ARNOLD ARBORETUM
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On the 1st of April spring in the Arboretum was probably ten days or two weeks earlier than usual, but owing to much cold and rainy weather flowers now look as if they might be as late when fully open as they were early a month ago. The Missouri and eastern Asiatic Witch Hazels blooming in January and February are the earliest plants to flower in the Arboretum; these are shrubs or shrub-like trees, and the earliest of the large trees which shows its flowers in this climate is the Silver or Soft Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, which blooms here by the first or middle of March and has nearly ripened its seeds before the leaves are half grown. It is interesting that the seeds of this tree fall as soon as ripe and germinating at once produce plants with several pairs of leaves before the end of summer. This is a large, fast-growing tree, widely distributed from New Brunswick to Louisiana, and to Nebraska and Missouri, reaching often the height of one hundred and twenty feet, with a trunk three feet in diameter and a drooping head of wide-spreading branches. Very common on the sandy banks of streams and less common in deeply submerged swamps, it is less abundant near the Atlantic coast and at high altitudes on the Appalachian Mountains. This tree is so easily transplanted and grows so rapidly that it has been largely used in the United States as a street and roadside tree, but the brittle branches which break easily detract from its value for such purposes; and the wood is less valuable than that of the Sugar or Red Maple. Several forms differing slightly in the shape of the leaves, and one a small shapely shrub, are occasionally cultivated.

Few trees have flowered during April in the Arboretum. The prin-

cipal ones have been the Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, both with scarlet and with yellow flowers and fruit; *pallidiflorum*, and the common American Elm, *Ulmus americana*. The three Silver Poplars, *Populus alba* and *P. canescens* of Europe and *P. tomentosa* from northern China, one of the handsome and valuable trees introduced by the Arboretum, and the common eastern Cottonwood, *Populus balsamifera*, variety *virginiana*, more generally known perhaps *Populus deltoidea*, have been covered with flowers, as have many species of Willows, including a few rare species like *Salix irrorata*, *S. Laescadiana*, *S. stipularis*, *S. ferruginea* and *S. Siegartii*.

More shrubs than trees have flowered in April. The one with the most conspicuous flowers has been *Magnolia stellata*, of which there are a number of large and small plants in front of the Administration Building. This is an extremely large, round-headed shrub with large dark green leaves which, like those of all the Magnolias which flower before the leaves appear, fall without change of color. This plant rarely ever has produced fruit here, but every autumn it is covered with flower-buds. These are never injured during the winter but the flowers, which are about four inches in diameter, open so early that the numerous loosely arranged petals are usually ruined nine years out of ten by a late frost which turns them brown. This year even when there have only been the slightest frosts in April the petals have suffered somewhat. Very little is known about this plant. By a mistaken determination it was at first called *Burgerea stellata*, and it has also been called by S. B. Parsons *Magnolia Halleana*, the name under which it is still often cultivated in this country where it is not rare. Although this Magnolia was cultivated in Japanese gardens before the days of Von Siebold it has not yet been found as a wild plant in Japan, although Veitch speaks of it in the "Hortus Veitchiana" as a native of Fujiyama. It was introduced into Europe by Veitch in 1862 from a garden in Nagasaki, and the same year it was brought to the United States by Dr. George R. Hall and sold by him to the Parsons Nursery at Flushing, Long Island, where it was largely propagated. Dr. Hall, who before 1862 had never traveled much in Japan, no doubt found the plant in a garden near one of the ports. Nothing is known of it except what has been gathered from these cultivated plants. It is possibly a native of Korea and was early introduced into Japan as a garden plant from that country. It is entirely hardy in Massachusetts and the early opening flower-buds suggest a northern origin. No Magnolia has been found in northern China yet but much of Korea has been only recently explored. It is probable that *Magnolia stellata* will prove hardy further north than any species with flowers opening before the leaves, and that it may be more successful as far north as Montreal or Toronto than it has been in Massachusetts. The Arboretum would be glad to hear of the hardiness of this plant in any part of Canada. The pink-flowered form of *Magnolia stellata*, which probably originated in a Japanese garden, is flowering well in the Arboretum this year.

Forsythia ovata, a native of the Diamond Mountains of Korea, and in its range the most northern of all the species of this genus, was introduced by the Arboretum from seeds collected by Wilson in 1918.

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