Kalmia latifolia, the Mountain Laurel, is the broadleafed evergreen par excellence for northern gardens. Native though it be, and strangely this is always a disadvantage, it has won the respect of garden lovers for the exquisite compelling beauty of its blossoms can neither be disputed nor ignored. A mass of restful green for eleven months of the year, in June an unmatched wealth of loveliness—a myriad flowers each artfully fashioned, burst into clouds of white and delicate pink. Beyond the collection of evergreen Rhododendrons and continuing around the foot of Hemlock Hill, the broad belt of Mountain Laurel is fast opening its blossoms. The border is several hundreds of yards long and there are groups on the opposite side of the road. In all more than a thousand large plants are laden with broad, rounded clusters of white or pink blooms, each a fluted chalice with stamens bent backward, tense and ready to spring forward and dust with pollen every honey-seeking bee. No flower on close inspection reveals more beauty of construction, and none in mass or individual cluster are more lovely.

Varieties. Man has done nothing toward adding to the beauty or variety of the Mountain Laurel, and the few different forms known are natural ones. On the right of the path which leads through the Kalmias to the top of Hemlock Hill and just where it begins there are several forms of interest to the curious. One (fuscata) has a chocolate band conspicuous within the cup, another (polypetala) has the corolla deeply cleft into narrow lobes, another (myrtifolia) is a dwarf with short leaves and small flower clusters, and another (obtusata) has broad, handsome blunt leaves. On the opposite side of the main roadway is a group of Sheep Laurel (K. angustifolia), low-growing, with dull, rosy-red flowers, and another of the Pale Laurel (K. glauca), slender of habit with purplish rose-colored, saucer-shaped blossoms.

Sun-Roses. Among the Barberries and Cotoneasters on Bussey Hill broad patches of Sun-Roses are a feature, and in the forenoon, star the ground with many-hued blossoms. For sunny positions these make excellent ground covers and in light, well-drained soil are much hardier than is generally supposed. The plants themselves are only a few
inches high but each shoot terminates in a 6-inch long raceme of blossom, white, yellow in many shades, orange, pink, rose-color, and varying shades of red to crimson. The Arboretum has been acquiring seeds of these plants under various names from different botanic gardens in Europe. Most of them are color forms of the common *Helianthemum nummularium*, better known as *H. vulgare*. A visit to Bussey Hill will speedily convince the garden-lover that for the rockery and as ground covers in sunny positions Rock Roses are a race of desirable plants.

**Potentilla tridentata** is another excellent ground cover. A suffrutescent plant, it has a slightly wooded rootstalk, ascending 6 to 10 inches high stems, terminating in loose clusters of white flowers. The leaves are lustrous, dark green, 3-foliolate and usually toothed at the apex, from which its specific name is derived. Planted in open, sunny situations, it spreads into a broad carpet.

**Potentilla fruticosa Veitchii.** This shrubby Cinquefoil with pure white blossoms is singularly like a wild Rose in general appearance. In the Shrub Garden it has been in full blossom for a couple of weeks and will continue to bloom intermittently until late autumn. Native of the higher mountains of central and western China, it is extremely hardy. The yellow-flowered *Potentilla fruticosa* is just opening its brightly colored blossoms. This is an excessively variable plant, widespread in pastures and rocky places throughout the boreal regions of the globe.

**Ceanothus ovatus** and its variety *pubescens* are now opening their white flowers in the Shrub Garden. These are much-branched shrubs of upright and spreading habit found wild from New England west to Nebraska, Colorado and Texas. The flowers are borne in small clusters at the ends of leafy shoots.

**Sophora vicifolia** is a loose, thorny shrub, varying in size from 2 feet to straggling bushes 8 or 10 feet tall and broad, with white, tinged with blue, pea-shaped blossoms. Widespread in China, especially in warm dry valleys and in the more arid regions generally, it is a free-flowering bush, but one that does not transplant readily. Nurserymen handling it should grow the plant in pots.

**Enkianthus subsessilis** is the least showy member of the family but is in bloom when the flowers of its relatives are past and on this account is valuable. It has terminal, hanging racemes of tiny yellowish-white, urn-shaped flowers. In the fall, like other members of the family, its leaves assume brilliant autumn tints; in this species yellow being the dominant note.

**Styrax japonica.** The large bushy tree on Centre Street Path of the Japanese Styrax is now fast opening a multitude of pure white, hanging bells. Though a very common tree on the edge of woods and thickets throughout Japan and introduced into this country as long ago as 1862 it is still rare in gardens. This is possibly due to the fact that it transplants badly and, like many other things, ought to be raised in
pots. When properly established in a situation to its liking, it is one of the most beautiful of the lesser trees. It flowers in great abundance, sets seeds readily, and each year thousands of seedlings spring up from beneath the tree. On Bussey Hill there is a healthy specimen of the large-leaved \emph{S. obassia}. This is a tree, or tree-like shrub, from 20 to 30 feet tall, with Witchhazel-like leaves and pendent, bell-shaped flowers arranged on erect racemes. The flowers, which are fragrant, open during the first ten days of June. It is more vigorous and more hardy than \emph{S. japonica}, but unfortunately its blossoms are much hidden among the foliage. Both are trees of quality, which ought to be more widely known and more generally planted.

\textbf{Deutzias} are a group of June-flowering Oriental shrubs, deciduous, accommodating, abundantly floriferous, but alas! a little on the tender side in the Arboretum. However, several of the species and many of the hybrids do moderately well and a fair collection may be seen along the Centre Street Path; others in the Shrub Garden and on Bussey Hill. On the mountains of southwestern China, Abbé Delavay discovered a \textit{Deutzia (D. purpurascens)} with white flowers, suffused with rosy purple on the outside. He sent seeds to Monsieur M. de Vilmorin in 1888, and some of the resultant plants passed to Lemoine, of Nancy. Apart from pink-tinted forms of \textit{D. scabra}, all the Deutzias known at that date had white flowers and Lemoine proceeded quickly to make good use of his newly acquired treasure. He crossed it with all the species he could obtain and the results were remarkable. The hybrids secured gave to gardens a new race of Deutzias and completely altered our conception of the genus. Crossed with \textit{D. Sieboldiana} Delavay's find yielded \textit{D. elegantissima}, with flowers suffused with rose-color, its very similar form, \textit{fasciculata}, and the white-flowered \textit{arctuata}. More beautiful are the hybrids with \textit{D. gracilis} to which the name \textit{D. rosea} has been given. The type of the race has open, bell-shaped flowers, pinkish without and each nearly an inch across. Of the many forms of \textit{D. rosea} mention may be made of \textit{carminea}, with flowers rosy purple on the outside, \textit{eximia}, \textit{floribunda} and \textit{grandiflora} with pinkish flowers; the forms \textit{campanulata}, \textit{venusta} and \textit{multiflora} have white flowers in abundance. The hybrid \textit{D. rosea} crossed with \textit{D. Vilmorinae} produced the upright paniced \textit{D. carneae}, which has flowers pink without. Another race (\textit{D. maliflora}), with flowers rosy purple outside, resulted from crossing \textit{D. purpurascens} with the hybrid \textit{D. Lemoinei}. The raiser gave the name Fleur de pommier to this cross and called one colored form Boule rose, and a white one Avalanche, all very descriptive titles. The handsomest of all the \textit{D. purpurascens} hybrids, however, is \textit{D. kalmiaeflora}, obtained by mating with \textit{D. parviflora}. This is a graceful habited shrub with a multitude of flowers, pale rose-color on the inside, deeper without. All the hybrids of \textit{D. purpurascens} are remarkable for their abundant star-like blossoms which are exceedingly pleasing both in the opening bud and expanded flower. On the whole they are harder than their parent species, and all garden lovers owe a debt of gratitude to the illustrious Frenchman for these, not the least of his manifold gifts to gardens. E. H. W.

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