vicinity of factories. The majority are mountain plants and as such demand pure air. A number of species of Pine grow in the poorest of sandy soils and they, together with certain Junipers, withstand a certain amount of drought, but, on the whole, Conifers demand a constant supply of moisture at the roots. A good loam overlying clay and a sloping hillside is the ideal place for them. What has been written applies equally to the Yews, of which the Japanese species (*Taxus cuspidata*) and its varieties are among the most valuable plants northern gardens possess. The Yews are more tolerant of city conditions than are Conifers, so, if evergreens are needed in cities, Yews only are worth planting.

**Pseudolarix amabilis.** Attention is called to the group of this Conifer, the Chinese Golden Larch, immediately on the left entering from the Walter Street Gate. Like the Larch it is deciduous in character, its leaves changing to a rich golden yellow in the late autumn. The branches are wide-spreading, somewhat ascending and richly clothed in summer with emerald green leaves which are borne in whorls, each terminating a short, spur-like shoot. At the moment many spur-like shoots are crowned with lax clusters of male flowers arranged in erect catkins. Several of the lower branches are weighted down with these curious flowers which emit clouds of yellow pollen and are well-worth the inspection of students interested in botany.

**On Bussey Hill,** Albo-rosea with white flushed pink and Sekiyama with rose-pink blossoms, latest of the Japanese Cherries to flower, still make a brave display, their branches being thickly hung with rose-like blooms. The Dogwood remains in blossom, the earliest of the Brooms are pushing forth their gay-colored flowers, but the Torch Azalea (*Rhododendron obtusum* var. *Kaempferi*) now dominates the scene. This floriferous shrubs with its dazzling blossoms is at the height of its glory. It is perhaps the most spectacular of the whole race of Azaleas and the marvel is that a plant of such exotic appearance should be able to withstand the winters of Massachusetts. It prefers high land or at least a sloping bank and its flowers are seen to best advantage against a dark background of Hemlocks or other Conifers or under the shade of trees. It is a twiggy shrub, growing from 5 to 8 feet tall and as much in diameter, with the familiar characteristics of the so-called Indian Azalea. It does best when grouped thickly so that its branches shade the roots. On account of its color, which varies from salmon and crushed strawberry to flaming red, it needs careful placing for its full effect to be enjoyed. Although known in books since 1712 and a common plant on mountains from the extreme south to the northernmost island of Japan, it was utterly neglected by the early plant explorers in that land. Not until 1892, when the late Professor Sargent sent seeds to the Arboretum, was this Azalea introduced into cultivation. Had he done naught else but introduce this plant garden lovers would have just cause to bless his name. Of all the shrubs that Japan has contributed to the gardens of North America none is more strikingly handsome than this flaming Torch Azalea.