Copious rains have fallen since the last Bulletin was written and vegetation has revived. Where last week flagging foliage presented ominous signs of distress, freshness and vigor prevail today. There is not much bloom to be seen at the moment in the Arboretum but in the healthy growth on tree and shrub and varying greens of the foliage much beauty is present. Beneath the Hemlock Grove the Rosebay (Rhododendron maximum) is in full flower and in many places the Swamp Honeysuckle (Rhododendron viscosum), last of the Azaleas to blossom, is covered with pure white pleasantly fragrant flowers. This inhabitant of swamps from Maine to South Carolina brings to a close the Azalea season, which this year commenced the first week in April. The Swamp Honeysuckle and its relative, R. arborescens, which has larger flowers with crimson style and stamens, will be in blossom for the next two weeks, so by planting a variety of Azaleas a succession of bloom lasting three and a half months may be had. The two Azaleas named are freely placed along the driveways and are massed together on the westerly slope of Bussey Hill. The late-flowering Berberis aggregata with erect clusters of crowded, clear yellow flowers is coming into blossom and so, too, is its variety Prattii, characterized by a much larger inflorescence. This Barberry is about the latest to bloom and being very hardy is worthy of the attention of those who live in their summer homes from June until September. Several fine bushes of this Barberry laden with blossoms may be seen among the Chinese shrubs on Bussey Hill. Nearby a number of the Brooms are still in blossom, including the lovely Cytisus nigricans, which is a balloon-shaped mass decked with a thousand clear yellow spires, each from 6 to 10 inches long. A few of the later flowering Philadelphus are still in blossom, including the handsome Virginal. On the Lilac bank Elaeagnus multiflora is laden with ovoid orange-red fruits, each suspended on an inch long stalk. This is a shrub of good habit which is particularly ornamental at this season. Near Forest Hills Gate the Prairie Rose (Rosa setigera) is opening its blossoms, marking the close of the Rose species' season. In the Shrub Garden several kinds of Hydrangea are commencing to flower,
Indigofera Kirilowii bears a multitude of pink blossoms in erect axillary racemes, and close by it the white-flowered I. decora alba is in full bloom. The Bladder-sennas (Colutea ciliicica and C. arborescens) carry in quantity yellow pea-shaped blossoms toward the ends of the current season’s shoots and below them purplish brown bladder-like pods, which are even more ornamental than the flowers. At the Jamaica Plain Gate, the white cup-shaped flowers of the Sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana, more widely known as M. glauca) fill the air with a pleasant spicy odor and beyond in the collection of Lindens on the right of Meadow Road, entering by the Jamaica Plain Gate, Tilia vulgaris and its several varieties are in full bloom. This shapely tree is the earliest of the Lindens to blossom and at the moment its honey-scented flowers are the delight of a myriad bees.

Thymus Serpyllum coccineus is a charming little ground-cover and rock plant, growing only a couple of inches high and bearing a multitude of crimson-purple blossoms in terminal clusters. The leaves are deep green and when crushed give off the pleasing and familiar odor of Mother-of-Thyme. The plant is apparently a special favorite of bees who are busy from morn till night sucking nectar from the flowers. This Thyme, like all its relatives, is fond of a sunny situation, a sloping bank for preference, where it can enjoy good root drainage throughout the winter. While it is an excellent ground-cover it is seen to greater advantage when capping a boulder in the rockery. Similar in habit to this Thyme but distinguished by its gray, woolly leaves, is the variety lanuginosus, which, however, has less brilliant colored flowers. There are quite a number of varieties of T. Serpyllum, all of which have a place where rock gardens are in favor and where ground-covering plants are desired.

Ceanothus pallidus roseus of hybrid origin is a very useful mid-summer flowering shrub. It forms a low, round-topped mass about 3 feet high and 6 to 10 feet broad, being made up of a wealth of slender purple-brown stems all well furnished with dark green, oblong-lanceolate leaves, each about 2 inches long and \( \frac{3}{4} \) of an inch broad and crenate along the margin. Every stem terminates in a globose mass of small pinkish blossoms and as similar clusters arise from the axils of the uppermost leaves the whole inflorescence is a paniced mass. Since this shrub flowers on the current season’s shoot it should be pruned severely in the early spring. Its part-parent, C. ovatus, is long since out of blossom but another eastern American species, C. americanus, is just beginning to show signs of bloom. These Tea-bushes, as they are locally known, are quite useful plants but they cannot boast the beauty of their Californian sisters, which, with their rich blue and other colored blossoms and the hybrids that have been derived from them, rank among the loveliest of shrubs. Alas! not one is hardy in New England.

The Vines on the walls and on the trellises in the Shrub Garden are now in luxuriant growth and well worth the attention of those requiring strong growing climbers for similar purposes or for clothing per-
Fragrant White-blossomed Rhododendron arboreum
golas. When planted, as they are in the Arboretum, at the foot of boundary walls topped by a wire fence vines have ample room to grow and display to best advantage their luxuriance. In the genus Vitis and its relatives, Ampelopsis and Parthenocissus, there is great variety in form, shape and size of leaf; they vary also a good deal in shades of green and in the autumn the majority assume brilliant tints. The strong and tall growing vines, chiefly Vitis and Smilax, give quite a tropical aspect to the thickets and margins of woods in New England and are admired by all visitors from Europe. This rampant, luxuriant, scandent vegetation is the outstanding feature of New England's countryside as opposed to that of Europe.

**Liquidambar styraciflua**, the Sweet Gum, is an exceedingly handsome American tree, native of rich bottom lands and borders of swamps from southern Connecticut south to Florida and westward through Arkansas to the valley of the Trinity River in Texas and reappearing on the mountains of central Mexico and south to the highlands of Guatemala. It attains under favorable conditions a height of from 100 to 140 feet and has a trunk 12 to 15 feet in girth. The dark gray bark is deeply ridged and corrugated and the ascending-spread- ing and spreading branches form an umbrageous crown which is pyramidal in young trees. The lustrous green leaves, hanging on long relatively slender petioles, are Maple-like, being palmately 5-lobed with each lobe long-pointed. In the autumn they assume brilliant tones of scarlet and crimson. The insignificant flowers are borne in a globose head after the manner of those of the Button-tree and the fruit hangs suspended from a long stalk. In the autumn the fruits open and forcibly eject jet black seeds, as do those of the Witch-Hazel to which the Sweet Gum is closely related. One does not see in New England this tree so frequently planted as its merits deserve. Boston is a little north of the natural range of this tree and in consequence when young it is often somewhat tender but after a few years it gets acclimatized and then grows vigorously. In Llewelyn Park, New Jersey, there is a very interesting grove of Sweet Gum, the result of spontaneous seeding from a number of handsome old parent trees. In the late autumn the colored foliage of this grove is worth quite a journey to see. Liquidambar is an interesting genus and represents an old type of vegetation. Three species only are known: the American, already mentioned, one in southwestern Asia Minor, known as *L. orientalis*, unfortunately not hardy here, and *L. formosana*, the third species, found widespread in China, Formosa, and the Philippines. The last-named species is one of the handsomest of Asiatic trees but is not hardy here. There is, however, a mountain variety of it (*monticola*) which has survived for some twenty years in the Arboretum and now promises to make a bushy tree. The wood of the American Liquidambar is bright brown tinged with red with a narrow almost white sap wood and is hard, heavy, straight, and close-grained but not very strong. It is much used in western states in house furnishing, cabinet-work and box-making. That of the Chinese species is similar in color and texture and being quite odorless is used for making packing cases for the higher grade teas.

E. H. W.