Various Shrubs. With the distribution of this Bulletin special attention should be called to various shrubs now passing or still in good flowering condition. Our native Hobble-bush, *Viburnum alnifolium*, has been in blossom for two weeks and has been conspicuous with its white, bract-like, sterile flowers. This shy, northern, shade-loving, woodland shrub may be induced to grow under cultivation if given a cool and somewhat shaded location such as it has near the Birch group in the Arboretum. Near it, in the Viburnum group, the visitor will find the much and deservedly advertised *Viburnum Carlesii* in passing bloom with its clusters of pinkish white, fragrant flowers. *V. betulifolium*, close by, has similar flowers but they are borne in more open cymes, the petals being wider spreading. The plant is less compact and less attractive than *V. Carlesii*. The flowers of these two Viburnums, especially those of *V. Carlesii*, suggest *Daphne Cneorum* by their delightful odor and appearance, except that the flowers of the Daphne are of a deeper color. A fine group of this pretty, evergreen, little shrub is in full inflorescence along the roadside near the Hickory and Chestnut group, between the Centre Street gate and Hemlock Hill. Farther along this same road may be seen the purple bloom of *Rhododendron canadense*, more familiarly known as Rhodora. In the same family, Ericaceae, belongs an interesting little Heather, *Erica darleyensis*, with rosy-red flowers and dark red anthers. It is passing but has been flowering for several weeks past and, indeed, some blooms may be found in sheltered places almost every month in the winter. It is said to be of hybrid origin between the common *Erica carnea* and *E. mediterranea* and is reported to be as hardy as the first named parent. A good patch of it is to be seen on Bussey Hill. There, also, the beautiful pink-flowered *Rhododendron Schlippchenbachii* is dropping its flowers. This native of Korea and Japan is nearly matched, in a horticultural sense, by the now well-known, and deservedly popular *R. Vaseyi*. Although resembling each other, these two species are placed in different sectional groups of the genus *Rhododendron* by systematic botanists. *R. Vaseyi* has somewhat smaller flowers varying in color from deep rosy-pink to pale pink or white, a varietal name, *R. Vaseyi album*, having been given to the latter. Seed-
lings vary considerably so that it is well to grow a number and select the best, if it is not practicable to propagate a specially desirable form by division. The variability shown in this species offers a good illustration of the possibilities of obtaining improved forms by simple selection of seedlings without artificial interference by the hand of man.

The genus *Rhododendron* is divided or subdivided into various groups according to the views of different botanists. In the Arboretum under the name *Rhododendron* are included groups which some authors would classify under *Azalea*, *Rhodora*, and other genera. These segregations under separate generic headings may appear simple and satisfactory when considering local species or those of a special region, like Eastern North America. But when all the species of Asia are considered, the separating features which were satisfactory for a local flora become tangled with connecting links so that it may become difficult to divide the whole group into separate genera that are distinct. This broad grouping into one generic botanical heading under *Rhododendron*, the oldest Linnean botanical name, would seem all the more justifiable when we consider that *Rhododendrons* have been crossed with *Azaleas*, and *Azaleas* with *Rhodora*. As classified in the popular mind, the true *Rhododendrons* are evergreen shrubs or small trees bearing terminal clusters of showy flowers. They can never become universally popular or so widely distributed as Lilacs, for example, because of greater difficulty of propagation, expense, slow growth, and particularly on account of requiring so-called acid soils of a certain character found only in a relatively small part of our whole country.

The best flowering of evergreen, broad-leaved *Rhododendrons* usually occurs in the latter part of May or early June. There are few really hardy species adapted to this climate, but hybridization has produced a great many named kinds that are more or less amenable to our conditions. On May 8th, a plant known as *Rhododendron venustum* was in full bloom in the Rhododendron collection at the foot of Hemlock Hill. A broad-spreading but low plant 3 or 4 feet high, it was covered with large trusses of deep pink or rose-colored flowers and was very conspicuous among its neighbors which are not yet in blossom. It has been growing in the Arboretum, and has proved hardy, for more than twenty years. It is rather interesting that this plant should be so hardy here for it is a hybrid between *Rhododendron caucasicum* and the Himalayan *R. arboreum*, neither of which is really satisfactory in our climate, although they may live and produce flowers, and occasionally do very well. *R. caucasicum*, with yellowish-white to pink flowers, is the hardier, while *R. arboreum* is too tender for cultivation in our northern climate. *R. venustum* originated in England over 40 years ago. It appears to be rarely listed or grown in this country, but it is frequently advertised in English and other European catalogues, commonly under the name *R. Jacksoni*, which is a synonym of *R. venustum*. Growing beside this plant in the Arboretum is another in blossom but with white or faintly pinkish white flowers. It was imported from Germany in 1908 under the name of *Rhododendron "Diana"*, and is apparently of the same hybrid origin as *R. venustum*, but much less satisfactory because the plant seems weaker and the flower buds
RHODODENDRON YEDOENSE POUKHANENSE

Raised in the Arnold Arboretum from seed collected on Poukhan, Korea, in 1905 by J. G. Jack (Drawing by Blanche Ames Ames)
are too often destroyed in winter. It is very pretty at this time but is hardly worth cultivating except for earliness of bloom, and then in regions with a climate less severe than that of Boston. It does not now appear to be listed in nursery catalogues.

Probably no group of trees and shrubs offers greater opportunities than the Rhododendrons, evergreen and deciduous, for development by hybridizing, though such work may be understood by comparatively few people.

Those wishing to see Kaempfer's Azalea, *Rhododendron obtusum Kaempferi* in good flowering condition should visit the Arboretum at this time as the species is now in full blossom (May 18). With cool weather, such as we have been having this spring, these plants should keep in showy and attractive condition for about two weeks, but hot, sunny days cause rapid fading. Individuals when planted together show variation of several days in the time of opening of the first flowers, but local environment will be found much more of a factor in hurriedly or delaying inflorescence, a cool north slope or shade continuing the season of bloom for days after the passing of blossoms of plants in a warm location.

The Korean Poukhan Azalea, *Rhododendron yedoense poukhanense*, is at this date (May 18) still in full bloom on Bussey Hill, its mass of rosy purple, or pale lilac purple, flowers forming the most conspicuous feature among the surrounding shrubbery. Other Azaleas will follow, so that several visits must be made to this location in order to appreciate all of them.

The visitor to Bussey Hill will find the later flowering Japanese Cherries still in attractive bloom. Other small plants belonging to the broadly inclusive genus *Prunus* are blossoming along the main road leading to the top of Bussey Hill. On the hill are several species of *Cytisus*, often called *Genista*, mostly bearing golden yellow flowers. Among the best of these may be mentioned *C. ratsboensis*, which, under favorable conditions, may attain 3 or 4 feet in height; *C. purgans*, erect and somewhat smaller than the last; *C. elongatus*, the flowers dullest yellow than the others and marked with reddish brown, and *C. Beani*, a hybrid between *C. purgans* and *C. Ardoini*, the latter rarely cultivated in this country. *C. Beani* is a low, broad-spreading little shrub, very attractive when covered with its bright golden yellow blossoms. *C. purpureus*, a small shrub with purple flowers, is in strong contrast to the yellow flowered species. It has been used in hybridizing with those with yellow flowers and one or two interesting intermediate forms have been produced.

Before this Bulletin is issued many of the Crabapples will have passed their best flowering condition and the Lilacs will be the centre of attraction in the Arboretum.

J. G. J.