Flowers are opening rapidly; the Chinese Almond (Prunus triloba) in its several forms and the Nanking Cherry (P. tomentosa) are in full blossom just within the Forest Hills Gate, and so, too, are other bushes of the same plants on Bussey Hill. Several Asiatic species of Pear trees are in full bloom and Cherry blossoms in variety are opening and making a brave display at Forest Hills entrance and on Bussey Hill. In the Shrub Garden, Lonicera tenuipes is covered with its small deep pink blossoms and the Canadian Plum (Prunus nigra) is in flower. Magnolias in front of the Administration Building are still in blossom and alongside the roads and the margins of woods the Shadbows are fast being muslined in white and Yellow-root (Zanthorrhiza aquifolia) is a dull cloud of lurid purple. The Leather-wood (Dirca palustris) is past flowering but the naked shoots of the Spicebush (Benzoin aestivale) are studded with clustered blossoms. In early spring the young unfolding foliage of many plants is of a reddish hue. Particularly noticeable in this respect is the young foliage of Cercidiphyllum japonicum, Amelanchier laevis, the Sargent Cherry, Highbush Blueberry, several Viburnums and of many herbs. No one can fail to notice this phenomenon though probably most accept it as a matter of course. This ruddy tinted foliage is due to the presence in the cell sap of a coloring substance, known technically as anthocyanin, which in the presence of free acids assumes a reddish tone. Its function at this particular season is to mask and thus protect the green coloring bodies of the young leaves from the damaging effects of strong sunlight. The observant will have noticed that this ruddy hued spring foliage is evanescent in character. So soon as the leaves enlarge and become moderately firm in texture they assume their wonted green color and the red mask completely disappears. The appearance and disappearances of anthocyanin is an expression of the chemical changes that are constantly proceeding in the leaves, and to its presence in bark and young unfolding leaf spring owes much of its color warmth.

The shortening of the spring planting season, due to unfavorable weather, again draws attention to the importance of more planting
work being done during the autumn months. Last September some hundreds of Conifers were transplanted in the Arboretum. These were given a surface mulch of farmyard manure and one and all have passed through the winter unscathed. During the latter half of October and throughout November the Spiraea and Deutzia collections were remodelled and in addition a large number of miscellaneous trees and shrubs were moved. These, too, were mulched and like their evergreen brethren have suffered no ill effects. For full three months of the autumn the moving of plants was steadily pursued in the Arboretum and the results are wholly satisfactory. Indeed, had the work not been done at that time it would have been quite impossible to carry it out. It is evident that if proper care be exercised, fall planting can be successfully conducted in the climate of Massachusetts, opinions to the contrary notwithstanding. In a normal season April is really the only spring month in which deciduous-leaved trees and shrubs can be transplanted in Massachusetts, and the period is all too short for work on a large scale to be carried out, so the more done in autumn the better.

The Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) at the moment is very conspicuous on account of its wealth of bright, greenish yellow blossoms which are borne in upright, more or less bell-shaped cymose corymbs at the end of every branchlet. So floriferous is this tree and so showy its blossoms that it might be recommended as a flowering tree were its uses not greater in other directions. The Norway Maple is a handsome tree, growing from 75 to 90 feet tall with a stout trunk, thick branches and a broad rounded or dome-shaped crown. It has large, palmately, 5-lobed leaves, rich green throughout the summer and in the autumn changing to clear yellow. It thrives in eastern North America, where it has been abundantly planted. Too much so in fact, for many miles of country highways are planted with this tree for no other reason than that it was easily obtainable from the nurserymen. For suburban districts it is to be recommended but not for cities and certainly not for country highways. An abomination in the sight of all tree lovers is to be seen between Greenfield and Northampton, Mass., where miles of the highway are lined by round-topped, mutilated specimens of this Norway Maple. For the formal garden, trees which will stand clipping and molding into vegetable solids have a use and for this purpose the Norway Maple can be used but to treat it thus and plant it along the wayside is an offence against good taste. Another European Maple of large size is A. pseudoplatanus, the Sycamore Maple. As a rule this has a short trunk clothed with scaling gray bark, showing pale brown on the underside, and a broad flattened round crown made up of massive branches. The leaves are palmately 5-lobed, about 6 inches across, deep dark green on the upper surface and gray on the underside. The flowers are borne in pendent, tail-like clusters and are much less showy than those of the Norway Maple. The value of this tree to American gardens is largely because it thrives well in exposed situations near the seashore. Indeed, it is one of the very best of all trees to plant as a windbreak for shore gardens along
the New England coast. Of both the Sycamore Maple and Norway Maple there are many garden forms—some with upright branches, some with purple, others with variegated and differently incised leaves. To those fond of the curious some of the varieties are worthwhile but for practical purposes the typical trees are best.

The Oshima Cherry (Prunus Lannesiana albida) is now in blossom on Bussey Hill. This is one of the principal parents of the double-flowered Japanese Cherries, but unfortunately is less hardy than some of the others. It has pure white blossoms, each about 1½ inches in diameter, borne several together in fascicles crowded toward the ends of the branches. The flowers are pleasingly fragrant, being reminiscent of almonds. This Cherry is native of the warmer parts of Japan, being common on Oshima or De Vries Island, which is little more than an active volcano. Southward on the volcanic Seven Isles of Idzu it is also very plentiful. It is not a tall tree, seldom exceeding 45 feet in height, but has a wide-spreading crown and on Oshima Island there are specimens with trunks more than 20 feet in girth. As usually seen in Japan, however, it is a tree of medium size recognized by its pale comparatively smooth bark. Not before has it blossomed so freely in the Arboretum as this year, due probably to the mildness of the winter.

Prunus serrulata spontanea is the common Cherry on the mountains of central and southern Japan, southern Korea and the temperate parts of central China. It is a tree smaller in all its parts than its northern form, the Sargent Cherry, but not one whit less beautiful. Its branches are twiggy, very numerous and form a vase-shaped or rounded crown sometimes 20 feet through. The flowers are smaller than those of the Sargent Cherry but are produced in the greatest profusion. On Bussey Hill this Cherry is just opening its blossoms; there is also a specimen just within the Forest Hills Gate and others up on Peters Hill. The particular specimens blossoming were raised from seeds collected in central China by E. H. Wilson in 1907. For many years past they have flowered abundantly each season after those of its northern relative, the Sargent Cherry are past. Southern types require more heat to bring them into leaf and blossom than do boreal forms; this is why the more northern trees are earliest in pushing forth flower and leaf.

Rhododendron Schlippenbachii on Bussey Hill is now opening its first flowers. This is a sturdy Azalea with relatively stout, ascending stems, and clusters of large, funnel-form, pure pink blossoms. It is a native of the mountains of Korea, being very abundant in certain districts and it also occurs on two isolated mountains in Japan. Discovered in 1854 by Baron Alexander von Schlippenbach, after whom it was named, it was not introduced into cultivation until 1893. In the Arboretum it has been growing since 1905. Of slow growth, it has proved perfectly hardy but experience has taught us that early autumn is the best season of the year in which to transplant this Azalea.