ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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Some of the Trees now in flower. The Horsechestnut of southeastern Europe, *Aesculus Hippocastanum*, when it is covered from top to bottom, as it is this year in the neighborhood of Boston, with its great erect clusters of white flowers is the most splendid object among the trees hardy in the northern states. There are several varieties of this tree in the Arboretum collection but none of them grow to such a large size or are as handsome in habit or in their flowers as the original tree. The double flowers of one of these abnormal varieties, however, have the advantage of lasting longer on the trees before fading. The European Horsechestnut only really flourishes in deep cool soil, and although it has been largely used to shade city streets in this country and in Europe it is not suited for such a purpose for the heat and drought of cities often cause it to lose its leaves at midsummer. Its place is in parks and gardens and by country roadsides. This tree appears to have been more generally planted in western New York than in other parts of the United States, probably because Rochester has long been an important center of the nursery business. No finer individual trees, however, can be found in this country than some of the specimens now more than a hundred years old which are growing in gardens in Salem, Massachusetts. They show what can be expected of this tree in New England where the Horsechestnut ought to be a hundred times more common than it is at present. Among the red and pink-flowered Horsechestnut trees, hybrids of *Aesculus Hippocastanum* and a red-flowered American Buckeye, are a number of handsome trees. The best known of these hybrids, *Aesculus carnea*, is the "red-flowered Horsechestnut" which is now a common tree in the suburbs of Boston. More conspicuous when in flower is a red-flowered variety known in nurseries as *Aesculus Briottii*. The tree in the Ar-

boretum of this variety is unusually full of flowers this year. Several of the Horsechestnut-trees with red and yellow flowers are handsome when in flower. They are natural hybrids which originated in Europe, some of them more than a century ago, between the yellow-flowered American *Aesculus octandra* and one of the red-flowered southern Buckeyes. The name of this hybrid is *Aesculus versicolor*. It appears to have been better known in gardens before the middle of the last century than it is now. There is a large tree of this hybrid in a garden near the corner of Pond and Eliot Streets, Jamaica Plain. Three Magnolias of the southern Appalachian Mountains, *Magnolia Fraseri*, *M. tripetala* and *M. cordata*, are also unusually full of flowers this year. With the exception of these and the Horsechestnuts the tree in the Arboretum now most conspicuous for its abundant and beautiful flowers is

Cornus controversa. This is a widely distributed tree in Japan, Korea and western China. In western Szech'uan Wilson photographed a specimen sixty feet high with a trunk seven feet in girth. In the Cornus collection on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road plants raised from seeds collected in western China by Wilson in 1907 are now in bloom, but the largest of these Cornels in the Arboretum is in the Peters' Hill Nursery. This plant was sent here in 1913 by the Park Department of the City of Rochester, New York; it is now about twenty-five feet high with a short trunk and a head twenty-six feet in diameter; the branches are long, crowded, and spread at right angles with the stem, drooping slightly at the ends, the lowest sweeping the ground. The upper side of the branches is thickly covered with the flat flower-clusters six or seven inches in diameter, and raised on erect stems. The flowers are white or white faintly tinged with yellow, and are followed by black shining fruits which are eaten by the birds as fast as they ripen. As it grows on Peters' Hill this Cornel is a magnificent plant and the handsomest of the genus in the Arboretum with the exception of the species with white floral bracts represented here by *Cornus florida* and *C. kousa*. To the student of botanical geography *Cornus controversa* is interesting as another living witness of the relationship between the floras of eastern Asia and eastern North America. For in the genus *Cornus* with many species there are but two with alternate leaves, *Cornus controversa* in eastern Asia and *C. alternifolia* in eastern North America. *Cornus controversa* was growing in the Veitch's Nursery near London in 1880, but it has remained little known or understood in gardens owing to a confusion of this species with *Cornus macrophylla*, a Himalayan and eastern Asiatic tree with opposite leaves. Other trees which add beauty and interest to the Arboretum at this time are three Viburnums, the eastern American *V. prunifolium*, which has already dropped its flowers, and *V. Lentago*, and the Japanese *V. Sieboldii*. Not many small trees are more useful than these American Viburnums for the decoration of American parks and gardens, and fortunately nurserymen realize this fact and now grow them in large quantities, especially *V. Lentago*. The flowers of *V. prunifolium* are whiter than those of *V. Lentago* which are faintly tinged with yellow, but the flower-clusters and the leaves of the latter are larger. *V. prunifolium* is more inclined to grow with a single trunk than *V. Lentago* which is often a large arborescent shrub.

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