The South Street Gate is now the center of attraction in the Arboretum. Just within on the left the Hybrid Rhododendrons make a bold show and beyond them the Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia) is a wealth of pink, passing to nearly white; above on the slopes of Bussey Hill to the right the Flame Azalea (Rhododendron calendulaceum) forms a great splash of yellow and orange, and round about the different greens of Hemlock, Beech, Oak and Yew afford welcome relief from the sun. Along the driveways Viburnum cassinoides and V. dentatum are in bloom and the Oriental V. dilatatum is just commencing to blossom. Of Lilacs such late-flowering species as Syringa villosa, S. tomentella and S. Sweginzowii are laden with flowers, and different species of Honeysuckles, Philadelphus and Robinias are making a gay display. The Mountain Laurel, although not so full as some seasons, is flowering moderately well this year. Of all the broad-leaved evergreens this is the best for New England and where it can be grown no one has cause to complain. The foliage is good at all seasons of the year and when in blossom its rounded heads of saucer-shaped flowers beautifully crimped in the bud are as pleasing as any flower can be. Like other members of its family it is a lime hater but where this is absent the Mountain Laurel is one of the most good-natured shrubs. It should be raised from seeds in the same manner as Azaleas and when properly looked after grows as rapidly as any other shrub of its class. There is a good deal of variability in the shade of color and particularly good forms are best increased by layering. In the shade of trees the flowers are more apt to be pale colored, even white, than when fully exposed to the sun but it is one of those happy-go-lucky plants that makes itself very much at home under all sorts of conditions, but as with every plant a little extra attention in the matter of position and soil pays. As a fertilizer well-rotted cowdung and oak leaves are best and this, by the way, is a good all round food for ericaceous plants in general.

Six Good Hybrid Rhododendrons which flower late are Album elegans, Catawbiense album, H. W. Sargent, Henrietta Sargent, F. L. 37
Ames and Purpureum elegans. All have a vigorous constitution and have proved perfectly hardy in the Arboretum since they were planted some twenty-five to forty years ago. The first-named is tall-growing with erect-spreading branches, rather open in habit with moderately large dark green foliage. The flowers are white faintly flushed with lavender with greenish yellow spots on the upper lobe and are borne twelve to eighteen together in a shapely dome-shaped cluster which stands well above the foliage. It is one of the oldest and most widely planted of Hybrid Rhododendrons in this part of the world and well does it deserve its popularity. Catawbiense album is more compact in habit than Album elegans and has pure white blossoms with yellowish brown dots on the upper lobe. The trusses are dome-shaped and while they are not so large as in some other sorts they are borne very freely and stand well above the foliage, making the plant as conspicuous as any other Rhododendron. H. W. Sargent has rosy red bell-shaped flowers with dark brownish black spots on the inside of the upper part of the corolla and conspicuous pale yellow anthers borne in compact rounded trusses of moderate size. Dense in habit, this forms a flattened-round bush and has dark green leathery leaves of good size. Henrietta Sargent is similar in habit of growth to H. W. Sargent but has rose-pink flowers with greenish orange markings on the upper lobe, and the flowers are somewhat smaller, more open and slightly undulate on the margin. F. L. Ames is a rather tall-growing sort with large handsome dark green foliage and a compact dome-shaped cluster of singularly pleasing flowers. They are rose-pink, flamed with white on the inside of the corolla, with greenish yellow dots on the upper lobe and the individual flower is open and spreading and overlaps one another in the truss. The color of the flower is very pure and distinct from those of any other sort growing in the Arboretum. In Purpureum elegans the flowers are royal-purple with greenish yellow and brown mottlings on the upper lobe. This is a dense habituated bush of large size and though a very old sort is still the best of its class in so far as this climate is concerned. These six Hybrids were all raised by Anthony Waterer—Album elegans, H. W. Sargent and Purpureum elegans before 1870, the other three before 1890. On account of their extreme hardiness he classed them among his so-called iron-clads and their behavior in the Arboretum entitles them so to rank.

Taxus cuspidata, the Japanese Yew, for ornamental purposes is the most useful narrow-leaved evergreen for the climate of New England. In its different forms it is well-suited for growing as a specimen on the lawn, as a low mound or mass near the house, and as a hedge plant; moreover, of all evergreens it best withstands city conditions. Apparently it grows equally well where the soil is acid as where lime prevails, although, as a matter of fact, it is lime-loving. The typical form starts life as a wide-spreading shrub with one or more, usually several, leaders and with a little care may be trained into a tree. As a matter of fact, in a wild state in Japan and Korea it is a tree up to 50 feet and more in height and massive in trunk and limb after the manner of its European sister T. baccata. This type
propagated from cuttings produces a vase-shaped or rounded mass but as a rule sooner or later a leading shoot develops. For the purpose of making hedges seedlings with a leading shoot should be selected and by proper clipping a hedge anywhere from 5 to 15 feet may be had in the course of time. More serviceable for small gardens and for the vicinity of the house is the variety *nana*, which varies somewhat in habit of growth but in its best form is a broad rather zigzag branching bush possessed of much individuality. How high this will grow is not known but the best plant in the Arboretum is about 7 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Very compact in habit is the form *densa*, which left to itself forms a low, broad flattened-round shrub 4 to 5 feet tall and treble that in diameter. It can, however, by pruning, be kept a low carpet-like mass. Similar but with the young shoots golden-yellow is the variety *aurescens*, a recent introduction from Japan, where, however, it has been long cultivated. As with Conifers, so with Yews, we admire them most during the winter months when so many of the trees and shrubs are leafless. However, one and all are most beautiful in the late spring of the year when growth commences. In the Yew the young green leaves are often tinged with yellowish bronze in a delightful contrast with the black-green of the older foliage. No matter what season of the year the Japanese Yew be examined it will be found a thing of beauty. For suburban gardens as for country estates and even for town gardens and parks it is of all evergreen shrubs the most useful and satisfactory. For many years the value of the Japanese Yew was not appreciated but nurserymen have awakened to its serviceability and it is not difficult to obtain plants although large specimens are both scarce and expensive. In time as it is more freely raised from seeds doubtless many other varieties will develop. Indeed, there is no reason why in the course of time it should not be as prolific in this respect as its European sister. Already it is part-parent of a hybrid race (*Taxus media*), of which there are a number of named forms all apparently taking after the Japanese parent in vigor and constitution.

**Indigofera amblyantha Purdomii** is a delightful little shrub of twiggy habit, growing 4 or 5 feet tall with ascending-spreading branches bearing in the utmost profusion erect racemose clusters of rose-pink blossoms. It is very free-flowering and the first of its tribe to bloom. This plant was discovered by William Purdom in 1910 when collecting in northern China for the Arboretum. There is a good specimen among the Chinese shrubs on Bussey Hill which has been in blossom some ten days and promises to continue for two weeks more. It is the type of shrub that can be grown among herbaceous plants and like all its tribe is fond of a sandy or gravelly soil. Near this Indigofera is a fine plant of *Sophora vicifolia* with Vetch-like leaves, racemose flowers each with a pure white corolla and slaty blue calyx. This is a spiny shrub none too hardy in the Arboretum but well-suited for Long Island and South.

E. H. W.