of the corolla lobes. *Syringa Koehneana* is as usual flowering very sparingly, and it is doubtful if this Korean shrub will have much value as a garden plant in this climate. It is a vigorous, irregularly growing plant with large leaves and short, broad, compact clusters of rose-colored flowers white on the inner surface of the corolla lobes.

Tree Lilacs. The Lilac season closes with the flowering of these eastern Asiatic species which are popularly known as "Tree Lilacs." They all have handsome dark green leaves which fall in the autumn without change of color, and large usually unsymmetrical clusters of white flowers with the disagreeable odor of the flowers of the Privet. They are handsome and hardy plants and when in bloom the most conspicuous of the trees or large arborescent shrubs of their season. This year, the three species promise an unusually abundant bloom. The first of these plants to flower, *Syringa amurensis*, is a native of eastern Siberia, and a shrub twelve or fifteen feet high, with dark-colored bark, leaves pale on the lower surface, and short unsymmetrical flower-clusters which usually are produced only on alternate years. *Syringa pekinensis* blooms soon after *S. amurensis*. It is a native of northern China and a shrub sometimes thirty feet tall and broad, with stout spreading stems covered with yellow-brown bark separating into thin plate-like scales like that of some Birch-trees, narrow, long-pointed leaves, and short, unsymmetrical flower-clusters, usually in pairs. This species retains its leaves later in the autumn than the other "Tree Lilacs," and it flowers profusely every year. The last of these plants to flower, *Syringa japonica*, is a native of northern Japan and a tree sometimes forty feet high, with a tall straight trunk covered with lustrous brown bark like that of a Cherry-tree, a round-topped head of erect branches, broad thick leaves and mostly symmetrical flower-clusters often eighteen inches in length. This tree rarely flowers except in alternate years.

Berberis Vernae. Gardeners often complain that there are now too many Barberries, and it is certainly true that only an expert who has devoted years of special study to the genus can readily distinguish all the species, varieties and hybrids in the groups of which *Berberis vulgaris*, the common Barberry of western Europe, and now naturalized in the northeastern United States, is a typical plant. There are now probably at least one hundred different Barberries in the Arboretum Collection and the number is likely to increase rather than to decrease, for Barberries hybridize easily in collections like the one in the Arboretum, and it is more than probable that China, the headquarters of the genus, may still contain undescribed species. There may be too many Barberries but no one who has once seen *Berberis Vernae* as it is now growing in the Arboretum will regret that Wilson, who discovered this plant in China, sent seeds to the Arboretum in 1910 from the neighborhood of Sungtan in the upper Min Valley where he found it at an altitude of about nine thousand feet above sea-level, growing with the other Chinese Barberries. *B. Vernae* is here now about six feet tall and nearly as much in diameter. The long, slender, bright red branches covered with small, nearly entire leaves arch and droop gracefully, and from them hang on long stems innumerable slender clusters of small, pale yellow, slightly fragrant flowers which in the autumn are followed

by small red fruits. A green fountain best describes this shrub. There are Barberries with larger and handsomer leaves, larger flowers and more brilliant fruit, but there is not one in this collection, at least, of such graceful habit; and *Berberis Vernae* as it grows here is not only one of the most beautiful of the deciduous-leaved species of the genus but one of the handsomest of the shrubs discovered in China during the present century which can be successfully grown in this climate. Plants of *Berberis Vernae* raised from seed collected by William Purdom in Min-chou in western Kansu, received at the Arboretum in 1912, are also well established here.

Neillia sinensis, uninjured by the severe winter, has been as beautiful as usual this month. The flowers are cylindric, clear pale pink, nearly half an inch long and are pendent on slender stems in long one-sided racemes terminal on short lateral branchlets, and do not open until the dark green leaves have grown to nearly their full size. This is one of the Chinese shrubs which seems destined to become popular in northern gardens. Several other species of *Neillia* are growing in the Arboretum; they are either not hardy enough to flower or their flowers are insignificant.

Kolkwitzia amabilis on the southern slope of Bussey Hill has not before flowered so profusely as it has during the past week. It is the only representative of a genus of western China related to *Diervilla* and *Abelia*. The flowers are in pairs on long stems at the end of short lateral branchlets, and rose color in the bud become paler after opening and are blotched with yellow at the base of the inner surface of the divisions of the lower lobe of the corolla. *Kolkwitzia* has not yet produced seeds in the Arboretum, and this interesting and beautiful shrub is still rare in American gardens.

Aesculus discolor var. *mollis*. This shrub or small tree has not before flowered so freely in the Arboretum. The type of the species has red and yellow flowers, but in the var. *mollis*, which is the only form in the Arboretum, the whole flower is bright scarlet. It is a common plant from northern Georgia to central Alabama and westward to the valley of the Guadalupe River in Texas, ranging west of the Mississippi River northward to southeastern Missouri, and appearing in southwestern Tennessee. In early spring no other plant in the southern states is more brilliantly conspicuous, and its unexpected hardiness in New England is one of the important discoveries made by the Arboretum in recent years. There is a form of *Aesculus discolor* (var. *flavescens*) with yellow flowers which is confined to the Edwards Plateau in western Texas. It is possible that this plant may also prove hardy here. *Aesculus Harbisonii*, which is believed to be a hybrid of *A. discolor* var. *mollis* and *A. georgiana*, is the last of the Buckeyes, with the exception of *A. parviflora*, to bloom in the Arboretum. It is a shrub with broad clusters of large flowers with a rose-colored calyx and canary yellow petals tinged with rose toward the margin. Still extremely rare, this hybrid which is perfectly hardy deserves to be better known.

1920. "Berberis Vernae." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(9), 35–36. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321048>.

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