Philadelphus is a group of flowering shrubs that deck gardens in June with a cloud of white blossoms. The genus is found in the temperate regions of North America, Europe and Asia, and with the exception of one species all have white or yellowish white blossoms. The exception is the Mexican *P. Coulteri* and its hybrids, none of which is hardy in the Arboretum. What we may call the original member of the genus (*P. coronarius*) has been cultivated in European gardens from very early times. Native of southeastern Europe and Asia Minor, its strong fragrance probably made it a favorite among the Greeks and Romans. Later, when the Lilac was brought into cultivation, the two plants were confused under the name of Syringa. This confusion, which began many centuries ago, still exists in the popular mind. In Lobel's "Stirpium Historia," published in 1576, on page 540, *Philadelphus coronarius* is figured under the name of *Syringa italica* and the Lilac under the name of *Syringa caerulea lusitanica*. It is of the overpowering fragrance of *Philadelphus coronarius* that Gerard in 1597 complains and not of that of the Lilac. This fragrance is strongly reminiscent of orange blossoms, hence the common name of Mockorange. Tournefort in his "Institutiones Rei Herbariae," published in 1700, proposed the generic name of *Lilac* for the plant we now know by that name and that of *Syringa* for the plant we call Philadelphus or Mockorange. He figured them (t. 372 and t. 389) under these names so there can be no mistake as to his meaning. It is a great pity that Tournefort's names were not adopted since the confusion would thus have been ended forever. Unfortunately, in 1735, Linnaeus, on whose system modern classification is based, gave the generic name of *Syringa* to the Lilac and *Philadelphus* to that of the Mockorange. The European species remains today the most strongly fragrant of all the Philadelphus, although in beauty it is surpassed by a great many of its relatives. It is to be found here, there and everywhere in old gardens of New England, especially on Cape Cod, and it was probably one of the first plants brought to this country. It flowers during the first half of June and has cream-colored blossoms in erect, cymose clusters. A species very similar in habit, flower and fragrance is *P. pekinensis*, native of northern China. The first American species of Philadelphus to be cultivated in Europe was *P. inodorus*, a tall, much-branched shrub, often
15 feet high, with arching branches and large pure white flowers without any odor. It was cultivated by Philip Miller in the Apothecaries Gardens at Chelsea in 1738. Catesby in 1743 figured it (t. 84) in his “Natural History of Carolina,” and states that the only tree of the kind he saw was growing on the bank of the Savannah River near its cataracts. Since those early days a large number of species have been discovered in this country and in Asia and introduced into gardens. Moreover, the hybridist has been busy with the result that a very great number of hybrids are in cultivation. The Philadelphus season extends over six weeks, from the last week in May to the first of July. In the collection facing the Lilacs and in the Shrub Garden some 112 species, varieties and hybrids may be seen growing.

**New Asiatic Species.** *Philadelphus sericanthus*, which was introduced from China about 1896, is remarkable for the odor of its blossoms which suggests that of Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) or even new mown hay. This is a large shrub, some 12 feet high, with ascending-spreading branches and short, racemose clusters of flowers, each not more than an inch across and facing downward. A related species with longer racemes and slightly larger flowers is *P. subcanus*, also from China. In this the flowers have the odor of Lemon-scented Verbena. Perhaps the most pleasing of the newer Chinese species is *P. purpurascens*. This is a spreading bush, some 6 to 8 feet in height, with arching stems crowded with ascending racemose clusters of flowers. The flowers suggest those of a Deutzia and are cupped, rather small, with purplish calyx and lemon-colored anthers and have the fragrance of Sweet Peas. The contrast between the calyx and the snow-white petals adds distinction to this plant.

**Philadelphus microphyllus.** From the garden point of view the most useful of all American species, as well as one of the most distinct, is *P. microphyllus*, native of Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, but, unfortunately, scarcely hardy in the Arboretum. This is a shrub of graceful habit with upright and spreading branches, small, lustrous leaves and abundant white blossoms emitting the fragrance of Quince fruit. This species has been of immense value to the hybridist. Lemoine crossed it with *P. coronarius* and originated *P. Lemoinei*, of which a great many forms are now cultivated in our gardens. They are harder than the American species, blossom in great profusion and rank among the most worthy shrubs. Many of them are fountain-like in habit and in season whole branches are transformed into plumes of blossom. Among the best known sorts are Avalanche, Mont Blanc, Candelabre, Erectus with single, and Boule d’argent with double-white flowers. The hybrid *P. Lemoinei* crossed probably with *P. insignis* gave rise to *P. polyanthus*, another very free-flowering hybrid of which Gerbe de neige, Pavillon blanc and Favorite are the best known examples. By intercrossing *P. Lemoinei* with some double-flowered variety Lemoine obtained *P. virginalis*, some forms of which are among the most popular of all Mock- oranges. All have more or less semi-double blossoms, borne several together and varying in size from 1 to 2 inches. Next to the type itself the best known sorts are Bouquet blanc, Glacier and Argentine. Crossed with *P. grandiflorus* or some related species, *P. Lemoinei* has
The handsome *Philadelphus* *splendens*.
given rise to *P. cymosus* with its many varieties of which we may mention Conquête, Mer de glace, Rosace and Voie lactée with single, Ban- nière with semi-double flowers, and the handsome Norma with single or double, cupped blossoms with wax-like petals. Some of the species of Philadelphus hybridize freely among themselves and several of the handsomest plants in cultivation have originated as chance hybrids. One of the first of these to attract attention was *P. insignis*, often called Souvenir de Billiard in memory of the man in whose garden it was found, which originated in France about 1870. Another handsome hybrid of unknown origin is *P. monstruosus*. One of the most vigorous growing of all Mockoranges, this forms a bush of tree-like habit, 15 to 20 feet tall, with ascending, somewhat spreading, branches and race-mose-cymose flowers, each blossom 1½ inches across. Of the large-growing Philadelphus perhaps the handsomest of all is *P. splendens*, which originated as a chance hybrid in the Arboretum. It is possibly a cross between *P. grandiflorus* and *P. Gordonianus*. Whatever its parentage it is a magnificent garden plant, with stout, ascending-spreading stems, dark green leaves and bold ascending clusters of pure white flowers each 1½ to 3 inches in diameter, with prominent yellow anthers and a slight but pleasant odor.

**Rugosa Hybrid Roses** have a great future before them in the colder parts of New England since they combine great hardness with handsome blossoms. The hardness they get from the parent *R. rugosa*, a very old inhabitant of gardens, native of the northeast Asia littoral and abundant in Japan, where it is known as a Sea-tomato from the size and color of its fruits. Being a maritime plant it has special use for seashore gardens, and this combined with its hardness give it a field of wide usefulness. Two Hybrid Rugosa Roses were raised in the Arboretum by the late Jackson Dawson. One, named Lady Duncan, obtained by crossing *R. rugosa* with *R. Wichuraiana*, is of trailing habit with glowing rose-pink blossoms. Another is *R. arnoldiana*, whose parents were *R. rugosa* and the Rose General Jacqueminot. The Arnold Rose is a bush with erect stems, good foliage, and large, rich red, single flowers. The parentage of the other Rugosa Hybrids is obscure. One of the first and best is Madame Georges Bruant, which has white, semi-double flowers appearing on the plant intermittently from summer until autumn. Handsome and distinct is Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, with large, clustered, semi-double pink flowers. A sport with white flowers is Nova Zembla. Blanc double de Coubert has clustered, semi-double, pure white blossoms. New Century has double, rose-pink flowers, and Roseraie de L'Hay dark red, fading to maroon, richly fragrant flowers, each 3 inches across. A trailing Rose with pure white blossoms is *R. Paulii*, better known as *R. rugosa repens alba*, and one of the handsomest and most distinct of these hybrids. Max Graff is of similar habit with pure pink blossoms and lustrous foliage. Lastly, mention may be made of F. G. Grootendorst, familiarly known as the Carnation Rose, with bright red, fringed petal-ed blossoms. This is a splendid subject for hedges round gardens by the sea. The roses named and many others may be seen in the Shrub Garden.

E. H. W.