Blossoms aplenty are now to be seen in the Arboretum. The Buckeyes and Horsechestnuts beyond the Lindens on the right hand side of Meadow Road, entering by Jamaica Plain Gate, are now at the height of their beauty. The flowers vary from pale lemon-yellow and shades of salmon to deep rose-red, and there are, of course, the white towers of the Common Horsechestnut. Of all the Horsechestnuts none is more handsome than the rose-red blossomed A. carnea Briotii. Few people realize that there are Horsechestnuts other than the common sort and are surprised to learn of the range in color that the American species and their hybrids afford. The Tatarian Honeysuckles in white and pink, the flat-crowned spreading Japanese Lonicera Morrowii with its white, passing to yellow, blossoms are in full bloom and so, too, are some of the earliest of the Viburnums, of which the American V. prunifolium and V. lentago are outstanding members. Under the old White Pines the Enkianthus are blossoming as freely as usual and as the bushes have grown to a large size it is possible to stand beneath them and appreciate the full extent of their beauty. The colors vary from creamy white through various shades of salmon to almost crimson and in the majority they are alternately veined with lighter and darker colors. The habit of growth, especially when young, is tabulariform and the result is umbrella-like masses of blossom. Of the several species E. campanulatus is the best. Lovers of acid soil, good air and root drainage, they are very accommodating plants and do not mind transplanting any more than do Rhododendrons.

Conifers. The value of these indispensable trees is most highly appreciated during the winter season when their dark evergreen foliage forms such welcome relief in the landscape. They are beautiful at all seasons of the year but perhaps mostly so at this particular time when the young growth so brightly illuminates them. In the young leaves of Conifers every shade of green is present. The Hemlocks, some of the Spruces, and Firs are particularly bright green; on others gray- to blue-green obtains. The Pines start into growth later than Spruce, Hemlock, and Fir, but these present much beauty in the
elongated shoots from which the leaves will soon burst forth. The Junipers and Arborvitaes have rid themselves of the yellowish brown mask but have not yet assumed the cheerful greens of their taller growing comrades. A walk through the Pinetum, on the left entering from Walter Street Gate, is one of the most delightful strolls that can be taken at the present time in the Arboretum. In the distance the gray-tinted unfolding leaves of the Oaks are beautiful and here and there unexpected splashes of color afforded by the Azaleas loom up like flames of fire; below and around green grass waves in the breeze completing the setting.

**Sargent's Weeping Hemlock.** Among dwarf Conifers none is more beautiful than the low-growing weeping form of the Common Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis pendula*), a fine specimen of which may be seen on the right of Hemlock Hill Road, entering from Walter Street Gate and facing the Pinetum. This, like all that are seen in gardens generally, is a grafted plant and is looser and more tufted in habit than the original seedlings. Like many other dwarf Conifers, this was a chance discovery, being found on the mountains back of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson River by the late General Howland of Mattapan, New York, and named by him Sargent's Hemlock for his friend and neighbor, Henry Winthrop Sargent. General Howland found four or five of these Hemlocks, and one of his original discoveries (pictured here) is still living at Holm Lea, Brookline, Mass.

**Malus angustifolia** is the last of the Crabapples to open its blossoms. This is an American species native of southeastern Virginia and southward to western Florida and westward to Louisiana. Coming from warm districts, it is rather remarkable that it should be perfectly hardy in the climate of Massachusetts. It is a tree possessed of much character, resembling in habit of growth the Thorns more than the Crabapples in general. The best specimen in the Arboretum is a broad tree about 20 feet tall and 25 feet in diameter of crown. The branches are very numerous, spreading horizontally, and are armed with stout spines. The leaves are quite smooth at maturity, more or less oblong and coarsely toothed especially in the upper part. They are ruddy-tinted when young and develop as the flowers open. The rose-pink blossoms have the odor of violets, peculiar to all the American species, and are borne not so much at the ends as along the whole length of the branches so the tree forms a bouquet of blossoms garnished with young foliage. The individual flowers are open, somewhat cupped and have pink anthers. Like all the American species it is easily raised from seeds and comes true to type. Two trees in full bloom may be seen in the Crabapple collection at the foot of Peters Hill, near the famed Bechtel's Crabapple, which is still in rich blossom and thronged with myriad bees making soft music.

**Rhododendron nudiflorum.** Not for many years has this Azalea been so laden with plenteous blossom as at the moment and the group
Sargent’s Weeping Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* pendula)
on Bussey Hill bank is worth coming a long distance to see. The colors vary from almost white through different shades of pink to rose-pink, and one and all are delightfully fragrant. This Azalea has long, tubular flowers with spreading lobes, the tube being a richer color than the lobes from which the stamens are long outthrust. Every twig terminates in a cluster each of from ten to twenty or more blossoms. Native of copses, woodlands, and swamps of eastern North America from Massachusetts to North Carolina and west to Tennessee, it is known as the Pinxter-bloom and though an old favorite is really not appreciated in gardens as its merits deserve. Anyone who sees the group in flower in the Arboretum will want to possess a similar treasure.

The Ghent and Mollis Azaleas, so-called, are now laden with their fragrant polychromatic blossoms. Indeed, the lower bank beyond the old White Pines on Bussey Hill is a pastel of yellow, orange, salmon and flame-color. It is much to be regretted that these gorgeous flowering shrubs are not better suited to the climate of Massachusetts. The Ghent Azaleas are of hybrid origin, being largely mixtures of the Flame Azalea of the Appalachians (R. calendulaceum) and other American species with the Pontic Azalea (R. luteum) of Europe and western Asia. The Mollis Azaleas are hybrids between the flame-colored Japanese R. japonicum and the yellow-flowered Chinese R. molle. In the Ghent Azaleas where the American blood is in the ascendency the types are more robust and better fitted to withstand New England climate; in the Mollis Azaleas where the Japanese element is dominant the same obtains. Alongside of these Ghent and Mollis Azaleas many hundreds of small plants of the Japanese species are now coming into bloom. This is a first-class plant, although unfortunately somewhat addicted to borers. Like all Azaleas, these do best and are seen to greater advantage when massed thickly together. The colors blend well and close planting helps them to shade their roots, which is important since they are all surface-rooting.

Cotoneaster multiflora or C. reflexa, as it is often called, is one of the best as it is also one of the oldest in cultivation of the Cotoneasters with showy blossoms. Native of northern China, it extends westward into high Asia and growing naturally in bleak regions possesses a robust constitution sufficient to withstand the New England climate. It is a twiggy plant of dense habit, spreading, usually from 6 to 7 feet tall and twice that in diameter, but under favorable circumstances it may be ten or twelve feet high. It has thin, roundish ovate, nearly smooth, leaves which are fully grown when the flowers open. The flowers, white with the odor of Hawthorns, are borne in clusters at the ends of short lateral shoots transforming the whole branch into sprays of blossom. In the autumn relatively large crimson berries in clusters weigh down the branches. It is deciduous and its leaves turn from yellow and orange to red before they fall. At one time this Cotoneaster was more common in gardens than now, having been introduced into cultivation in 1837; it has been growing in the Arboretum since 1879.

E. H. W.