Early American Azaleas. Four species, now called Rhododendrons, are in flower, *R. canadense*, the Rhodora, of which there are only a few small plants in the Arboretum, *R. Vaseyi*, *R. nudiflorum* and *R. roseum*. Of these *R. Vaseyi* is the first to open its clear pink or occasionally nearly white flowers. The Arboretum plants in large masses along the Meadow Road are still small but have been covered with flowers during the past week. On the lower side of Azalea Path *R. nudiflorum* and *R. roseum* growing side by side with numerous individuals can be compared. On different plants of *R. nudiflorum* the flowers vary considerably in color, and on a few plants are nearly white. For most persons *R. roseum* with the deep rose-colored flowers is a handsomer plant and perhaps the handsomest of the American Azaleas with the exception of *R. calendulaceum* with its yellow or flame-colored flowers. The fragrance of the flowers of *R. roseum* is only equalled among Azaleas by that of the summer blooming *R. viscosum* of northern swamps.

The first Roses. Three Asiatic species of Rose are the first to flower in the Arboretum, *Rosa Ecae* which opened its first flowers on May 21 one day before those of *R. Hugonis* and *R. omeiensis*. *Rosa Ecae* is still rare in gardens. A native of Afghanistan and Turkestan it is a large fast-growing shrub, with small lustrous leaves, strongly and pleasantly fragrant throughout the season, and pale yellow flowers about an inch in diameter. The flowers are paler in color, slightly smaller, and less crowded on the branches than those of *R. Hugonis* but it is a more vigorous and satisfactory plant and the persistent and unusual fragrance of the foliage greatly adds to its value. *Rosa omeiensis* which is common on the mountains of western China, gets its name from Mt. Omei one of the sacred mountains of the Empire. It is a hardy, fast-growing shrub with erect stems covered with bright red prickles and white fragrant flowers hardly an inch in diameter which are followed by handsome red fruits on elongated yellow fleshy stalks. In its native country this Rose sometimes grows to a height of twenty-five feet. A good hedge for New England gardens might be made with it.

Wisterias. There are no flowers this year on the Chinese and Japanese Wisterias on the trellis on the south side of the Shrub Collection, but an old plant of the white flowering Japanese *W. floribunda* which has been allowed to ramble at will on the trees and shrubs on the left hand side of the Valley Road close to the Centre Street Gate is covered with flowers and is one of the most beautiful objects in the Arboretum during the last days of May.

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