Early June is a season of plenteous blossom in the Arboretum. The numerous forms of the Common Lilac are passing out of flower but the Persian and Rouen Lilacs and a number of the species are in full bloom. Early-flowering Roses in white, yellow and pink, together with Honeysuckles, Diervillas, Wistarias, Azaleas and the early Rhododendrons, are in blossom. All the leaves are not yet fully unfolded on tree and bush and there is still a rich range of color in the young foliage. In any and every part of the Arboretum beauty may be seen.

Enkianthus is an Oriental genus of shrubs belonging to the Rhododendron family which is distributed from the eastern Himalayas through the mountains of China to Japan but is not found in Korea. The Himalayan and Chinese species have not proved hardy in the Arboretum but the several species from Japan thrive on a windswept slope beneath the group of old White Pines on Bussey Hill. The first species to open its blossoms is *E. peplulatus*, better known under the name of *E. japonicus*, a dense, rounded bush of perfect habit which is grown in every Japanese garden. Its native home, the mountains of the island of Shikoku, has only recently become known. It has small clusters of pure white, urn-shaped flowers which push out with or before the young foliage and are now past. The most vigorous, floriferous and all-round valuable species of the genus is *E. campanulatus*. This is a large shrub or bushy tree, sometimes 25 feet tall, irregular in outline with cymose clusters of suspended bell-shaped flowers thrust from the tip of every branch. The corolla varies in color from shades of salmon-pink to reddish crimson and is often beautifully pencilled with lighter and deeper tones. It also varies a good deal in size and somewhat in shape and this together with the variation in color has caused some botanists to recognize a number of different species. However, where a large group is cultivated it is obvious that they merge one into the other. One variety (*albiflorus*) has handsome greenish white and another (*Palibinii*) dark red flowers, but shades of salmon-color prevail and all are
equally lovely. Another species, *E. subsessilis*, is of dense, twiggy habit, forming a neat compact bush up to 10 feet tall, bearing in quantity creamy white flowers in pendent racemes. A rare plant is *E. cernuus* which has cream-colored flowers and is not growing in the Arboretum, where the more common variety (*rubens*) distinguished by the dark red color of its flowers, represents the species. In this *Enkianthus* the corolla lobes are notched and in consequence the flowers are different in appearance from those of other members of the group. These Japanese species of *Enkianthus* are perfectly hardy in Massachusetts and well worth a place in gardens. Where lime is absent from the soil their cultivation is as simple as that of Azaleas. They demand, however, good air and root drainage. The foliage of no other shrub assumes more brilliant autumn tints, the colors ranging from yellow and orange to the deepest tones of crimson. They are not subject to any disease or pest and rank among the most satisfactory and beautiful members of the large *Erica* family to which they belong.

**Rhododendron japonicum.** On Bussey Hill this handsome Azalea is now at the height of its beauty. The large, funnel-form flowers are borne in clusters at the end of every shoot and vary in color from orange to salmon-red and flame color. It is a shrub, seldom exceeding 6 feet in height, with stiff, erect branches and is especially well-adapted for massing. It is widely distributed on the mountains of Japan and has been in cultivation since 1861. Crossed with its Chinese relative, *R. molle*, it has given rise to the so-called Mollis Azaleas, but, unfortunately, the Chinese species is tender and this weakness is evident in many of the hybrid race. Where the blood of the Japanese species is predominant the plants are quite hardy; contrariwise, where that of the Chinese plant is in the ascendancy the plants are unsatisfactory, dying in part or wholly during severe winters. Louisa Hunnewell, one form of these Hybrid Azaleas, which was raised by T. H. Hatfield, Superintendent of the Hunnewell Estate at Wellesley, Massachusetts, who hybridized plants raised from seed collected in one case in Central China and in the other in the Nikko region of Japan, has proved perfectly bud-hardy in the Arboretum. This is a lovely plant with flaming orange-yellow flowers borne in large clusters and, like those of its parents, sweetly fragrant. This type of Azalea requires full exposure to the sun and flourishes best where good root drainage is assured but it appreciates protection from strong winds.

**Viburnum tomentosum** is one of the most handsome of all the Oriental Viburnums, although less well-known in gardens than its snowball form (*sterile*) to which the name *V. plicatum* is generally applied. The type is a large shrub, sometimes 15 feet tall, with stiff, wide-spreading branches arranged more or less in tiers. The flat, flower-clusters, each from 3 to 5 inches across, terminate short lateral branchlets and are produced along the entire length of the shoots. They are borne erect on stout peduncles and each has a conspicuous outer whorl of large, white, neuter flowers. It is to the
abundance of these neuter flowers that the shrub owes its ornamental character, for its autumn tints are poor and its fruit black and unattractive. Strictly speaking it is a woodland plant and thrives best in a cool, partially shaded position. Under full exposure to the sun large branches are apt to die from no apparent reason. In the familiar snowball form the central mass of small, fertile flowers is changed into a globose group of showy neuter blossoms. Native of the Far East, this Viburnum is a particular feature of the woodlands and thickets of Japan whence it was introduced so long ago as 1865.

Malus ioensis plena, Bechtel's Crab. Of all the Crabapples this seems to hold first place in public affection and with its profusion of large, pale pink, rose-like, semi-double flowers and its delightful odor of violets, it is a singularly handsome and attractive tree. Unfortunately, the practice is to graft it on understocks of the Common Apple, a stock quite unsuited to its needs. This results in short-lived trees, a disappointment only too well known to lovers of this fragrant Crabapple. It should be grafted or budded on its wild parent (M. ioensis) or on the related M. coronaria, under which conditions it is healthy, long-lived and free-growing. On the left, opposite the junction of the Forest Hills and Meadow roads may be seen a Bechtel's Crab on the Common Apple understock—a sparsely branched, unhealthy looking tree. In the Crabapple collection at the foot of Peters Hill on the right entering from Bussey Street Gate grow two specimens grafted on the wild parent and the contrast sufficiently tells the story. The way to check the malpractice of grafting this Crabapple on the wrong understock is to refuse to buy plants unless guaranteed to be on understocks of an American species. It is only by the amateur taking decisive steps that the necessary change can be brought about.

Wistaria floribunda rosea. There are many so-called pink forms of the Japanese Wistaria but the one strictly entitled to the name may be seen blossoming at the end of the trellis bordering the Shrub Garden. The parent of this particular plant was found many years ago growing in a garden owned by a Japanese in California. It came to the attention of the late Mr. Henry S. Huntington, San Marino Ranch, San Gabriel, California, who purchased the whole place for the purpose of acquiring this handsome vine. The Arboretum obtained scions from Mr. Huntington in 1917 and a resultant plant is now flowering for the first time. The racemes are about a foot long, the standard and wings of the corolla are flushed with pink and the keel is pure pink. It is just as hardy as the ordinary lavender and white forms of the Japanese Wistaria.

E. H. W.

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