The American Crabapples at the foot of Peters Hill are now in full blossom, filling the air with the pleasant fragrance of violets. The favorite Bechtel's Crabapple will be at the height of its beauty when this Bulletin reaches its readers. The Common Lilac and its hundred and one forms are still in good condition, and a number of species are also in bloom. Facing the Lilacs, the Bush Honeysuckles are covered with their pink, white and cream-colored flowers and in the Shrub Garden many others may be seen. On the left, entering from South Street Gate, a large bed of *Rhododendron carolinianum* is in full flower. On Bussey Hill Azaleas in variety are a mass of color and many of the Brooms, such as *Cytisus purgans*, *C. Beanii*, *C. purpureus* and *C. elongatus*, are tumbling masses of bloom. The Horse-chestnuts and Buckeyes on the right of Meadow Road, beyond the Linden group, are in blossom, and near the Administration Building the first of the American Magnolias are in flower. Indeed, there is blossom aplenty wherever one walks in the Arboretum.

*Magnolia cordata* is now beautifully in bloom on the right entering by the Jamaica Plain Gate. The trees, which were planted in 1896, are from 25 to 30 feet tall with broad, more or less bell-shaped crowns made up of a great many moderately sized branches. The flowers, which appear with the unfolding leaves, are a rich clear yellow, a color not found in any other species of Magnolia. They are cup-shaped, about 2½ to 3 inches high and about as much broad and are abundantly produced, while in wet seasons the trees usually bear a second crop of blossoms in July. The leaves when fully grown are broadly ovate, 3 to 5 inches long, 2½ to 3½ inches broad, abruptly short-pointed, but the base is very rarely heart-shaped, so its name is really a misnomer. The history of this Magnolia is unusually interesting. It was discovered by the elder Michaux in the neighborhood of Augusta, Georgia, sometime between 1787 and 1796 and by him or his son introduced into France. In 1801 it is said to have been introduced into England by John Fraser. All the trees now in cultivation are derived from these original introductions. For more than a century all attempts to rediscover this Magnolia in a wild state failed, when
in April, 1910, Mr. Louis A. Berckmans accidentally found it in a dry wood some eighteen miles south of Augusta. These were bushes some 4 to 6 feet tall but since then trees of considerable size have been discovered bearing out Michaux's original description of it as a tree from 40 to 50 feet tall. This Magnolia is still rare in cultivation and appears to be one of those American trees which flourish less favorably in Europe than on its native heath. Some British writers complain of its exceptionally slow growth. From its behavior in the Arboretum this Magnolia seems well adapted to the climate of Massachusetts, where it should be more extensively grown. It is free flowering and its vivid yellow blossoms are very conspicuous. The best means of propagation is by grafting on understocks of the closely related *M. acuminata*.

**Early Flowering Roses.** Each year the first Rose to open its blossoms in the Arboretum is *R. omeiensis*, which is quickly followed by *R. Ecae*, on the heels of which comes *R. Hugonis*. Often the last two open at one and the same time but the Omei Rose is always a little in the van. This is a stout-stemmed bush, growing from 6 to 15 feet tall, and under favorable conditions as much in diameter. Its stems are clad with large prickles, which on the young canes are translucent and a brilliant crimson. In the variety *pteracantha* the prickles are from 1 to 2 inches long, crowd the stems, and on account of their rich color are singularly beautiful. The leaves are narrow, many-foliolate, and rather suggestive of a Fern. The flowers are pure white and each has four petals arranged in the form of a Maltese cross, a peculiarity known in the Rose tribe only in this and one other related species, the Himalayan *R. sericea*. The blossoms of *R. omeiensis* are fugitive but freely produced and while they last transform the shoots into sprays of the purest white. The fruit, which ripens early in July, is rich scarlet and peculiar in that the fruit stalk becomes fleshy, orange and scarlet in color, and falls with the fruit immediately it is ripe. This Rose is a very common species on the mountains of central and western China, being partial to moorland thickets and margins of woods. It was introduced into cultivation by E. H. Wilson in 1904 and in the Arboretum has proved perfectly hardy and ornamental, not merely in flower and fruit but in foliage and in the character of its prickles. *Rosa Ecae* forms a shapely bush some 6 to 7 feet tall and 8 to 10 feet through with sturdy erect stems abundantly clad with narrow dark green, many-foliolate leaves which are gland-dotted on the under surface and give off the odor of Sweetbriar. The flowers, pale yellow fading to cream color, are each about 1 inch in diameter, solitary, but crowd the upright arching stems. As a flowering bush, this Rose is less attractive than others but its early blooming qualities, its fine foliage and good habit make it a well worthwhile plant. The third species, *R. Hugonis*, is now so well known that it hardly needs description. Its habit for a wild Rose is perfect, the stems being ascending and arching over to form a fountain-like mass 5 to 8 feet tall and more through. Its pale yellow flowers, each about 2 inches across, hide the whole plant for a brief period in late May or
early June. The fruit is dark scarlet, a character which helps to distinguish it from the black fruited *R. spinosissima* to which it is closely related. *R. Hugonis* is native of western China, where it was discovered by Fr. Hugh Scallan (Padre Hugo), a Welshman attached to the Roman Catholic Mission. Padre Hugo sent a collection of herbarium specimens to the British Museum and among them were some Rose hips. These were forwarded to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where they germinated in 1899 and plants flowered for the first time in 1905. When it blossomed this Rose was found to be an undescribed species. Objections were taken to the surname of its discoverer, so his clerical name was used instead. This Rose was received in the Arboretum from Kew in 1908, and we still have the original plant growing, although on several occasions large branches have died but so far the plant has always rehabilitated itself by sending up strong new growths. No Rose has been more abundantly disseminated in this country during the last ten or fifteen years and not one has attained, and justifiably so, greater popularity. The only pruning these three Roses require is to cut away the oldest canes after flowering. This and fertilizer to encourage vigorous new shoots is all that is necessary. They love the sunshine and should not be coddled in a warm corner. These three harbingers of the Rose tribe may be seen in bloom in the Shrub Garden on the right entering from Forest Hills Gate.

*Diervilla florida venusta*. The Diervillas, or Weigelas as they are commonly called, are a familiar group of flowering shrubs many of which are, unfortunately, not properly hardy in the Arboretum. There are species native of this country but the most showy members of the tribe are natives of China, Korea and Japan. They have been in cultivation for a long time and many new varieties and forms have originated both as sports and as the result of the plant breeders’ skill. The whole Asiatic group is remarkably floriferous and the range of color is great, but, except in mild winters, they suffer badly. The hardiest, the best, and the earliest to blossom of the Diervillas native of eastern Asia is *D. florida venusta*. This is a Korean plant, everywhere abundant on rocky mountain slopes and open country in the central and northern parts of that land. It forms a broad rounded bush, from 5 to 6 feet tall and from 6 to 10 feet through, with upright and spreading stems which in season are clad for two-thirds of their length with clustered tubular, rosy pink blossoms, each about 1½ inches long. The color, if not as pure as one could wish, is effective in the mass and the abundant blossom and perfect hardiness of this plant gives it a unique place among the Weigelas so far as Massachusetts gardens are concerned. We owe its discovery and introduction to Mr. J. G. Jack, who visiting Korea in 1905 collected seeds and sent them to the Arboretum. The seeds germinated freely and the plants have never known injury. It flowered under cultivation for the first time in 1908 and each season since its sterling ornamental qualities have become more and more evident. It comes true from seed, though the plants exhibit a certain amount of color variation.

E. H. W.