As winter grudgingly gives way to spring, beauty of bark and bud is much in evidence in the Arboretum. Indeed, the twigs of many shrubs and trees have been aglow with color throughout the winter, some like the Seashore Rose (*Rosa virginiana*) being now much less brilliant than they were in January. Of all the shrubs with ruddy twigs none surpasses the crimson-stemmed Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), a common plant widespread through the northern regions of this continent; throughout the winter, even as at the present moment, the group planted on the bank of the small pond on the left of Meadow Road has been a brilliant splash of color. To get the best from this shrub in ornamental planting the oldest wood should be cut completely away each spring, leaving only the one and two year old stems. By this treatment the plant is not only kept within proper bounds but induced to display its most fiery tints. Its yellow-stemmed variety (*flaviramea*) makes an excellent companion. The Siberian relative, *C. alba*, though similar in habit is much less brilliantly tinted and, therefore, not so ornamental a shrub. The European *C. sanguinea* is also inferior in the color of its twigs but makes amends in the autumn by its dark, vinous purple foliage. Yet another useful member of this Red Dogwood tribe is the green-stemmed *C. sanguinea viridissima*.

Among green-stemmed plants none is better than the Oriental Kerria *japonica*, long a favorite in gardens. In marked contrast to these smooth-stemmed shrubs are some of the Honeysuckles, noticeably *Lonicera Ferdinandii* and *L. gynochlamydea*, and such relatives as *Kolkwitzia amabilis* and *Dipelta floribunda*, whose bark is shaggy and hangs in gray, papery strips.

The bark of the majority of trees is more or less gray, on some dark and even sombre. There are, however, many exceptions. The steel gray of the Beeches is only slightly less conspicuous than the white bark of the Silver Birches and almost rivalling that of the Beech is the bark of the Red Maple. On many of the Cherries the bark on the
stems and branches is the color of polished mahogany. Even more remarkable is the cinnamon-brown, papery bark of *Acer griseum*, a recent introduction from central China, of which a fine specimen may be seen on Bussey Hill. On the Plane or Button trees (*Platanus*) and on *Parrotia persica* the trunks and main branches are mottled gray and white. The twigs of the Golden Willows (*Salix alba vitellina*) are conspicuously yellow and orange. Many of the Poplar tribe have the upper parts of their trunk and branches quite smooth, gray, greenish or sometimes yellowish, in marked contrast to the bole, which is almost black, much fissured and rough. And so as one strolls about the Arboretum wherever one may look quiet beauty in variety may be seen.

The White Elm (*Ulmus americana*) is in full bloom and the crowns of many trees are ruddy brown. The flowers of the Silver Maple passed a month ago but those of the Red Maple are now in full beauty. The Poplars are in flower and a myriad catkins hang from the branches. Really it is astounding the wealth of bloom these trees put forth. The Hazel-nut tribe and some of the Alders are also in blossom. The Lilac buds are swelling rapidly and on more precocious shrubs like *Ribes cereum*, *R. orientale* and *Prunus *sinensis* the young, green leaves are peering forth. On the Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) a few blossoms are beginning to show and so, too, are they on a number of bush Honeysuckles and in a few days a number of species will be in full bloom.

**First of the Honeysuckles** to blossom in the Arboretum is *Lonicera praeflorens* a native of Korea, which was introduced into cultivation by the Arboretum in 1917. This is a sturdy, twiggy bush growing from 5 to 6 feet tall with gray twigs clad with loose bark and small axillary flowers, the chief attraction of which is the relatively large, rose-pink anthers. Except that it is first to bloom, this species has little to recommend it. On the heels of this Korean Honeysuckle follows *L. Standishii*, a Chinese species with gaping, white flowers and yellowish anthers. Although native of the Yangstze Valley of central China, this plant is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts. Much more widely known and more ornamental is *L. fragrantissima*, a broad shrub with stout, rigid branches, growing from 6 to 10 feet tall and as much in diameter. This has oval to broadly ovate, leathery leaves, smooth and dark green above and glaucous on the underside, which remain on the plant far into the winter. In the old gardens of Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and other southern states this Honeysuckle has for three-quarters of a century been a favorite shrub. It is in blossom about Christmas and continues until March. In the north we do not know the full beauty of this plant, so well and truly appreciated by southern gardeners. It is another gift of China, having been introduced into cultivation by that grand old plant collector, Robert Fortune, so long ago as 1845.

In the Shrub Garden the delightful little *Erica carnea* is now a mass of rose-pink. The hybrid, *E. darleyensis*, a cross between the above and *E. mediterranea*, which in some Massachusetts gardens is known as *E. mediterranea nana*, was in bloom at Christmastime; in
spite of the southern origin of one parent this hybrid appears to be perfectly hardy in the Arboretum. As groundcovers, and more especially as rockery plants, these two Heaths are not yet so fully appreciated as their beauty merits.

On Bussey Hill beneath the old White pine trees, *Rhododendron dauricum mucronulatum* is beginning to push down its blossoms and by the time this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers will be in partial bloom, unless Jack Frost gives a rough deal. In the collection of Goldenbells, near the Lilacs, the Korean *Forsythia ovata* is in bloom. Since the introduction of this plant in 1917 there has not been experienced a winter sufficiently severe to test out its real bud-hardiness but from the region where it grows naturally there is every reason to believe that it will be capable of withstanding New England's severest seasons. If this proves true, this species should be of immense value to the hybridist. Sturdy of habit and with relatively stiff branches and small flowers, it has not the grace and charm of other species but the supreme quality of bud-hardiness should give it unique value.

Before the introduction of the Forsythia in the early part of the nineteenth century the Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) was the popular yellow-flowered spring shrub. It has now been superseded by the larger blossomed Goldenbells, nevertheless, on account of its hardiness and earliness of blossom it ought not to be utterly neglected. At the moment of writing the rank and file of the Goldenbells are stark and bare, but the Cornelian Cherry is a cheerful mass of bright yellow. A native of southeastern Europe and western Asia, it has been cultivated since ancient times. A close relative is *C. officinalis*, native of Korea and eastern China. The flowers are very similar but those of the Oriental plant have longer foot-stalks and more prominent stamens. The bark, however, on the two plants is quite different, that of *C. mas* being almost black and only slightly scaling, whereas that of *C. officinalis* is gray and flakes off in sheets showing pale brown beneath. On the right hand side of Meadow Road near the Asiatic Cork trees plants of both species are in bloom and bark and floral characters may be compared.

The Arnold Arboretum is a department of Harvard University devoted to the acclimatization, cultivation and study of trees and shrubs, for which purpose it was expressly founded in 1872. It occupies about 260 acres of hill, valley and meadow some five miles south from the State House of Massachusetts and within the limits of the City of Boston. The natural features are varied but its proudest possession is a grove of virgin Hemlock growing on an outcrop of conglomerate rock. The Arboretum is open free to the public from sunrise to sunset every day in the year, and is easily reached by automobile along the main parkway and by the Elevated Railway alighting at Forest Hills Station. In the summer buses stop at the Forest Hills and Jamaica Plain entrances. The Administration Building, which contains a complete collection of American woods, a large herbarium of woody plants and a very extensive library, is just within the Jamaica Plain Gate.

E. H. W.