

Of late years rhododendrons here and elsewhere in New England have been attacked by the lace wing fly. These bizarre little creatures are scarcely larger than the head of a pin. Under the microscope they appear like hump-backed monsters dressed in lace. Monsters they are in action as well as appearance, for they gather under the rhododendron leaves and suck its juices. They can be successfully controlled by using an oil spray but their attacks are kept to a minimum if the rhododendrons are planted in semi-shade. The insects dislike the shade; the shrubs prefer it, therefore such a situation is doubly preferable.

One of the Caucasian species, the handsome *R. Smirnowii*, thwarts the lace wing fly by clothing its leaves below with a mat of woolly hair. So protective is this covering that even the hybrids between *R. Smirnowii* and the other species are practically immune. Fortunately, for the next generation of American gardeners, hybridizers are at last at work creating new varieties for this country, varieties which will be winter hardy and summer hardy, which will at least discourage attack from the lace wing fly and which will, nevertheless, compare with present day English varieties in the size and beauty of their flowers.

EDGAR ANDERSON

RHODODENDRONS. IN spite of last winter's devastating cold there has been quite a show of bloom among the hybrid rhododendrons during the last month, the hardy Caucasian hybrid, "Boule de Neige" flowered profusely and the late-blooming variety "Delicatissimum" made a very good showing. Pending a more complete report on the collection as a whole it may be briefly recorded that in addition to these varieties the following gave at least a fair account of themselves: "James Bateman," "Echse," "Anton," "Lady Armstrong," "Henrietta Sargent," and "H.W. Sargent."

AREPORT ON WINTER INJURY. THE effects of the severe winter of 1933-1934 on the collections of the Arnold Arboretum are proving to be of great scientific and horticultural interest. Under the leadership of Professor J.G. Jack there is accordingly being prepared a comprehensive report on winter injury at the Arnold Arboretum. It will comprise one or more numbers of the Bulletin of Popular Information and will be published in the autumn of 1934.

EXPLANATION OF THE INSERT

Rhododendron maximum L.

(From drawings by C.E. Faxon for Sargent's "*Sylva of North America.*")



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