other Horsechestnuts and Buckeyes are now in flower: and the large group of these trees and shrubs on the right hand side of the Meadow Road is just now one of the most interesting and attractive in the Arboretum.