Rhododendron maximum superbum. A plant under this name came to the Arboretum a few years ago from a Connecticut nursery. It has leaves shaped like those of R. maximum but only six inches long and flowers two inches across the expanded corolla; this is deep rose color on the margin of the lobes shading to white toward their base and marked on the upper lobe by many orange colored spots. This plant blooms a few days earlier than R. maximum, and beginning to grow usually after the flowers open they are not partly hidden by the young branches of the year as are those of R. maximum. It is probably a hybrid of R. maximum with one of the hybrids of R. catawbiense. The plants raised from this cross by Charles Sander at Holm Lea in Brookline are of the general appearance of R. maximum superbum, but they have longer and more lustrous leaves pale on the lower surface, and on some of the plants much larger clusters of handsomer flowers. There is an old plant, evidently the same hybrid, in what was the garden of Mr. Francis Parkman on the western shore of Jamaica Pond and now included in Olmsted Park. This plant has even longer leaves than the Sander plant and rather paler-colored flowers. This and one or two of the Sander plants are as handsome as any Rhododendron with pink or rose-colored flowers which can be grown in this climate. They bloom at the same time as the white-flowered hybrid of the same parentage which was raised many years ago by Anthony Waterer at Knaphill and named by him Wellesleyanum for Mr. Hunnewell's estate at Wellesley. This plant has not always proved entirely hardy in Massachusetts but has now flowered well for several years at Holm Lea. These maximum-catawbiense hybrids seem des-
tined to play an important part in the decoration of parks and gardens in the northeastern United States where few Rhododendrons or other broad-leaved evergreen plants can be grown. They are as hardy as the hardiest of the catawbiense hybrids, and flowering two or three weeks later than these prolong the flowering time of hybrid Rhododendrons into July, that is to the time when the conspicuous flowering of trees and shrubs is not abundant.

**Schizophragma hydrangeoides**, now that it has at last, after forty years of failure, found a place that suits it on the east side of the Administration Building, is growing rapidly and promises to cover as much space as the great plant of the Japanese Climbing Hydrangea which is its neighbor. It is already half way to the top of the building, and its value as a flowering plant in July is now shown by its conspicuous flower-clusters. The Japanese Schizophragma now grows as rapidly as the Climbing Hydrangea and clings as firmly to a brick wall. The leaves are smaller, more circular in shape, more coarsely toothed and darker and duller in color. The inflorescence, which is terminal on short lateral branchlets, which stand out from the stems, is interesting but not perhaps as showy as that of the Hydrangea, for instead of the surrounding ring of neutral flowers there are only two neutral flowers to each of the divisions to the large compound cluster of perfect flowers; these neutral flowers are snow white, ovate, often an inch or more long, and hang on long slender stems an inch in length. **Schizophragma hydrangeoides** seems to be a rare plant in American and European gardens, and in this country *Hydrangea petiolaris* is often sold for it. The Chinese species, *S. integrifolia* introduced by Wilson, has not yet found a place in the Arboretum which suits it, and has not proved hardy here. It is a handsomer plant than the Japanese species with much larger sterile flowers.

**Decumaria barbara** is another climbing plant of the Saxifrage Family which is now flowering in the Arboretum Nursery. It grows naturally by the banks of streams and in swamps from southeastern Virginia to central and western Florida, western Louisiana, and western Tennessee, often climbing up the trunks of trees by its aerial roots to the height of thirty feet. This handsome and interesting plant has dark green and lustrous leaves, small, white, fragrant flowers in large, terminal, compound clusters, and capsular, urn-shaped fruit with a persistent style and stigma. It is rare in gardens, certainly in those of the northeastern United States, but there is an old and well established plant in that of Mr. N. T. Kidder in Milton, Massachusetts, which flowers every year. It is now growing well and promises to become established in the Arboretum. The Chinese species introduced by Wilson is growing well in a cold pit here but has not yet flowered.

**Itea virginica**, another plant of the Saxifrage Family, was in flower last week in the Shrub Collection. It is a shrub two or three feet high, with simple, alternate, minutely serrate, deciduous leaves and small white flowers in terminal erect racemes. This interesting little plant is widely distributed from New Jersey to Florida and Louisiana, and northward to Missouri and southern Illinois, ascending on the Car-
olina Mountains to altitudes of from two thousand to two thousand five hundred feet. It grows usually in swamps. The beautiful species introduced by Wilson from central China with persistent leaves, *I. ilicifolia*, is not hardy here.

**Ceanothus pallidus plenus** is the only one of the hybrid Ceanothus tried in the Arboretum which has proved hardy. It has been growing here since 1889 and is an attractive shrub of dwarf compact habit which every year late in June covers itself with clusters of pale pink double flowers. It is believed to be a hybrid of *C. ovatus* and *C. Delilianus* which is a hybrid of *C. americanus* and *C. coeruleus*, a Mexican species often called *azureus*. Hybrid Ceanothus are popular plants in Europe, especially in France and Germany, but are not often seen in this country although south of New England many of them would probably flourish. Ceanothus is an American genus with three species in the eastern United States; it is represented by a few species in the Rocky Mountain region and is most abundant in California where several beautiful plants of this genus occur, and in Mexico. The two species of the northeastern states, *C. americanus* and *C. ovatus* with its variety *pubescens*, and the Colorado *C. Fendleri*, are the only species which are hardy in the Arboretum. The northeastern species are attractive small shrubs with white flowers and are good plants to naturalize on the borders of woods and by the side of roads. *Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles*, a form of *C. coeruleus* with bright blue flowers is one of the popular garden plants in temperate Europe and might well be grown in the gardens of the middle states.

**Two Japanese Hollies** with deciduous leaves and red fruit, *Ilex serrata* and *I. geniculata*, are in flower on Hickory Path near Centre Street. The berries of the former are smaller than those of our native Black Alder, *I. verticellata*, but they are of a brighter color and remain on the branches although changed in color by severe cold until the leaves of the following year are fully grown, and in the autumn the leafless branches covered with fruit are sold in great quantities in the streets of Tokyo and other Japanese cities. *Ilex geniculata* is a delightful little plant with small bright scarlet fruit gracefully hanging on long slender stems. Little known, it is a plant for any garden.

**The ripening of fruits** has already begun and the varied and beautiful fruit of many trees and shrubs will make the Arboretum an interesting place to visit for several months, and one of the best places in America to supply birds with food. Although not yet ripe, the bright red "keys" of the Tartarian Maple are now the showiest fruits in the Arboretum. They are the chief ornament of this hardy little tree of southeastern Europe and western Asia (*Acer tataricum*), many years ago much more often seen in American gardens than it is now. The fruit on several Bush Honeysuckles is ripe or nearly ripe. A few of the most conspicuous of these plants now are those of the hybrids of the Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), called *L. bella*, *L. muendumensis*, and *L. notha*. There are varieties, too, of *L. tatarica* with red and with yellow fruit which are attractive at this season of the year and the bright yellow flowers of *Lonicera Ruprechtiana* var. *canthocarpa*
make a great show in early July. These and many of the other Bush Honeysuckles which can be seen in the Arboretum, where there is a large collection of these plants, are excellent shrubs for cold countries like the extreme northern states and Canada. They are very hardy and grow rapidly; their flowers are abundant and handsome and no other shrubs have such brilliant fruit in early summer. These plants like rich well drained soil, and the fact can not be too often repeated that the large growing kinds like *L. tatarica* and most of its hybrids, *L. Morrowii* and *L. Maackii*, must have room in which to grow. A plot of ground twenty to twenty-five feet across is needed for one of these plants if it is to show all its beauty. There are a few good specimens of the large growing hybrids by the Bussey Hill Drive opposite the Lilacs where they have had room to grow, but it has been found necessary to move all the large growing Honeysuckles from the Shrub Collection and make a new planting of them on the slope between the Meadow and the Bussey Hill Roads where most of them will have room enough to grow to a large size. This has been necessary because when these plants are crowded together or their branches are trimmed they are ugly objects and give no idea of their real beauty and value. The red fruit covered with hairs of *Rhus canadensis*, often called *R. aromatica*, are also ripe. This is a shrub two or three feet high as it grows in the Arboretum with spreading and ascending branches, clusters of small yellow flowers which cover the naked branches in early spring, and leaves composed of three leaflets. The leaves of only a few plants turn here in the autumn to a more brilliant scarlet color. This *Rhus* has been largely used in the Arboretum for planting in front of taller shrubs along the borders of the roads.

**Stewartia pseudo-camellia** is beginning to flower this year two or three weeks earlier than usual. The pure white cup-shaped flowers of this small Japanese tree resemble those of a single-flowered Camellia. In the autumn the leaves turn dark bronze purple an autumn color not seen on the leaves of any other plant in the Arboretum. The smooth pale gray bark not unlike that of a Hornbeam adds to the interest of this tree. The flowers are, however, smaller than those of the two species of eastern North America, *Stewartia pentagyna* and *S. Malachodendron*, and less beautiful than those of the variety *grandiflora* of the former in which the stamens are not yellow but purple. Two specimens of the Japanese tree have been growing for many years on the upper side of Azalea Path.

**Koelreuteria paniculata.** This Chinese tree which will be in full bloom in a few days, is when in flower the most conspicuous of all the summer flowering trees which are hardy in this climate. It is a round-headed tree rarely more than thirty feet high, with large, compound, dark green leaves and great erect clusters of golden yellow flowers which are followed by large bladder-like pale fruits. This tree, which is hardy in Massachusetts, has been a good deal planted in this country, especially in the gardens of the Middle States. The Koelreuteria often appears in American nursery catalogues under the name of "Japanese Lacquer Tree," although it is not a native of Japan and has not lacquer-producing sap.