The scarcity of rain is affecting vegetation generally; the foliage on some of the shrubs is wilting, the trees however, show little or no ill effects, but copious rains are badly needed. The season has been very erratic; flowers have opened out of order and under the hot sun have lasted for a shorter period than usual. Most of the shrubs and trees have made a good growth and the Conifers and Yews in particular are looking remarkably well. Some of the Silver Firs, such as Abies concolor and A. homolepis, are bearing a heavy crop of cones, all perched erect on the uppermost parts of the trees. Among the Kalmias under the lee of Hemlock Hill the Sorrel-tree (Oxydendron arboreum) is rapidly expanding its spreading panicked masses of white flowers. The foliage of this floriferous tree is light green and in the autumn assumes rich crimson tints. Trees and shrubs that bloom at this season of the year have unusual value and the Sorrel-tree ought to be much more freely planted, it is perfectly hardy and thrives where an acid or neutral soil prevails. The Fleece Vine (Polygonum Aubertii) is opening its white blossoms and displaying its value for pergola and trellis. This and its relative, P. baldschuanicum, are quite hardy in the Arboretum but P. Aubertii appears to be the more satisfactory plant. When these vines are past blooming fragrant Clematis paniculata bursts into flower and the two make a good combination, providing a succession of blossoms from early August to late September. On Bussey Hill Evodia Daniellii, whose flowers are much beloved by bees, will soon be laden with broad clusters of blossoms; there, too, the Japanese Clethra barbinervis, first of the Pepperbushes to bloom, is already shedding its flowers. Fruits on the Rowan or Mountain Ash (Sorbus Aucuparia) and on the European Cranberry-bush (Viburnum Opulus) are showing color and the keys on Acer ginnala are becoming reddish. In the Shrub Garden different Hypericums, Spiraeas and Trumpet-vines are in blossom, and late-flowering Hydrangeas are opening flat or ball-like heads of white. Alongside Meadow Road Koelreuteria paniculata continues a mass of rich yellow and a thousand candles of blossoms still illumine the last of the Buckeyes (Aesculus parviflora).
Albizia julibrissin rosea. A low, broad specimen of this wide-spread Asiatic tree, the Pink Siris or Silk-tree, is in blossom on Bussey Hill. The foliage in form, texture and appearance is like that which the popular mind associates with Mimosa, being pinnate with hundreds of small pinnae. The flowers are borne in stalked heads which are produced many together in the topmost leaf-axils of the current season's growth. The sepals and petals are inconspicuous and are dominated by the tasselled crimson-pink passing to pink stamens which are long out-thrust, tipped with tiny yellow anthers, and beautiful. The flowers stand above the foliage and being so different from those of any other plant attract great attention. The native country of this tree is doubtful. It is found widespread in Asia from Persia through China to southern Korea, has been widely planted in the warm-temperate and subtropical parts of the world and in this country is found naturalized from Virginia to Florida and Louisiana. In the type the stamens are white and the flower less showy than that of the variety rosea which is also the hardier tree. The origin of the plant in the Arboretum affords a good illustration of the importance of obtaining for northern gardens types which grow in the coolest regions they can withstand. The particular tree was raised from seeds collected in the garden of the Chosen Hotel at Seoul, Korea, by E. H. Wilson in 1918. It grows wild in the southern parts of the Korean peninsula but appears quite at home in the more severe climate of the central region. A few seeds only were collected and seedling plants were set out in the Arboretum when about four years old; several were killed the first winter but one came through with but slight injury and since that time has not suffered in the least. From its behavior during the last seven or eight years there seems reason to believe that this Korean type will prove a useful and valuable addition to gardens. It has a long flowering season, continuing in blossom throughout August. Albizia is a member of a tropical tribe of the great family Leguminosae and it is astonishing that this tree should be able to withstand New England winters. Apparently it is happy in fully exposed situations, where good drainage and a sandy loam prevail.

Stewartia koreana is again in blossom near the old White Pine trees on Bussey Hill. It is flowering much more freely than last year and its distinctive characters are more obvious. The flower is fringed, pure white, from 3½ to 4 inches in diameter, flat and saucer-like with the ovary and stamens rich yellow. The leaves are ovate-elliptic, shining bright green with impressed veins and rounded base. It is a more cheery looking plant than its close relative, the Japanese Stewartia pseudocamellia, which has dull green leaves, longer and narrow at the base, less prominently impressed veins and flowers more cupped. The Korean Stewartia is showing remarkable vigor; it has suffered no winter injury and as the tree matures will doubtless bloom as freely as any of its tribe.

Heather or Ling (Calluna vulgaris) in its various forms is blossoming in the Shrub Garden and elsewhere. Among low-growing ground covering evergreens none is more beautiful than this plant so dear to the heart of every Scotchman. There are a great many forms, dis-
tinguished by their habit of growth and color of blossoms but one and all are equally lovely. The erect, leafy shoots bear in abundance axillary flowers which vary in color from pure white and pink to crimson-purple. Heather is a sun-loving plant but in these latitudes unless favored by good snowfalls it, like all low-growing evergreen ground-covers, needs protection from the latter half of January until April. Boughs with salt hay or coarse herbage sprinkled over make a light and efficient protection. Heather is an acid-soil plant which does not transplant any too well from open ground and should, therefore, be grown for the purpose in pots. It is easily propagated by cuttings taken from August to mid-September and inserted in sand under glass. If allowed to grow naturally, it becomes straggling and hummocky and is apt to die in patches; the same obtains when growing in the shade. To avoid this the Arboretum practice is to shear it each spring thereby keeping it low and mat-like. In the British Isles, particularly in the northern part, in Scandinavia and elsewhere the Heather covers enormous areas of moorland and mountainside and in August presents one of the floral spectacles of northern regions. Although the plant covers vast areas in Europe and extends far into northern latitudes, Heather unlike many other boreal types is not known to grow on this continent. About the middle of last century it was reported from Nantucket and later from several other isolated places in New England. Close investigation, however, has shown that in each instance there is every reason to believe it had been introduced. In fact, today, authorities have no hesitation in saying that so far as the discoveries in New England are concerned one and all are simply escapes from cultivation.

*Sorbaria arborea* is the tallest growing and the most handsome member of a small group of summer-flowering shrubs closely related to and by some authorities included under Spiraea. They differ in having large pinnate leaves somewhat similar to those of Sorbus, hence the generic name. *S. arborea* is an almost tree-like shrub, growing fully 15 feet tall and forming a broad, fountain-like mass well furnished with large dark green leaves. The flowers are pure white borne hundreds together in terminal much-branched plumose panicles, each 12 to 18 inches long and correspondingly broad. The panicles are nodding and when in blossom the whole shrub is a cascade of pure white. This is a good plant for a large garden and is best accommodated in a moist place, being particularly happy at the side of a pond or stream where it can obtain an abundance of water and its beauty be seen to advantage. A native of western China, this Sorbaria was introduced into cultivation in 1913 by E. H. Wilson. A fine specimen may be seen among the Hickories on Center Street Path and nearby are growing several related species, including *S. sorbifolia*, widespread in northeastern Asia and naturalized in many parts of New England.

E. H. W.

These Bulletins will now be discontinued until October.