For the decoration of northern gardens there are no more beautiful or desirable shrubs than the Azaleas of eastern North America. There are seven species of these plants and they are now all called Rhododendrons by botanists, and in the Arboretum all Azaleas are labeled Rhododendrons. The first species to bloom, *R. Vaseyi*, begins to flower the beginning of May and the flowers of the last, *R. viscosum*, can be found here as late as the middle of July, so that the Azalea season is a long one. *R. Vaseyi* is a tall shrub, with slender stems and an open irregular habit. In its home in the sheltered valleys of the Blue Ridge in South Carolina it sometimes grows to the height of from fifteen to eighteen feet. The flowers are produced before the leaves appear in small compact clusters and are pure pink in color, but occasionally plants are found with nearly white flowers. Although this plant was not discovered until comparatively a few years ago, it has been much planted in gardens near Boston and it is fast becoming here one of the most popular of the early-flowering spring shrubs. With *R. Vaseyi* the Rhodora (*R. canadense*) flowers. This well known dwarf shrub often covers, especially in the north, large areas of moist or swampy land with a sheet of bloom. The small flowers, however, are of a rather unattractive rose-purple color, and the fame of the Rhodora is perhaps due more to Emerson's poem than to its intrinsic beauty. Naturally the Rhodora grows from Newfoundland to Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The next to bloom are the two pink-flowered species, *R. canescens* and *R. nudiflorum*; the former is a northern and the latter a more southern plant and is especially common in the Gulf States from Florida to eastern Texas. The flowers of these plants open before or with the unfolding of the leaves and in early spring fill the woods with beauty and fragrance. Both species can now be seen in flower on Azalea Path, and there is a large mass of *Azalea canescens* on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road in front of the Linden Group.

The Flame-colored Azalea, *R. calendulaceum*, is the next species to flower and is already beginning to open its orange, yellow, or reddish flowers which are not fragrant. This shrub is an inhabitant of the Appalachian Mountain region from southern New York to Georgia, and is extremely abundant on the lower slopes of the high mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. In flower it is the most showy of our Azaleas and one of the most beautiful of all flowering shrubs. A large mass of this Azalea has been planted on the slope below Azalea Path and occasional large specimens can be seen in the border plantations along some of the roads.

The next species to flower, *R. arborescens*, is also a native of the Appalachian Mountains on which it grows from Pennsylvania to Georgia and where in sheltered valleys it sometimes attains the height of fifteen feet or more. The flowers, which appear after the leaves are nearly fully grown, are white or faintly tinged with rose color and are made conspicuous by the long bright red filaments of the stamens. The flowers are very fragrant and the young leaves have the odor of new mown grass. Less showy in flower than the Flame-colored Azalea it is one of the most beautiful of all hardy Azaleas.
The last species to flower, the Clammy Azalea or Swamp Honeysuckle, is a common inhabitant of the swamps of the eastern states, especially of those in the neighborhood of the coast. The rather small flowers are pure white and covered with clammy hairs, and the leaves are often of a pale bluish color, especially on their lower surface. This plant is valuable for the lateness of its flowers which do not open until the flowers of most hardy shrubs have passed, and for their fragrance.

These shrubs are all perfectly hardy in eastern Massachusetts and flourish in all exposures and in good garden soil, although like all Rhododendrons they cannot be made to live in soil strongly impregnated with lime. They are not often cultivated because it is not easy to find these plants in nurseries, for few nurserymen, especially in the United States, care to take the trouble to raise such plants from seeds, the only satisfactory way in which they can be propagated. In beauty, constitution and hardiness they are superior to the so-called Ghent Azaleas which are hybrids between the species from the Caucasus, which is not hardy here, and some of the American species. The Ghent Azaleas are favorites with European nurserymen who propagate them by grafting and they are imported in large numbers into this country. Here they grow slowly; many of the varieties are not at all hardy and others are liable to lose large branches in severe winters. The American species are better garden plants here, too, than the yellow-flowered Asiatic species, R. japonicum, usually called Azalea mollis in gardens, a common Japanese and Korean plant, and the Chinese R. sinense or the hybrids of these two species. Azalea mollis is hardy and free-flowering but the plants are short-lived in this country. The little known R. sinense with its beautiful yellow flowers is hardy but the flower-buds have usually been killed in each of the two or three winters this plant has been exposed here in the open ground.

The Japanese and Chinese Viburnum tomentosum is now in flower. This is a large shrub with wide-spreading horizontal branches along the upper side of which the flat flower-clusters are thickly placed and are surrounded by a ring of pure white sterile or ray flowers which make the conspicuous part of the inflorescence. The flowers are followed in the late autumn by brilliant fruits which, scarlet at first, become black when fully ripe. The leaves turn orange and scarlet in the autumn. There is an interesting narrow-leaved form of this plant (var. lanceolatum), discovered in Japan by Professor Sargent, now flowering in the Arboretum. There are also two “Snowball” forms of this plant developed in Japanese gardens and much cultivated here and in Europe under the name of Viburnum plicatum. The correct name of the more common of these two plants is V. tomentosum, var. dilatatum. This is the Japanese Snowball usually cultivated in this country and it will not be in its best condition for another week or ten days. The other form (V. tomentosum, var. dilatatum, f. rotundifolium), which appears to be a dwarfer plant, has been in flower for the last ten days. These forms of Viburnum can be seen growing together in the large collection of Viburnums recently arranged on Bussey Hill Road just before it turns into the Valley Road near the Centre Street Gate.

Viburnum tomentosum and the Corean V. Carlesii are ornamental plants of great beauty and value but, with the exception of these two plants, none of the eastern Asiatic species compare in value as decora-
tive plants with the Viburnums of North America. To these much of the late spring and early summer beauty of the Arboretum shrubber-ies is due, and the successful cultivation here of these plants is at last making their value known and appreciated. Thirty years ago it was practically impossible to buy an American Viburnum in any nursery, but now several of the species are largely propagated in many North American nurseries and have been used in considerable quantities in many American parks.

About a dozen of the American Viburnums are thoroughly established in the Arboretum, the different species flowering through period a of two months. The earliest to flower and the most difficult to establish here satisfactorily, *V. alnifolium*, often called *V. lantanoïdes*, the Hobble Bush or Moosewood of northern woods, has been out of flower for several weeks and now the only species in flower is the Black Haw, *V. prunifolium*. This is a small shapely tree of the Middle States where it is often extremely common. The flowers are in convex clusters and are followed by sweet blue-black fruits. These and the leaves, which late in the season turn deep wine color, make this a particularly attractive plant in the autumn. Several other species will be in flower in a few days and will be mentioned in later issues of these bulletins.

Three species of Enkianthus, an Asiatic genus of the Heath Family, are unusually full of flowers and flower-buds this year. The largest of the Japanese species, *E. campanulatus*, is now in flower and the flowers of the other species will open in a few days. *E. campanulatus* is a tall shrub with bell-shaped flowers hanging gracefully in long clusters which are partly hidden by the leaves. There are two forms in the collection, one with pale yellow flowers striped with red, and the other with rather smaller red flowers. The leaves of all these plants turn brilliant scarlet in the autumn and for its autumn colors *E. campanulatus* is much cultivated in Japanese gardens. The three species are in the Shrub Collection, and there is a large group of them on the lower side of Azalea Path where *E. campanulatus* can now be seen in its greatest spring beauty.

Of Chinese plants flowering here for the first time attention is called to *Lonicera Koehneana*, a large hardy and vigorous shrub with dark red-purple branchlets, thick yellow-green leaves with conspicuous veins and pale yellow flowers slightly tinged with red on the outer surface of the corolla, and to *Neillia sinensis*, an interesting plant related to the Spiraeas. The former is in the bed of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, in which a number of the new Cotoneasters are also in flower, and the Neillia is on Hickory Path near Centre Street.

The Arboretum will be grateful for any publicity given these Bulletins.