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Asiatic Azaleas. Of the thirty-four species of *Azalea* (*Rhododendron* subgenus *Anthrodendron*) of eastern Asia five species are thoroughly established in the Arboretum. These are in the order of their flowering, *R. yedoense*, *R. Schlippenbachii*, *R. reticulatum*, *R. obtusum* var. *Kaempferi*, and *R. japonicum*.

The yellow-flowered Chinese *R. molle* (*R. sinense* of some authors and not to be confounded with the plant known in gardens as *Azalea mollis* which is a hybrid), is in the Arboretum and occasionally flowers here, although it cannot be considered hardy in this climate. The Japanese *R. Tschonoskii*, with flowers more minute than those of other Azaleas, is an old inhabitant of the Arboretum. It has, however, no value as a garden plant and is only interesting as a botanical curiosity. There are several other Asiatic species of *Azalea* in the Arboretum nurseries and a few of them, judging by regions where they grow naturally, will perhaps prove able to adapt themselves to New England conditions. None of them, however, will be as valuable garden plants as the five species mentioned in the first paragraph of this Bulletin. Some of the species, however, which the Arboretum has introduced from southern Japan and Formosa may be expected to be valuable additions to the garden flora of the southern states. Mention of *R. yedoense* and its variety *poukhanense* was made in a recent issue of these Bulletins. It is of interest that the great rainfall and low temperature of April 30 and May 1 did not injure the flowers of this Korean plant which are in as good condition as they were a week ago.

Rhododendron Schlippenbachii. The pale pink fragrant flowers,

which are about three inches in diameter and marked on one of the lobes of the corolla with red-brown spots, are perhaps more beautiful than those of any other Azalea, certainly of any Azalea which has proved hardy in the Arboretum. *R. Schlippenbachii* is one of the commonest shrubs of Korea and often forms the dominant undergrowth in open woods. From Korea it crosses into northeastern Manchuria where it grows on the shores of Possiet Bay; it occurs, too, in two localities in northern Japan. Wilson found it extraordinarily abundant in Korea on the lower slopes of Chiri-san and on the Diamond Mountains, which were where he visited this region in June "a wonderful sight with literally miles and miles of the purest pink from the millions of flowers of this Azalea." In Korea this Azalea on the wind-swept grass-covered cliffs of the coast grow less than a foot high but flowers abundantly. In the forests of the interior it often grows to a height of fifteen feet and forms a tall and slender or a broad and shapely shrub. The leaves are large for an Azalea, being from three and a half inches to four inches long and sometimes nearly three inches wide, and are arranged in whorls of five at the end of the branches. This plant grows further north than any other Azalea, with the exception of the North American *Rhodora*. The thermometer in the region of the Diamond Mountains usually registers every winter a temperature of 35° to 40° below zero Fahrenheit. There is therefore no reason why this Azalea should not flourish in the coldest parts of New England. It has flowered now for several years in the Arboretum, and planted in an exposed sunny position has never suffered. Its hardiness and the beauty of its flowers make it one of the most valuable shrubs, if not the most valuable, which northeastern North America has obtained from Northeastern Asia. This Azalea is still rare in gardens, but large quantities of seeds collected by Wilson in Korea in 1917 and 1918 were distributed in this country and in England. The seedlings, however, only make one growth during the season and the young plants increase slowly in size. The time, however, is not far distant when this inhabitant of the Diamond Mountains will, during the early days of the month of May, be one of the chief ornaments of the gardens of New England.

Rhododendron reticulatum is the name now adopted for the Japanese Azalea better known as *R. rhombicum*. This is a common and widely distributed Japanese plant which sometimes forms a bushy tree from twenty to twenty-five feet in height, but is more often a shrub three or four feet tall. The flowers appear before the leaves and vary from rose-color to red-purple or magenta. They are handsome but of a color which makes it desirable to so place the plants that the flowers will not be contrasted with any but white flowers. This Azalea now on the lower end of Azalea Path has been growing in the Arboretum since 1893; it is perfectly hardy, but has not before been as full of flowers as it is this spring.

Rhododendron obtusum var. *Kaempferi*, or as it has usually been called in this country *Rhododendron* or *Azalea Kaempferi*, introduced by the Arboretum into gardens in 1892, is now gradually becoming known and appreciated in the north Atlantic states where it has proved

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