Forest Hills Gate is still the most attractive entrance to the Arboretum. The Japanese Cherries are rapidly passing out of bloom but their white-flowered European relatives, *Prunus avium* and *P. Cerasus*, of both of which there are varieties with double flowers, are just coming into blossom. A tree of *P. serrulata spontanea* is in bloom on the right and a little further down a bed of the low, twiggy *P. japonica Nakaii* from Korea. The different forms of the Chinese Almond are still in good condition. On the left a fine tree of the North China Pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis ovoida*) is laden with a multitude of flowers and nearby other species are pushing forth their blossoms from among gray-tinted foliage. Pink *Malus micromalus*, first of the Asiatic Crabapples with colored blossoms to open, will soon be in full bloom. Across the little pond and beyond the Cherries some of the American Plums are sheeted in white. The Canadian Plum, earliest of the species to bloom, is passing but many others are at their best. On the left the Forsythias still make a goodly display of yellow and beyond, the Lilacs are showing their flower buds.

In the Shrub Garden many of the bushes are bursting into leaf. The earliest of the Spiracas (*S. arguta*) is wreathed in white and of the Flowering Currants *Ribes aureum* is in bloom. The Asiatic Quinces are beginning to open their brilliantly colored flowers and in a week or so the whole garden will be full of leaf and blossom. In one bed a broad, round-topped bush of the Oriental *Prunus sinensis* is laden with rich yellow flowers nestling among the half-grown green leaves, and the air around is filled with the fragrance of almonds from the multitude of blossoms. It has been growing in the Arboretum since 1903, has never suffered winter injury and is a greater favorite with us each succeeding year. The Shrub Garden is a never failing source of interest to all visitors, filled as it is with a general miscellany of shrubs. It is not by any means an ideal situation for such a collection for it is low lying, suffers from the first frosts in the autumn and the last frosts in spring, and in zero weather the aeratization is particularly bad. It is, however, the only flat piece of
land of any size that the Arboretum possesses, moreover, on account of its situation it serves a splendid purpose as a test garden. Visitors may be assured of the hardiness anywhere in New England of the plants they see growing in the Shrub Garden.

Bussey Hill is at all seasons one of the most interesting places in the Arboretum. Gathered together there are collections of the newer Chinese shrubs, Japanese Cherries, Oriental Pears, Azaleas and other ornamental plants. Some of the earlier Cherries have shed their petals but the Japanese double-flowered forms and some with single flowers are just beginning to make their display which will continue for about ten days. A few blossoms remain on *Rhododendron dauricum mucronulatum* and the buds on *R. Schlippenbachii* and *R. yedoensis poukhanense* are showing color. Soon there will be broad drifts of these plants in full bloom. From the summit of the hill looking in many directions fine views of the Arboretum can be had. Pleasing to the eye are the young unfolding leaves of the Birches, and scattered fleecy drifts of Shadblows arrest attention. In a few more days bush and tree will be clothed in spring verdure. The collection of Oriental Pears on Bussey Hill is fairly complete. The first to blossom is *Pyrus ussuriensis*, whose flowers in bud are often tinged with pink. In northeastern Asia this Pear grows to a large size and varieties of it are cultivated throughout Korea, Manchuria and North China. The wild type of the Chinese Sand Pear (*Pyrus serrulata*) and the related *P. serrulata* may be seen side by side. With them are vigorous trees of *P. Calleryana*, also a Chinese species. This last-named species of Pear on account of its almost complete immunity to the dreaded fire-blight disease is likely to be of great value as an understock on which to graft varieties of the Common Pear. From an economic point of view it is possible that *P. Calleryana* may prove to be the most valuable tree the Arboretum has introduced into America. The Oriental Pear trees are rapid-growing and free-flowering, yet it is doubtful if they ever will become popular as ornamental trees, although the leaves assume rich tones of crimson and bronze in the late fall. The flowers are usually dead white and the only touch of color to be found is the anthers. The fruits are small, russet-colored and unattractive when compared with the bright hues of Crabapple fruits.

Peters Hill is noted for its collection of Hawthorns but on the top is to be found a rich and varied collection of miscellaneous trees. There on the highest land air and root drainage are both good and a greater number of trees thrive there than elsewhere in the Arboretum. For example, it is the only place where the Chinese Cedar (*Cedrela sinensis*) will live. Among the miscellaneous trees at the moment several Asiatic Cherries are in full bloom. On the broad slope the Hawthorns are rapidly pushing forth their green leaves among which nestle the flower clusters. The green leaves and fragrance of the Balsam and other Poplars by the railway are refreshing to both eye and nostril. At the foot of the hill, flanking Bussey Street, the collection of Asiatic Crabapples promises soon to be a mass of bloom,
A Valuable Introduction *Pyrus Calleryana*.
indeed, their vanguard, *Malus baccata* and its variety *manschurica*, are in open flower. In this Crabapple the flowers are fragrant and may be either pure white or tinged with pink.

**Centre Street Path**, which is entered from the right of the Centre Street Gate, is bordered with a general miscellany of shrubs and trees. This section is protected somewhat from the north winds and a number of plants elsewhere tender in the Arboretum are grown here. At the moment *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *C. spicata* and *C. Gotoana* may be seen in good blossom, the original plant of *Prinsepia sinensis*, less shapely than its daughter in the Shrub Garden, is burdened with almond-scented flowers and nearby the Chinese Redbud may be seen, its naked stems studded with brightly colored flowers. The Path makes a pleasant walk now and later. It leads beneath the shade of Hickories, past the mixed border of rare shrubs to the collection of Deutzias and Spiraeas and beyond to the Conifers.

**Cercis chinensis.** It is to be regretted that the Chinese Redbud is not just a little more hardy. It does splendidly on Long Island and further south but in the Arboretum it only survives in a sheltered site along Centre Street Path. This tree is widely dispersed in eastern and central China, where it is often 45 feet tall with a trunk 5 feet in girth. The foliage in the autumn assumes fine tints. Such trees when laden with blossoms in the spring are conspicuous from afar. In the Arboretum, however, it is only a bush but it blooms freely and the flowers are larger and better colored than that of the native Redbud (*C. canadensis*).

**Staphylea holocarpa** is now for the first time blossoming freely in the Arboretum. There are two plants on Centre Street Path and the larger of the two is nicely furnished with white, hanging, clustered blossoms. Among the lesser trees of China this Staphylea is one of the most noteworthy. It is common on the margins of woods and thickets in central China, where it was discovered by Augustine Henry in 1888 but was not introduced until 1908 when Wilson sent seeds to the Arboretum. Usually a large bush, it sometimes forms a shapely tree from 25 to 30 feet tall with a slender trunk clothed with smooth, grayish bark. The flowers in pendulous, cymose clusters, each from 2 to 4 inches long, are borne on the naked shoots and are usually open before the 3-foliolate leaves, which subtend them, are expanded. The flowers are often suffused with pink but usually the sepals are pink and the petals white. The flowers are rich in honey and are much sought after by sunbirds, tiny brilliantly plumaged birds, which in Asia take the place of the humming birds of America. It is particularly gratifying that this ornamental tree should prove hardy in Massachusetts.

**Docent Service.** Commencing Sunday, May 13th, free public walks through the Arboretum under the guidance of Mr. G. M. Merrill will start from the Forest Hills Gate at 3 p. m. E. H. W.