

found a few years ago near Pomfret, Connecticut. These forms are all established in the general Kalmia Collection which is planted on both sides of Hemlock Hill Road at the northern base of Hemlock Hill. On the right hand side of this road are groups of the dwarf *Kalmia angustifolia*, the well-known Sheep Laurel of northern pastures with bright red flowers, and of *K. carolina* from southern swamps and woods from Virginia to South Carolina, with flowers very similar to those of the Sheep Laurel but with leaves pale pubescent on the lower surface. *K. polifolia*, a straggling shrub with leaves white glaucous beneath and rose-purple flowers, is also growing in the Arboretum but it is not a particularly satisfactory plant in cultivation.

Cornus kousa is a small tree which enlivens the forests of eastern Asia as *C. florida* enlivens those of eastern North America and *C. Nuttallii* those of western North America. The three species have the large white or creamy white bracts under the flower clusters which make the inflorescence so conspicuous but the Asiatic tree differs from the American trees by the union of the fruit into a globose fleshy head, while the fruits of the American trees are not united together. *C. kousa* is a small tree rarely exceeding twenty feet in height, and the floral bracts are narrower, more pointed and not as pure white as those of the American trees. It is valuable, however, because it flowers three or four weeks later than *C. florida*. *C. kousa* is a native of central Japan. It is now in flower on the right hand side of the Centre Street Path where the tree, raised from seeds produced in Mr. H. S. Hunnewell's garden in Wellesley, is now the best specimen in the Arboretum. A handsomer tree is the form var. *chinensis*, discovered by Wilson on the mountains of Hupeh in western China. The bracts under the flower clusters are broader than those of the Japanese form and overlap below the middle so that they form, like those of the American species, a cup at the end of a branch. The Chinese Flowering Dogwood is rare in cultivation, and the specimen among the Chinese plants on the southern base of Bussey Hill is probably the only large one in this country. For several years it has ripened a few seeds and it is not improbable that this year the seeds may be more numerous. It is an interesting fact that here in Massachusetts the Chinese and Japanese Flowering Dogwoods are hardier than the native species as *C. florida* loses many of its flower-bracts in severe winters and is often killed or severely injured here by the extreme cold.

Late-flowering Magnolias. The Sweet Bay, *Magnolia virginiana*, or as it is more often called *M. glauca*, opened its fragrant cup-shaped flowers several days ago and will continue to open them until midsummer. A plant for every garden, great or small, how often is the Sweet Bay found in those of modern construction? *M. macrophylla* flowers a few days later than *M. virginiana* and is the last of the American species to open its flowers here. It is a handsome tree with leaves silvery white on the lower surface and often thirty inches long and ten inches wide, and flowers a foot in diameter. A southern tree with its northern stations in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and in Kentucky, it is perfectly hardy in eastern Massachusetts, although here as elsewhere the leaves are often torn by the wind unless a sheltered

position is selected for it. It is interesting as the leaves and flowers are larger than those of any other tree which grows in extra tropical regions. *M. Watsonii*, a shrub which was first found in a Japanese nursery, and is unknown as a wild plant, is also in flower. Its relationship is with *M. parviflora*, a small Japanese tree which grows as far north as Korea; it has usually not been hardy in the Arboretum, but two years ago and this year the plant on the upper side of the Centre Street Path has been covered with flowers which are extremely fragrant, differing in this from those of *M. parviflora*.

Indigofera amblyantha is in flower as usual on the left hand side of the Centre Street Path. It is a slender shrub with small leaves and axillary clusters of small rose-colored flowers which appear continuously for two or three months. This is one of the most beautiful of the small shrubs introduced by Wilson from western China where he found it growing on river cliffs in Hupeh at altitudes up to six thousand feet above the sea-level.

Sophora viciifolia. There are not many shrubs with blue flowers which are perfectly hardy in this climate, and none of them are as satisfactory as this *Sophora* which is a native of central and western China where it is a common undershrub in dry hot valleys. In the Arboretum it is a shapely, perfectly hardy plant four or five feet high, and produces small blue and white pea-shaped flowers in great profusion blooming here every year. In the Arboretum it has proved one of the most attractive of the small shrubs of recent introduction. It can be seen now in flower on the right hand side of the Centre Street Path and in the Bussey Hill Collection.

Cornus controversa is a widely distributed plant in Korea and western China where it sometimes grows to a height of sixty feet with a trunk seven feet in girth. The largest of these trees in the Arboretum is in the Peter's Hill Nursery and is now about twenty-five feet high with a short trunk and a head from twenty-five to thirty feet in diameter. The branches are long, crowded, and spread at right angles with the stem, drooping slightly at the ends, the lowest sweeping the ground. The upper side of the branches is thickly covered with flat flower-clusters six or seven inches in diameter. The flowers are white or white faintly tinged with yellow and are followed by black shining fruits which are eaten by birds as fast as they ripen. As it grows on Peter's Hill this *Cornus* is a magnificent plant, and the handsomest of the species of *Cornus* in the Arboretum with the exception of the species with white floral bracts. To the student of botanical geography *C. controversa* is interesting as a living witness of the relationship between the floras of eastern Asia and eastern North America, for in the genus *Cornus* with many species widely distributed over the world there are but two with alternate leaves, *C. controversa*, common in eastern Asia, and *C. alternifolia*, common in eastern North America, also in flower at this time.

Laburnum alpinum is still covered with its long racemes of clear yellow flowers and has shown, as it has now for many years, its value



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