Winter Effects. The vicinity of Boston has enjoyed a mild winter, being more fortunate in this respect than many districts in New England, not to mention more distant parts of the country. The frost at no time penetrated deeply into the ground which is fortunate since the snowfall on the whole was light. In general, the plants in the Arboretum suffered little winter injury, evergreens in particular coming through unscathed. Rhododendrons and other broad-leaved plants never looked better at this season than they do at the moment. In January and February some freak weather was experienced, the temperature rising to an abnormal height which was not without its ill effects. On January 8th the thermometer rose to 64°F. and from February the 20th to the 25th inclusive a daily average of 65°F. was maintained. This excited the flower buds on a number of plants, especially members of the Prunus tribe, and subsequent cold weather killed them. The flower buds on the trees of *Prunus yedoensis* near Forest Hills Gate and on *P. mandshurica* on the right hand side of Meadow Road were all blasted; so, too, were the majority on the Siberian Apricot (*P. sibirica*) and related species growing in the Shrub Garden. The Peach trees in many parts of Massachusetts have suffered badly; these early flowering northern trees are readily excited by warm weather in February and the result, as a rule, is disastrous. The advantage of planting them on high ground is well exemplified by trees of *P. yedoensis* on Bussey Hill and on Peters Hill, where the display of blossom was never finer, so the lesson is not to choose low land or supposedly warm corners in which to plant these northern spring-flowering trees.

April has been a cool, indeed a cold, month, affording a good planting season but at the moment rain is badly needed; however, the weather is seldom normal and it is remarkable how plants withstand its vagaries. The unprecedented drought of last summer at one time threatened disaster but the net result in the Arboretum is that trees and shrubs of all sorts were never laden with a greater crop of flower buds.
Spring is late this year but a goodly number of plants are beginning to put forth their blossoms. Alongside the driveways the Yellow-root (Zanthorrhiza apiifolia) is a cloud of lurid purple and the low-growing, fragrant Sumach (Rhus canadensis) is laden with greenish yellow blossoms. These are two most useful plants for roadside and border planting, making excellent groundcovers and requiring very little attention. The single-flowered Japanese Cherries, the Chinese Almond, the Pears and the early Crabapples are making a show in different parts of the Arboretum and already the flower buds are visible on the Lilacs and many other plants.

Viburnum alnifolium, the Moosewood or Hobblebush, is a lovely native species. Unfortunately, it does not take readily to cultivation and it is doubtful if nursery grown plants can be obtained in the country. In flower, foliage and in fruit it is splendid and well-worth the extra patience required to get it established. Found naturally in cool, even wet, places in rich woods, it will when established do equally well on dry banks. It is the first of its tribe to blossom and one of the very best.

Prinsepia sinensis. This curious member of the Rose family is now in full blossom in the Shrub Garden. This plant is about 10 feet tall and 15 feet through; the arching spreading branches touch the ground and form a rounded, fountain-like mass. The leaves, narrow and suggestive of those of the Peach, partially hide the pale yellow blossoms, which are borne in fascicles in the leaf axils. The flowers have a pleasant odor reminiscent of Almonds and bees appear to find them extremely attractive. A native of Manchuria, it is an extremely hardy plant and it has never suffered winter injury in the Arboretum, though occasionally the young foliage gets nipped by spring frosts. Prinsepia bears a small plum-like fruit which contains a flattened pitted stone but, unfortunately, it fruits sparingly. No other means of propagation of the plant has been found so for a long time it must remain a scarce plant. Of less value as an ornamental is the white-flowered P. uniflora native of northwestern China, which opens its blossoms after those of P. sinensis have fallen. Both plants grow naturally in gravelly soil and have long, whip-like roots and in consequence do not transplant readily.

The Asiatic Crabapples, both in the collection at the foot of Peters Hill and on the left side entering by Forest Hills Gate, promise to be unusually fine this year. The Manchurian Crabapple (Malus baccata mandshurica) is first to blossom, a large tree at the foot of the Crataegus collection on Peters Hill being now sheeted in white. The expanding buds of this Crabapple appear brownish when seen from the near distance but the flowers when open are the purest white; they are relatively large and delightfully fragrant. This native of Korea, Manchuria and other cold parts of northeastern Asia grows to a large size, approaching the dimensions of the common Apple. Its fruits are scarlet to crimson and a little larger than that of a garden pea. It is one of the most beautiful of the larger Crabapple trees and particularly worthy of growing on account of its early flowering qualities.
Fragrant blossomed *Malus baccata mandshurica*
Malus micromalus opens its blossoms rapidly on the heels of those of the Manchurian Crabapple. This is a tree growing 20 to 30 feet tall with a narrow, vase-shaped crown and a relatively slender trunk. The flowers are deep rose-pink in the bud and change to pink as they open. Known to the Japanese as the Kaido, it is cultivated sparingly here and there in that land but has not been found in a wild state. Its blossoms are richly colored and are borne with the profusion for which Crabapples are remarkable. Its fruits, however, are dull, brownish green and of little ornamental value.

Pyrus serotina. Apart from being the principal parent of the Chinese Sand Pears, this tree is well worth growing for its ornamental qualities. It has larger flowers of a purer white than any other species of Pear. Native of the woodlands of Central China, it is a rapid growing tree, often 60 feet tall, with a pyramidal crown and a trunk 6 to 8 feet in girth. The best tree in the Arboretum was raised from seeds collected by E. H. Wilson in the autumn of 1907 and is now full 35 feet tall. The young foliage is bronze-green and appears after the petals have fallen. The fruit, flattened-round and russet, varies from ½ to 1 inch in diameter and is hard and gritty but full of sugary juice. For how long this type of Pear has been grown in the Orient we know not but the wild prototype was only discovered in 1900. Of all the species of Pyrus proper this is the most ornamental.

Why are the Shadblows or Juneberries so rarely planted and so hard to come by in this country? Is it because they are native and suffered from the contempt born of familiarity? But whatever the reason it is a gross injustice and gardens are denied the beauty of some lovely spring-flowering bushes and trees. There are a goodly number of species, varying from bushes 2 to 3 feet in height to trees 40 feet tall. In the Arboretum these plants have been freely planted alongside the driveways and margins of woodlands. Two species (Amelanchier oblongifolia and A. laevis) are native. Just now these and other species are laden with their white, star-like blooms. The branches are slender and graceful and the plants from a distance look like clouds of mist. The earliest to blossom is A. canadensis, which is a tree sometimes 30 feet tall with a trunk 5 feet in girth and pure white blossoms borne in advance of the leaves. For many years this plant was confused with other species and more particularly with A. laevis, which is distinguished by its ruddy unfolding foliage. A. oblongifolia, which is the more common of the two species indigenous in the Arboretum, is a large bush sending up from the base a great number of stout, erect stems which branch and form a broad, oval mass. As this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers these Shadblows will be at their best.

E. H. W.

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