The Arboretum is still gay with blossom. The hybrid Rhododendrons at the foot of Hemlock Hill are in their prime; Azaleas of several sorts make fine splashes of color here and there, especially through the Oak collection where *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, the Flame Azalea, in yellow, orange and scarlet, is particularly arresting. Viburnums are in full bloom and so, too, are many other shrubs. In the Pinetum the bright greens of the young growth on Hemlock, Spruce and Fir are in marked contrast with the dark black-green foliage of last season, and the Yews with their brownish green young foliage are particularly lovely; it is trite to say that narrow-leaved evergreens are lovely at all seasons but it is now in their young growth that they display their maximum beauty.

*Cornus controversa*. This Cornel is one of the loveliest of all flowering trees that can be grown in the climate of New England. On Peters Hill there are two or three fine specimens now in full bloom. The largest of these was raised from seeds collected in central China by E. H. Wilson in 1907 and is 20 feet tall with a trunk about 1 foot in diameter, the branches spreading fully 50 feet. The branches are whorled but in this particular tree they are more crowded than is usual, the normal habit of branching being tier above tier. The leaves are slender petioled, prominently veined, lustrous green on the upper and glaucous on the lower surface. The flowers, small, white with prominent erect, pale yellow-anthered stamens, are borne in erect, flattened-round corymbs, each from 3 to 5 inches in diameter. The inflorescences terminate every shoot and the whole tree is a mass of white, tier above tier and conspicuous from afar. The fruit, globose, the size of a garden pea, is blue-black. To get the full effect of beauty of this tree it should be planted where it can be looked upon from above when its full wealth of blossom is apparent. This Cornel is widespread in northeastern Asia, extending from the Chino-Thibetan borderland eastward on the mountains of China and southern Korea.
to those of Japan. In a wild state it is frequently a tree from 60 to 75 feet tall with a smooth trunk as much as 3 feet in diameter. It grows in moist woods and especially among humus-clad rocks in ravines.

The Cornel family is an extremely large one, yet Cornus controversa and the native C. alternifolia are the only ones which have alternate leaves. The native species is an ornamental bush or small tree and is more remarkable for its purple-stained autumn foliage than for its blossoms. Its Asiatic relative is far superior and, moreover, grows to a much larger size. Neither of the species transplant easily nor do other related species, such as C. macrophylla with opposite leaves. To give of its best C. controversa requires a cool woodland soil and when properly placed is an ornament of which any garden may be proud.

Malus florentina or M. crataegifolia as it is often called, is a delightful species of Crabapple which blossoms later than other species. It is a bush or small tree with thin, flaking bark and slender ascending branches. The leaves, more or less ovate, are cordate at the base, lobed and incised, each about 2 to 2 1/2 inches long and 1 1/2 to 2 inches broad, prominently veined and covered with gray, silky hairs on the under surface. The flowers, borne several together in loose, terminal corymb after the leaves are fully grown, are pure white, each about 3/4 of an inch across with prominent yellow-anthered stamens. The fruit is roundish, oval, about 1 1/2 an inch long, yellowish changing to red. This species is native of northern Italy and is rare both in a wild state and in cultivation. A nice specimen received from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, in 1906 is now in flower in the mixed plantation on top of Peters Hill.

Laburnum Watereri is in full blossom on Center Street path. This is a hybrid between L. alpinum and L. anagyroides, better known as L. vulgare. The hybrid is fairly intermediate in character, having leaves more or less clothed with hairs and pendent racemes of clear yellow blossoms, each 8 to 10 inches long. L. alpinum, the so-called Scotch Laburnum, a native of central and southern Europe, of which there is a fine specimen on the right just within Forest Hills Gate, has lustrous green foliage and racemes even longer than those of the hybrid. Both are perfectly hardy in Massachusetts but having very thin bark are best accommodated in a position where the trunk and branches are sheltered from the east and southeast. The Common Laburnum (L. vulgare) is not properly hardy in the Arboretum, except a curious crinkled leaved form known as var. bullatum, which may be seen on the right of Meadow Road near the Rose Acacia group. Laburnums variously known as Goldenchain and Goldenrain are, with the exception of Koelreuteria paniculata, the only trees with yellow blossoms that are hardy in the climate of Massachusetts. They are among the most familiar of lesser trees in the gardens of the British Isles and are always great favorites with American visitors. It is curious that a group so ornamental as this should be
Floriferous *Cornus controversa*
so difficult to obtain from American nurserymen. Planted in a sheltered position, they demand no special care but as they never form new bark care should be taken not to bruise the trunk or main branches.

Kolkwitzia amabilis is now blooming profusely and proves worthy of its name Beautybush. The old original specimen on Bussey Hill was never richer in blossom; its daughter on the left side of Bussey Hill Road is more shapely and beautiful of habit. This plant, now six years old, is a perfectly symmetrical bush, fountain-like in habit some 7 feet tall and 9 feet in diameter, every branch being a plume of blossoms. The blossoms, due to the curious weather we have had this spring, are perhaps slightly smaller than last year. The flowers strongly suggest those of Abelia to which it is most closely related. They are pink without, mottled with orange on the lower lip and tube. The straight, pale gray hairs which cover the ovary and pedicel, add not a little to the beauty of the plant. There is a foolish rumor abroad that this plant when raised from seed does not blossom. The story is ridiculous since the original plants were raised from seed and the particular plant on Bussey Hill Road is also a seedling. Age is necessary; the plants must develop vigor and be about four or five years old before the first blossoms appear. Every year afterwards they flower more abundantly and at maturity no shrub produces more blossoms than does the Beautybush. Another canard in circulation is that it is an acid-loving plant. As a matter of fact, it will do equally well on a moderately acid soil or on limestone. What it needs is good strong loam and a fully exposed situation where it can enjoy plenty of sun and wind. It requires no more attention than do its near relatives, the Diervillas and Abelias, to which, however, it is superior in habit of growth and in beauty of blossom. Among the deciduous-leaved shrubs that central and western China has given to American gardens Kolkwitzia stands in the front rank.

Syringa reflexa. In the Lilac collection above the Forsythia group this very remarkable species of Lilac is now in flower. Its pendulous or nodding panicles of blossoms give the plant a very different appearance to Lilies in general. In bud the flowers are almost red, becoming rosy pink as they open. The leaves are short petioled, oblong, each from 4 to 6 inches long and 2 to 2½ inches in width, dark green on the upper surface. It is native of the margins of woods and thickets of central China, where it was discovered and introduced into cultivation by E. H. Wilson in 1901. This species is as free-flowering as Lilies in general are and while a good plant in itself it will in the hands of the hybridist doubtless prove the forerunner of new races. Nearby in the Lilac collection such species as S. tomentella, sometimes called S. Wilsonii, and S. Sweginzowii are also laden with blossoms. A visit to the collection at the moment will show the value of species in prolonging the Lilac season.

E. H. W.