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Rhododendron maximum superbum. A plant under this name came to the Arboretum a few years ago from a Connecticut nursery. It has leaves shaped like those of *R. maximum* but only six inches long and flowers two inches across the expanded corolla; this is deep rose color on the margin of the lobes shading to white toward their base and marked on the upper lobe by many orange colored spots. This plant blooms a few days earlier than *R. maximum*, and beginning to grow usually after the flowers open they are not partly hidden by the young branches of the year as are those of *R. maximum*. It is probably a hybrid of *R. maximum* with one of the hybrids of *R. catawbiense*. The plants raised from this cross by Charles Sander at Holm Lea in Brookline are of the general appearance of *R. maximum superbum*, but they have longer and more lustrous leaves pale on the lower surface, and on some of the plants much larger clusters of handsomer flowers. There is an old plant, evidently the same hybrid, in what was the garden of Mr. Francis Parkman on the western shore of Jamaica Pond and now included in Olmsted Park. This plant has even longer leaves than the Sander plant and rather paler-colored flowers. This and one or two of the Sander plants are as handsome as any Rhododendron with pink or rose-colored flowers which can be grown in this climate. They bloom at the same time as the white-flowered hybrid of the same parentage which was raised many years ago by Anthony Waterer at Knaphill and named by him Wellesleyanum for Mr. Hunnewell's estate at Wellesley. This plant has not always proved entirely hardy in Massachusetts but has now flowered well for several years at Holm Lea. These maximum-catawbiense hybrids seem des-

tined to play an important part in the decoration of parks and gardens in the northeastern United States where few *Rhododendrons* or other broad-leaved evergreen plants can be grown. They are as hardy as the hardiest of the *catawbiense* hybrids, and flowering two or three weeks later than these prolong the flowering time of hybrid *Rhododendrons* into July, that is to the time when the conspicuous flowering of trees and shrubs is not abundant.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides, now that it has at last, after forty years of failure, found a place that suits it on the east side of the Administration Building, is growing rapidly and promises to cover as much space as the great plant of the Japanese Climbing Hydrangea which is its neighbor. It is already half way to the top of the building, and its value as a flowering plant in July is now shown by its conspicuous flower-clusters. The Japanese *Schizophragma* now grows as rapidly as the Climbing Hydrangea and clings as firmly to a brick wall. The leaves are smaller, more circular in shape, more coarsely toothed and darker and duller in color. The inflorescence, which is terminal on short lateral branchlets, which stand out from the stems, is interesting but not perhaps as showy as that of the Hydrangea, for instead of the surrounding ring of neutral flowers there are only two neutral flowers to each of the divisions to the large compound cluster of perfect flowers; these neutral flowers are snow white, ovate, often an inch or more long, and hang on long slender stems an inch in length. *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* seems to be a rare plant in American and European gardens, and in this country *Hydrangea petiolaris* is often sold for it. The Chinese species, *S. integrifolia* introduced by Wilson, has not yet found a place in the Arboretum which suits it, and has not proved hardy here. It is a handsomer plant than the Japanese species with much larger sterile flowers.

Decumaria barbara is another climbing plant of the Saxifrage Family which is now flowering in the Arboretum Nursery. It grows naturally by the banks of streams and in swamps from southeastern Virginia to central and western Florida, western Louisiana, and western Tennessee, often climbing up the trunks of trees by its aerial roots to the height of thirty feet. This handsome and interesting plant has dark green and lustrous leaves, small, white, fragrant flowers in large, terminal, compound clusters, and capsular, urn-shaped fruit with a persistent style and stigma. It is rare in gardens, certainly in those of the northeastern United States, but there is an old and well established plant in that of Mr. N. T. Kidder in Milton, Massachusetts, which flowers every year. It is now growing well and promises to become established in the Arboretum. The Chinese species introduced by Wilson is growing well in a cold pit here but has not yet flowered.

Itea virginica, another plant of the Saxifrage Family, was in flower last week in the Shrub Collection. It is a shrub two or three feet high, with simple, alternate, minutely serrate, deciduous leaves and small white flowers in terminal erect racemes. This interesting little plant is widely distributed from New Jersey to Florida and Louisiana, and northward to Missouri and southern Illinois, ascending on the Car-

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