No other North American tree is so familiar to the people of so many different parts of the world as the False Acacia or Yellow Locust of the Appalachian Mountain forests, *Robinia pseudacacia*, and it is now naturalized in many regions far removed from its native home. No other exotic tree has been so generally planted in northern and central Europe since its introduction into the garden of the Paris Museum in 1636 by the King's gardener Robin, whose labors it commemorates; and no other American tree has given rise to such a voluminous literature. The cheerful light green foliage and hanging clusters of fragrant white flowers are known to everyone who has ever looked at trees. The value of the timber which it produces, the rapidity of its growth, its power to adapt itself to different soils and to reproduce itself rapidly by seeds which germinate readily and by stump and root shoots, would make it a most valuable subject for forest and coppice planting in this country if it could be protected from insects, but the value of the Locust is practically destroyed in nearly all parts of the United States beyond the mountain forests which are its home by the borers which riddle the trunk and branches. Owing to the difficulty of keeping the Locust in a presentable condition here no serious effort has ever been made to bring together the interesting varieties or "sports" of this tree which have appeared from time to time in European gardens and are largely planted in European collections of trees. At least thirty of these varieties are now known; the one most often seen in Germany, especially in suburban gardens, is the so-called Parasol Acacia (var. *umbraculifera*). The short branches of this plant form a compact spherical head which is usually grafted on a tall stem of the common Robinis, as in this country a dwarf form of the Catalpa is made into a "standard" by grafting it on a tall stem of the tree form. The only abnormal form of the Robinia thoroughly established in the Arboretum is one of the most remarkable of them all; var. *monophylla*, in which the leaves are reduced to a single broad leaflet.

The two pink-flowered arborescent Robinias, *R. viscosa* and *R. neo-mexicana*, are also subject to attacks by the borer. *R. viscosa*, the Clammy Locust, is not yet in flower but its near relative, the Rocky Mountain species, *R. neo-mexicana*, is now covered with its short clusters of pale rose-colored flowers. More beautiful perhaps than either of these trees is a hybrid of the Rocky Mountain species with *R. pseudacacia*, *R. Holdtii*, named for the Colorado nurseryman in whose establishment it appeared a few years ago. This tree is very hardy; it appears to suffer less than its parents from borers, it grows rapidly and plants only a few feet high cover themselves with pale pink flowers. This tree, which is not yet often seen in eastern collections, is an interesting and valuable addition to the rather short list of trees which flower here in early summer. The Robinias are planted with the other trees of the Pea Family on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road beyond the piece of natural woods.

The latest of the American Magnolias are now in flower, *M. macrophylla* and *M. glauca*. The former is a medium-sized tree with wide-spreading branches and is distinguished by the fact that of all trees which grow beyond the tropics it has the largest leaves and the largest flowers. The leaves of this remarkable tree are silvery white on the lower surface, from twenty to thirty inches long and from eight to
nine inches wide, and the cup-shaped creamy white fragrant flowers are sometimes a foot in diameter. Although an inhabitant of the south, *M. macrophylla* is perfectly hardy in New England, but unless it is planted in sheltered positions the trees often become disfigured by the wind which tears the large delicate leaves. Less showy *M. glauca* is a more valuable plant for general cultivation. Often a large tree in the extreme south, at the north *M. glauca* is never more than a small tree, or more often a large shrub. The leaves are dark green and very lustrous on the upper surface and silvery white on the lower surface; the small, cup-shaped flowers are creamy white and delightfully fragrant, and they continue to open in succession from the middle of June until August. In all North America there is not a more delightful shrub to plant in the garden, or one that will give larger returns in beauty and fragrance; and yet it is difficult to find it in American nurseries, and it is unknown to most American planters of this generation. A hybrid, *M. Thompsoniana*, between *M. glauca* and *M. tripetala*, another American species, is a handsome plant with the general appearance of *M. glauca* but with larger leaves and larger, equally fragrant flowers. This plant is with the American Magnolias on the right-hand side of the Jamaica Plain Gate and is now in flower. Unfortunately it is much less hardy than either of its parents.

On Hickory Path near Centre Street there is a group of large plants of *Styrax japonica* now covered with their pure white cup-shaped flowers hanging gracefully down from the branches on long slender stems; this is one of the handsome flowering shrubs of Japan, but unless a sheltered position can be provided for it, it is not perfectly hardy in the neighborhood of Boston. That it is perfectly at home, where it is now planted in the Arboretum, is shown by the great crops of seedlings which spring up every year under the old plants.

Near this group of *Styrax japonica* are two species of Indigofera, *I. Kirilowii* and *I. amblyantha*, now in flower. The former is a native of Korea and is a low leafy plant which spreads into a broad mass and continues to produce its racemes of large pure pink flowers during several weeks. It was introduced a few years ago into the Arboretum by Mr. Jack, and is an exceedingly valuable garden plant. There is a specimen also of this species in the Shrub Collection. *I. amblyantha* is of entirely different habit, with slender erect stems, small leaves, and erect axillary clusters of small rose-colored flowers which continue to appear during two or three months. An inhabitant of river cliffs in Hupeh at altitudes up to six thousand feet, it sometimes grows there to the height of six feet. This plant flowered in the Arboretum last year for the first time. It appears to be perfectly hardy, and it is one of the most beautiful of the small shrubs introduced by Wilson from western China. Two other species of this genus are established on Azalea Path near its entrance from the Bussey Hill Road, *I. Gerardiana*, a native of the Himalayas, and *I. decora* from southern China. These two plants, although they are killed back to the ground every winter, send up new stems and flower profusely every year. *I. decora* with its large white flowers is a beautiful little plant well worth knowing; it is just coming into bloom.

In the Shrub Collection one of the Roses discovered by Wilson on the mountains of Hupeh, *Rosa setipoda*, is now in flower; it is a large vigorous shrub with broad, many-flowered clusters of long-stalked, dark pink flowers. This Rose proves to be very hardy and promises to be a decorative plant of much value.
Attention is called to another Chinese plant, *Spiraea Henryi*, now flowering in the Shrub Collection and perhaps the handsomest of recent additions to the large number of Spiraeas now cultivated in gardens. *S. Henryi* is a tall, hardy, vigorous shrub with wide-spreading arching branches which on the upper side are covered with large flat clusters of white flowers. Among the Chinese shrubs in the collection of these plants on the south side of Bussey Hill *Hydrangea xanthoneura* and its varieties are in flower; these with *H. Bretschneideri* from northern China are the earliest to flower of all the Hydrangeas which are hardy in this climate.

In the Shrub Collection two of the latest of the Bush Honeysuckles are in flower and are beautiful now and later in the season when the fruit is ripe. These plants are *Lonicera Ledebourii* from the Pacific coast region and *L. involucrata*, var. *serotina* from the mountains of the interior of the continent. The long slender flowers of these two plants are bright yellow more or less tinged with red, and they are surrounded by large, leaf-like dark red cups which remain under the large, black, lustrous fruit. This particular group of Honeysuckles contains some of the hardiest and most beautiful garden shrubs which have been brought into the Arboretum from western North America, a region which has produced few plants which are hardy in this climate.

One of the decorative objects in the Shrub Collection is the large plant of *Halimodendron argenteum*, called Salt-tree because it inhabits the saline steppes near the river Irtish in Siberia. The pale rose-colored, pea-shaped, fragrant flowers, which are produced in great abundance, are borne in short clusters, and their delicate beauty is heightened by the color of the leaves which are covered with a pale silky down. The plant remains in flower during several weeks.

Among vines of recent introduction *Periploca sepium*, a native of Korea, is worth consideration. This is a plant with slender stems, small pointed dark green and very lustrous leaves, and axillary clusters of long-stalked flowers in which the strongly reflexed, dark brown sepals are the conspicuous feature. It can now be seen, covered with flowers, on the eastern side of the Shrub Collection.

The Himalayan Lilac, *Syringa Emodi*, or as it is sometimes considered a variety of the Chinese *S. villosa*, is now covered with flowers. This is not an occurrence of every year for this species is not perfectly hardy and the ends of the branches and the flower-buds are often killed in severe winters. It is a large, broad shrub with large leaves light yellow green above and silvery gray and covered with soft white hairs below, and long narrow clusters of small white fragrant flowers. It is the last of the true Lilacs to bloom and from all other Lilacs it differs in its light yellow foliage.

Conspicuous plants now in flower in the roadside plantations are the North American *Viburnum dentatum* and *V. cassinoides* and the Japanese *V. dilatatum*, a species with very large, slightly convex clusters of creamy white flowers which are followed in the autumn by small bright red fruits. Other conspicuous plants are the North American *Cornus rugosa* and *C. racemosa*, the European *C. alba*, and two native Roses *Rosa lucida* and *R. humilis*. The flame-colored *Rhododendron* (Azalea) *calendulaeum* now makes a brilliant show, and the Laurels (*Kalmia*) are in full bloom. The Laurels can most easily be reached from the South Street or from the Walter Street entrances, and should be visited within a few days.