

Discolor, Melton, Album grandiflorum, Purpureum elegans and Lady Armstrong. In November, 1908, the Arboretum received from T. J. Seidel, in whose nursery near Dresden is one of the greatest collections of hardy Rhododendrons, a number of his catawbiense hybrids. Seidel uses as stock for his hybrids one of the hybrids of *R. caucasicum* called Cunningham's White, which was raised about 1830 by James Cunningham in his nursery near Edinburgh by crossing *R. caucasicum* with *R. ponticum* it is said. This makes a hardier stock than *R. ponticum* and is easily and cheaply propagated from cuttings. The plants on this stock are dwarfer than those which have been raised in England and appear to be generally hardier. In the Seidel collection in the Arboretum are the following named varieties: Adalbert, Adam, Alarich, Albert, Annedore, Anton, Arno, Attila, August, Bella, Bismarck, Calliope, Daisy, Desiderius, Diana, Donar, Echse, Eli, Eva, Fee and Viola. There is much difficulty in this country with the cultivation of both the English and German hybrid Rhododendrons. The leaves suffer seriously from the attacks of the lace-wing fly and to destroy this it is necessary to spray the plants two or three times during the year. The plants require a deep mulch in winter, and some of the varieties planted in exposed situations are better for a winter covering of evergreen branches. It is no longer possible under the Federal laws to import these plants with soil at their roots and American nurserymen who may still have a few plants ask such exorbitant prices for them that it is foolish to buy them. In the future perhaps some American nurserymen will take up the propagation of these hybrids on stock of Cunningham's White or some other of the Caucasian hybrids, but until this is done the cultivation of plants established in this country or of new collections of these plants is not promising.

Rhododendron Smirnowii. This is a plant from which a great deal can be expected here. It has been growing in the Arboretum for several years and has not suffered from cold or drought. When the plant is fully exposed to the sun the leaves often droop and their edges infold, and it does better in partial shade. The leaves are pale grayish green above and below are thickly covered with pale felt which successfully protects them from the attacks of the lace-wing fly. The flowers are of good size and of pleasant shades of pink or rosy pink, and are borne in large clusters. As compared with the dark green leaves of *R. catawbiense* and its hybrids those of this plant are less attractive, but the flowers are beautiful in color and are equally large. Several hybrids of *R. Smirnowii* and hybrids of *R. catawbiense* have been raised in Europe and there are a few of these in the Arboretum collection. They have proved to be good garden plants here, flowering earlier than *R. Smirnowii* and producing larger pink flowers. They have never been injured in the Arboretum, but as there is only a trace of the felt left on their leaves they will probably suffer from the lace-wing fly. *R. Smirnowii* is now at its best. The flowers of *R. catawbiense* and many of its hybrids are opening, but the flowers of *R. carolinianum* have already faded and those of *R. maximum* will not be out for another fortnight. The Rhododendron Collection is planted at the eastern base of Hemlock Hill and extends along the Bussey Brook to the corner of Bussey Street. The southern end of the collection is

close to the South Street entrance to the Arboretum and is within a short walk of the Forest Hills Station.

Azaleas, which all botanists call *Rhododendrons* now, are still conspicuous features in the Arboretum. As the flowers of *R. roseum* and *R. nudiflorum* begin to fade those of *R. calendulacea* have already opened their orange, yellow or reddish flowers. This shrub is an inhabitant of the mountain regions from southern New York to Georgia, and is often extremely abundant in North Carolina and Tennessee. In flower it is the most showy of the American Azaleas in the Arboretum and one of the most beautiful of all flowering shrubs. This plant has already been largely planted on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, and it is proposed to make it a special feature of the Arboretum. The conspicuous flowers of different shades of red of the Japanese *R. Kaempferi*, which has never bloomed more profusely in the Arboretum than it has this year, are beginning to fade and are followed by those of another Japanese species, *R. japonicum*. Although the flowers of this species are less brilliant than those of the better known *R. Kaempferi*, it is probably the handsomest of the Japanese Azaleas. The flowers are flame color and are more than three inches in diameter. As it grows here this Azalea is a round-topped, rather compact hardy shrub blooming freely every year. There is a bright yellow variety (var. *aureum*) which is also in the collection. *R. japonicum* was raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected in Japan by Professor Sargent in 1892 and has been growing here as long as *R. Kaempferi*. Long confused with the hybrid *Azalea mollis* of gardens, less attention has been paid to it, and it is only lately that its specific characters and value have been understood. One of the parents of the hybrid *A. mollis*, it is a handsomer, longer-lived and more satisfactory plant than that popular and well known Azalea which lives here only a short time. In gardens *R. japonicum* is still one of the rarest of all the hardy Azaleas. Many of the so-called Ghent Azaleas with yellow and different shades of red flowers are also in bloom. These are excellent plants raised by crossing in Europe many years ago various North American species with one of the yellow-flowered species, possibly *R. luteum* or *japonicum*. The origin of these plants, however, is very uncertain. They are among the best of the hardy garden Azaleas and are still occasionally met with in this country.

Arborescent Viburnums. Four Viburnums assume the habit of small trees in the Arboretum; three of these are eastern American, *V. prunifolium*, *V. Lentago*, *V. rufidulum*, and one is Japanese, *V. Sieboldii*. *V. prunifolium*, which is the first to bloom, is a tree often thirty feet high, with a short trunk usually less than a foot in diameter, rigid spreading branches beset with slender spine-like branchlets, thick, dark green, lustrous leaves which, handsome in summer, are splendid in the autumn with their dark red or scarlet colors. In the autumn the plants are conspicuous, too, from the red-stemmed drooping clusters of dark blue fruit covered with a glaucous bloom and from half an inch to three-quarters of an inch long. This plant takes kindly to cultivation and is quite hardy north of the region of its natural distribution which is in southern Connecticut. It has generally escaped the



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