petals of little beauty, and it is only as a curiosity that it is worth a place in the garden.

The middle of April the season appeared to be ten or twelve days earlier than last year but on April 20th and 21st the temperature in the neighborhood of Boston rose in the afternoon to 87° and the buds of many plants began to open, and now a week later there is not more than a week's difference in the opening of flowers between this year and last. The Soft Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) which has been known to flower here in February was in full bloom this year on March 24th, nine days later than last year; and a tree of the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) was in flower this year on April 20th or ten days later than last year. In spite of the lateness of the season there are interesting flowers to be seen in the Arboretum, although it is still not too late for a destructive frost like that of April 21, 1922, which did so much damage to flowers here.

Early Magnolias. Three Japanese species are conspicuous in early spring; all of them, however, bloom at least ten days too early for their delicate white petals rarely escape injury by cold nights. The handsomest and the best known of these plants, *Magnolia stellata*, is a large round-topped shrub with star-like flowers which appear before the dark green leaves. Although a native of southern Japan, this Magnolia is entirely hardy in Massachusetts, and if it flowered later would be one of the most desirable plants which could be grown in northern gardens. The other early-flowering Japanese species are *Magnolia salicifolia* and *M. kobus* var. *borealis*. The former is a small slender tree with narrow pointed leaves and smaller flowers than those of *M. stellata*. It is a native of the mountain slopes of northern Hondo. It is hardy but has never grown as well in the Arboretum as it has in Highland Park, Rochester, New York. The third of these plants, the northern large-flowered form of *M. kobus* (var. *borealis*) is the most northern in its range of the Magnolias which flower before the leaves appear, and grows naturally only in Asia. This northern tree was introduced into gardens by the Arboretum as long ago as 1878, but in cultivation has never been a particularly successful plant. The small white flowers are pendent and are not often produced freely until the tree is thirty or forty years old. Growing in the open the trees are apt to produce heavy lower branches which interfere with the growth of the stem which is stunted and often killed by them. This Magnolia grows naturally in dense forests in which it becomes a tall tree with a long straight trunk, and it is probable that it will do better than it has in the Arboretum if it could be planted with other trees in woods. The old trees have all disappeared from the Arboretum, but one of the original seedlings growing in a garden in Brookline, is now more covered with flowers than it has ever been before.

Forsythias are now covered with nearly fully expanded flowers and are the most conspicuous plants in the Arboretum. When planted in low ground they have lost some of their flower-buds from cold, especially those at the end of the branches, but even in low situations they are fuller of flowers than usual. A species which is flowering this spring for the first time in the United States is

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