Laurels. Rarely if ever before have the Arboretum Laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*) been as full of flower-buds as they are now, and by the time this bulletin reaches its Massachusetts readers many of the plants will be covered with flowers. The flowering of the Laurels is the last of the great Arboretum flower shows of the year, and none of those which precede it are more beautiful, for the Mountain Laurel, or the Calico Bush as it is often called, is in the judgment of many flower-lovers the most beautiful of all North American shrubs or small trees. Many Rhododendrons have larger leaves and larger and more brilliantly colored flowers, but of all the broad-leaved evergreen plants which can be grown successfully in this climate the Laurel is the handsomest and most satisfactory. It is not perhaps strange that so little attention has been paid to it by American gardeners for the American gardeners, of earlier generations at least, derived their inspiration almost entirely from England and usually despised American plants as too common for their attention. For some reason which it is not easy to explain *Kalmia latifolia* has never been a popular plant in England where it is still not often seen and where it certainly grows less freely than many species and hybrids of the Rhododendrons. For this reason, perhaps, no distinct forms of the Laurel and no hybrids have been developed by cultivators, and the few recognized variations in the flowers and leaves have all been found on wild plants. Of these there are forms with pure white flowers (var. *alba*) and there is a form with deep pink, nearly red, flowers and rather dark leaves (var. *rubra*). Between these extremes there are others with flowers of all shades of pink, and there is one with flowers conspicuously marked by a chocolate band (var. *fuscata*). There is a dwarf form (var. *myrtifolia*)
with small leaves and small clusters of minute flowers; and there is one in which the corolla is deeply divided into narrow lobes (var. poly-petala). This plant, which is not at all ornamental, was found near Deerfield, Massachusetts, and has been propagated and distributed from the Arboretum. A form with broad, handsome, Rhododendron-like leaves (var. obtusata) which rarely flowers was found a few years ago near Pomfret, Connecticut. These forms, with the exception of var. fuscata, 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. This part of the Arboretum where there are other interesting plants, including the collection of Rhododendrons, is easily and quickly reached from the South Street entrance of the Arboretum.

**Syringa yunnanensis.** This Lilac from southwestern China is now in flower. It has long-pointed, glabrous leaves dull green above and pale below, and large, rather open clusters of small creamy white flowers faintly tinged with rose color, with an unusual and delicate perfume which greatly adds to the attraction of the plant. *S. yunnanensis* is one of the plants introduced by George Forrest through the Bee Company of Liverpool and has now been growing in the Arboretum for several years. Although it first flowered here in 1913, it has not shown its real character as a flowering plant until this season. *S. yunnanensis* can be seen on the lower side of the path which follows the top of the bank occupied by the Lilac Collection.

**Syringa Julianae.** This Chinese Lilac has flowered in the Arboretum every year since 1909 but never so abundantly as this year. In the shape of the leaves and in the long slender corolla-tube it has something in common with *S. pubescens*. This, however, is a native of the northern part of the empire; it blooms fully three weeks earlier here, and the flower-buds are rose color, not purple. The flowers, too, of *S. Julianae* are without the strong perfume of *S. pubescens* which, especially in the evening, is stronger than that of the flowers of any other Lilac. *S. Julianae* is one of the most distinct of the numerous Lilacs discovered by Wilson in western China and promises to be a useful garden plant here, if for no other reason, on account of the lateness of the flowers. It can be seen with all the other Chinese Lilacs discovered by Wilson nearly opposite the plant of *S. yunnanensis* on the path at the top of the Lilac bank.

**Caragana Maximowicziana.** This is a good addition to the so-called Siberian Pea-trees which can be successfully grown in northern gardens. It is a shrub with slender, wide-spread and arching, spiny stems, small pinnate leaves and narrow, canary yellow flowers which are produced in great numbers and appear later than those of the other Caraganas in the collection. It is a native of northern China and first flowered in the Arboretum two years ago when not more than two feet high. Plants in flower can be seen in the Shrub Collection and among the Chinese plants on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

**Photinia villosa.** This is a small tree or arborescent shrub of a genus of the Rose Family closely related to Crataegus and Cotoneaster and is widely distributed in eastern Asia. It has thick, dark green leaves and white flowers produced in great profusion in compact, many-
flowered, flat-topped clusters, terminal on short leafy branches of the year, and oval, bright scarlet fruit about a third of an inch long. *P. villosa* is now in flower in the Shrub Collection and in some of the border plantations, and growing with it in the Shrub Collection is a variety (var. *laevis*) which is already out of flower. This is a tall shrub with numerous slender, spreading stems and branches, narrower leaves, and handsomer and more abundant fruits. The leaves of these two plants assume in the autumn brilliant shades of orange and scarlet.

**Kolkwitzia amabilis.** The specimen of this Chinese plant suffered during the winter in the low ground occupied by the general Shrub Collection, but on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where it is planted with the other new Chinese shrubs it has proved perfectly hardy and is now in flower. Kolkwitzia is related to Diervilla and Abelia, and the flowers are borne in pairs on long stems at the ends of short, lateral, leafy branchlets and are an inch long with a two-lobed oblique corolla deep rose color in the bud, becoming paler after opening, the inner surface of the three divisions of the lower lobe being white blotched with orange color at the base. As a flowering shrub this is one of the most beautiful and interesting of recent introductions from China.

**Sophora viciifolia.** Shrubs with blue flowers hardy in this climate are rare, and none of them are as satisfactory as this Sophora which is a native of central and western China, where it is a common under-shrub in dry hot valleys. It has been growing in the Arboretum for several years; it is now about four feet high, and produces its small blue and white pea-shaped flowers every year in great profusion. It can be seen in flower on Hickory Path near Centre Street, and with the other Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

**Philadelphus.** Some of the plants of the large Arboretum collection of *Philadelphus*, or Mock Orange, are already in flower. The earliest to bloom is *P. Schrenkii*, var. *Jackii*, a plant discovered by Mr. Jack in Corea a few years ago. It is a dwarf shrub with erect stems and rather small flowers, and is chiefly valuable for its earliness. *P. hirsutus* from the southern Appalachian Mountain region is also in flower. This is a small-flowered species, and in cultivation is a large, loose-growing shrub of unattractive habit, and compared with many of the plants of this group has little value as a garden plant.

**Neillia sinensis.** This member of a genus of the Rose Family, closely related to the North American Ninebark (*Physocarpus*) and to the Spiraeas, is flowering for the fourth year in the Arboretum and by some enthusiastic visitors is considered the most beautiful of the shrubs brought here from China in recent years. It has very slender, rather pendulous branches, red-brown bark, which, like that of the Ninebark, separates freely into long, narrow shred-like scales, long-pointed, more or less deeply lobed leaves, and narrow clear pink, bell-shaped flowers nearly half an inch long, in spreading and slightly drooping, many-flowered racemes about three inches in length and terminal on short, slender leafy branchlets of the year. The pointed pod-like fruit, which is covered with long glandular hairs, is not more ornamental than that of the Ninebark. There are two other Chinese species now in the Arboretum but they have not yet flowered. The
largest plants of *N. sinensis* are on Hickory Path near Centre Street, and it can also be seen in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

**Dwarf Hawthorns.** Among the dwarf Hawthorns of the United States are a number of plants which promise to be of great value for the decoration of gardens, where, however, they are still almost unknown; indeed until a few years ago they had been almost entirely overlooked or neglected by botanists and gardeners. One dwarf species, however, *C. uniflora*, was cultivated in England by Bishop Compton as early as 1713 and is still occasionally met with in gardens. It is a shrub a foot or two high with small leaves, and small flowers in one or rarely in two-flowered clusters, and green fruit. This little shrub grows in sandy soil from Pennsylvania to Alabama, usually in the region near the coast. It is now in flower in the Arboretum and has no great value as a garden plant. It is interesting, however, as the type of one of the natural groups, the Uniflorae, in which the species of Hawthorns are arranged. Another species of this group, *C. Smithii*, is also in flower. This little shrub is a native of western Pennsylvania and is distinguished by the serration of its leaves and by its two- or three-flowered flower-clusters. Only one other dwarf species, *C. intricata*, was cultivated before 1900 when the Arboretum began the systematic study of American Hawthorns. This shrub was described in Europe in 1894 from a plant cultivated in the Botanic Garden at Copenhagen and has been made the type of the Intricatae Group. The plants of this group are mostly shrubs from one to four feet high, although in the southern Appalachian region a few of the species become small trees. The largest number of species is found in Pennsylvania but these plants are not rare in southern New England, New York and Ontario. Only a few have been found in the region west of the Mississippi River and they do not occur in the coast region of the South Atlantic and Gulf States. These plants mostly flower late and have large and showy flowers usually in few-flowered clusters, and large, red, yellow or green, late-ripening fruit. A number of the Intricatae are flowering in the Arboretum this year where they can be seen on the lower side of the road at the eastern base of Peter's Hill, directly north of the Crabapple Collection. *Crataegus triflora*, the type of another group, the Triflorae, is also in flower here. This is a shrub with large leaves, flowers probably larger than those of any other dwarf Hawthorn, and often an inch and a quarter in diameter, in from three- to six-, usually only three-flowered clusters, and large dull red fruit. A comparatively rare plant, *C. triflora* grows on the bluffs of the Coosa River, at Rome, Georgia, in one or two places in northern Alabama, and in northeastern Mississippi.

**Lonicera pileata.** Evergreen shrubs hardy in this climate are so few in number that it is desirable to call attention to this little Chinese Honeysuckle which has now been growing without protection in the Arboretum for several years and has been in flower for several weeks. It has prostrate stems which form a low compact mat, leaves which resemble those of some form of the Box-tree, and small, pale-yellow, very fragrant flowers. This Honeysuckle should prove an excellent plant for the rock garden. Plants can be seen on Hickory Path near Centre Street and in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.