The Ohio Buckeye. This, the *Aesculus glabra* of botanists, is the first of the Horsechestnut family to open its flowers. It is a small tree rarely more than fifty feet tall and usually much smaller, with bark which on young trees is dark brown and scaly but on old trunks becomes ashy gray and deeply furrowed. It has pale yellow flowers, with petals shorter than the stamens and fruit covered with prickles like that of the European Horsechestnut; unlike those of that tree, the winter-buds are not resinous. It is one of the most widely distributed of the American Buckeyes as it ranges from western Pennsylvania to northern Alabama and to eastern Nebraska and Oklahoma. There is a variety in southern Arkansas with smooth pale bark which has been distinguished as var. *leucoderms*, and there is another variety in western Missouri with leaves composed of seven instead of five leaflets which is known as var. *Buckleyi*. The Ohio Buckeye and these two varieties have been in flower for several days in the Arboretum collection. Their flowers are much less showy than those of other Horsechestnuts and of most of their hybrids, but the Ohio Buckeye is interesting botanically as well as historically, for it is to this tree that one of the great and important states of the Union owes its popular name.

*Rhododendron Kaempferi*. This red-flowered Azalea from the mountains of central Japan promises to bloom well this spring for many of the plants are covered with flower-buds which are already showing color. There are masses of this hardy Azalea on both sides of Azalea Path and at the northern base of Hemlock Hill between the Hemlocks
and the Laurels. On Azalea Path the plants are fully exposed to the sun and the flowers, which are extremely delicate, soon wither. On Hemlock Hill where the plants are in partial shade they flower a week or ten days later, and the flowers remain longer in good condition and make one of the brilliant flower shows of the Arboretum year.

Rhododendron poukhanense. This is the Azalea which Mr. Jack introduced into the Arboretum from Korea. When it first flowered here it was described as *R. coreanum* before it was known that a French botanist had already named it for Poukhan, a Korean mountain where it had been found by a French missionary. It is a beautiful round-topped, compact shrub, with large, rosy pink, fragrant flowers. It appears to be perfectly hardy in the most exposed positions, and has flowered freely now in the Arboretum for several years. A double-flowered form of this plant, sent to this country from Japanese nurseries under the name of *Yodogawa* is a form of the Korean plant. A number of plants of *R. poukhanense* are now flowering on the upper side of Azalea Path.

Chinese Poplars in early spring. The beauty and interest of several of the Poplar trees of eastern Asia is increased by the bright red-bronze color of the young leaves. The unfolding leaves of Poplar trees from other parts of the world are not colored in this way, and those of *P. Maximowiczii*, *P. suaveolens*, *P. tomentosa*, *P. Simonii*, and *P. yunnanensis* of eastern Asia are green as they unfold. The young leaves of the other Chinese species, *P. szechuanica*, *P. Wilsonii*, *P. adenopoda*, *P. lasiocarpa*, *P. tremula*, var. *Davidiana* and its form *tomentella*, and the Japanese *P. Sieboldii* are all more or less deeply tinged with red. All the eastern Asiatic Poplars are now growing in the Arboretum with the exception of the Chinese form (var. *Duclouxiana*) of the Himalayan *P. rotundifolia* which has not been introduced, and they all prove to be hardy and fast-growing trees here with the exception of *P. lasiocarpa* which is not very hardy and suffers badly from borers here, and perhaps *P. yunnanensis* which has not been sufficiently tested yet in the Arboretum.

Hydrangea petiolaris. This vigorous Japanese climbing plant has usually been planted in this country to grow up the trunks of trees, and it does not appear to be generally known that it is one of the best plants that can be used in this climate for covering brick or stone walls to which it clings tenaciously. In such situations it grows rapidly and flowers more freely than when growing among the branches of trees. Its value as a wall covering is increased, too, by the early appearance of the dark green leaves which are nearly fully grown before there is the sign of a leaf on any of the Virginia Creepers or other deciduous-leaved climbing plants which can be grown here. All Hydrangeas need plenty of water, and probably *H. petiolaris* will do better on the north or east side of a building than in a southern exposure. A large specimen can be seen on the Administration Building.
Berberis (Mahonia) repens. The beautiful Oregon Grape, *Berberis (Mahonia Aquifolium)* of the northwest coast region is not a satisfactory plant in this climate unless it can be planted in exceptionally sheltered positions or can be carefully protected, for the cold here destroys or disfigures the leaves and often kills the plants. The species from the Rocky Mountains, *B. repens*, is a hardier plant and one of the most useful of the dwarf, broad-leaved evergreens which can be used here. It grows less than a foot high and spreads rapidly into large mats; the leaves are pale bluish green and are not lustrous like those of the Oregon species, and the flowers are bright yellow and produced in compact terminal clusters. This plant is now in flower in the Shrub Collection next to a plant of *Berberis Aquifolium*, which is also in flower and in better condition this spring than usual. There is a collection of different forms of the Mahonias on the lower side of Hickory Path near Centre Street, including the Japanese species (*B. japonica*) which has unexpectedly proved hardy in this sheltered position.

Early Lilacs. The white-flowered *Syringa affinis* and its variety *Giraldis*, with pale lilac or mauve-colored flowers, *S. Meyeri* and *S. hyacinthiflora*, are already in flower and in a few days, many of the varieties of the common Lilac will open their flowers. *S. affinis* and its variety are tall shrubs of a straggling habit, but are valuable on account of their early and very fragrant flowers. The white-flowered form is the common and apparently the only kind of Lilac cultivated in the gardens of Peking. *S. Meyeri* is a dwarf shrub of northern China with compact clusters of very fragrant dark purple flowers which are distinct in the exceptionally long slender tube of the corolla. *S. hyacinthiflora* is a hybrid between the common Lilac and the Chinese *S. oblata*; the flowers are lilac-colored, small and double, in rather small clusters; it is a vigorous, fast growing plant, however, of good habit and is chiefly valuable in prolonging the Lilac season.

Daphnes. *Daphne Mezereum* and its white-flowered variety bloomed several weeks ago before the snow had entirely disappeared. They are dwarf European shrubs with erect branches, and have now become naturalized in several places in the northern states. A more beautiful plant, *D. Cneorum*, is now in flower in the Shrub Collection and on the lower side of Azalea Path; it forms a broad mat of wiry semiprostrate stems less than a foot long, covered with dark green leaves and terminating in dense heads of rose-colored delightfully fragrant flowers. It is a plant which with the same treatment and in the same soil succeeds in some gardens and fails utterly in others. Fortunately it does well in the Arboretum where it is one of the most admired plants in the Collection. The pale lilac-flowered *D. genkwa* is blooming in the special Chinese Collection on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. This Daphne was sent to the United States many years ago from Japan, but the plants derived from Japanese gardens did not succeed here. It is a Chinese plant introduced into Japan, and the plants now flowering in the Arboretum were raised from seeds collected by Wilson in
western China. If they prove permanently successful here this Daphne will be a delightful addition to our early-flowering dwarf shrubs.

**Crataegus Arnoldiana.** This Hawthorn was never fuller of flower-buds than it is this spring and these will soon be open. This tree was discovered growing naturally on a wooded bank in the Arboretum; it grows also on the banks of the Mystic River in West Medford, Massachusetts, and near New London, Connecticut. It belongs to the Molles group of Hawthorns, which are trees distinguished by their large size, by their large early flowers which usually open with the unfolding of the leaves, and by the large, often edible, scarlet or rarely yellow fruits. There are several species found from the valley of the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Quebec to Texas. The species are, however, most numerous in the region west of the Mississippi River, and are almost entirely wanting in the southeastern states. *C. Arnoldiana* is one of the handsomest of the species of this group which is hardy here. The brilliant red fruit ripens late in August and falls in September earlier than that of the other species. In winter this tree is easily recognized by its upright growing, distinctly zigzag branches which are more thickly covered with spines than those of many of the related species. The largest trees of this Thorn can be seen on the left-hand side of the Valley Road just inside the Centre Street Gate and in front of the Platanus Collection. There are also several of these trees in front of the group of White Oaks, also on the left-hand side of the Valley Road. At the South Street entrance there are large plants of three other species of the Molles Group, *C. mollis* from the Ohio-Illinois region, *C. arkansana* from central Arkansas, and *C. submollis*, a Canadian and New England tree. These will all be in flower in a few days.

**Malus Sieboldii, var. calocarpa.** This Japanese Crabapple is one of the handsomest in the Arboretum both in spring and autumn. It is a broad tree-like shrub or small tree with only slightly lobed leaves, pink and white flowers fully an inch in diameter and brilliant scarlet lustrous fruits which are half an inch in diameter and more beautiful perhaps than those of any other Crabapple. This beautiful plant was raised from seed presented to the Arboretum in 1890 by Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow of Boston. It can be seen in the front row of the Crabapple Collection at the eastern base of Hemlock Hill. It has been found that *Sieboldii* is the oldest and therefore the proper name for the Chinese and Japanese Crabapple which up to this time has been known in gardens as *Malus* or *Pyrus toringo*.

It is interesting to note that Wilson found in western China the wild, single-flowered form of the beautiful Crabapple with rose-colored, semi-double flowers, *Malus Halliana*, or the Parkman Crab, which first came to this country from Japan, and was long believed to be a Japanese species. It is the Kaido of Japanese gardens. To the double-flowered form, which is the one generally cultivated in eastern gardens, the name *Malus Halliana Parkmanii* has been given; it is flowering well in the Arboretum this year.