

Notes from the Arnold Arboretum

WITH SOME ILLUSTRATIONS OF ARBORETUM SPECIMENS

By Charles Sprague Sargent*

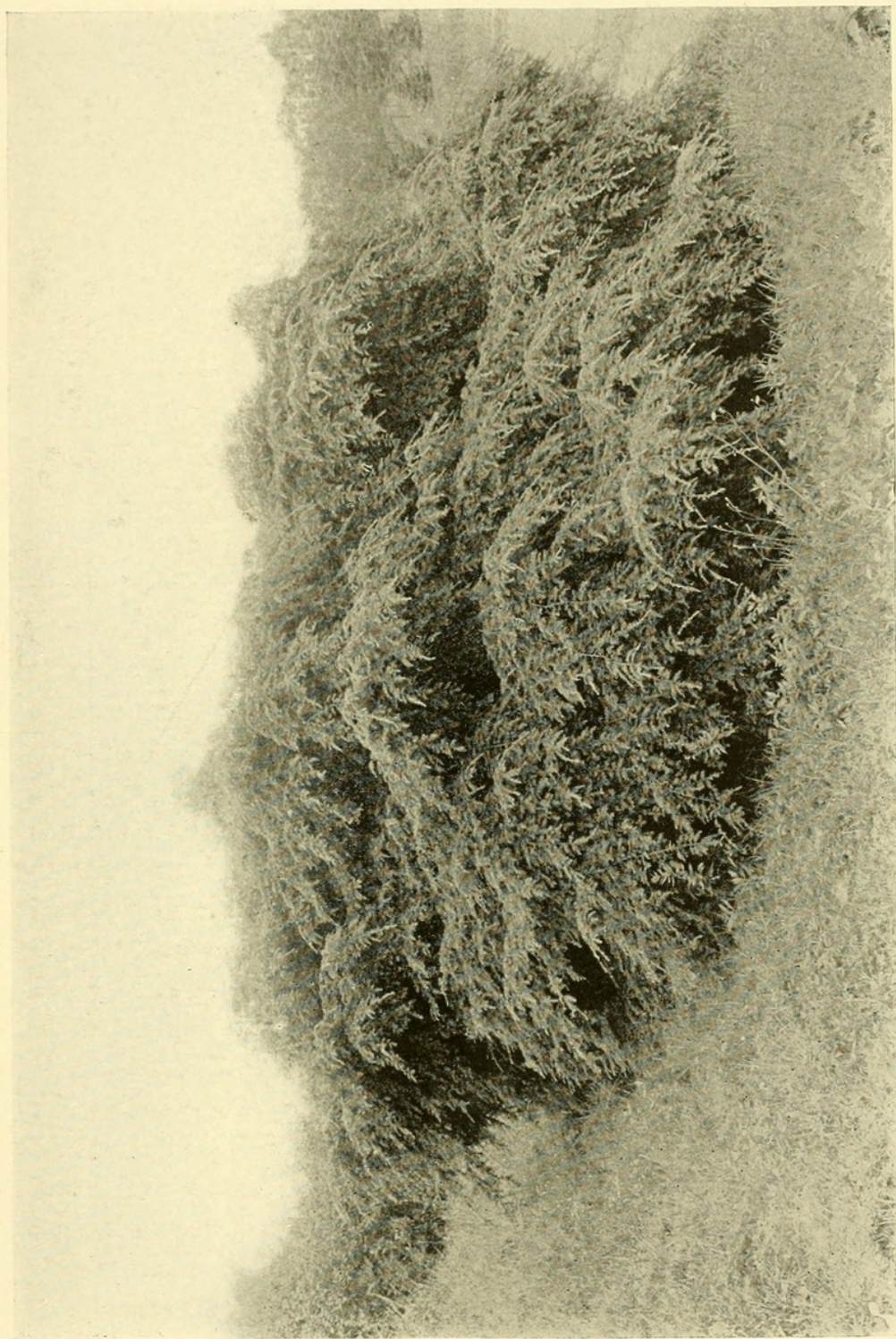


FRUITS in the Arboretum. The ripening and ripe fruits of many hardy trees and shrubs are as beautiful and often more beautiful than their flowers; and such plants have a double value for the decoration of northern gardens, especially the gardens of the northern United States. For the climate of this part of the world is suited for the abundant production and high coloring of the fruits of our native trees and shrubs and of those of northeastern Asia; and European plant lovers who come to the Arboretum in summer and autumn are always astonished and delighted with the abundance and beauty of the fruits they find here. The list of trees and shrubs with handsome fruits which can be grown in New England contains many species of Holly, Ribes, Viburnum, Cotoneaster, Cornus, Malus, Sorbus, Amelanchier, Aronia, Rosa, Prunus, Rhus, Crataegus, Ampelopsis, Berberis, Magnolia, Acer, Acanthopanax and Lonicera. On the Red and White Maples the fruit ripens early in May, and until the first of November there will be a succession here of ripening fruits. The fruits of a few trees and shrubs will remain on the branches and keep much of their brilliancy until early April, and there is therefore only a few weeks during the year when one cannot find showy fruits in the Arboretum.

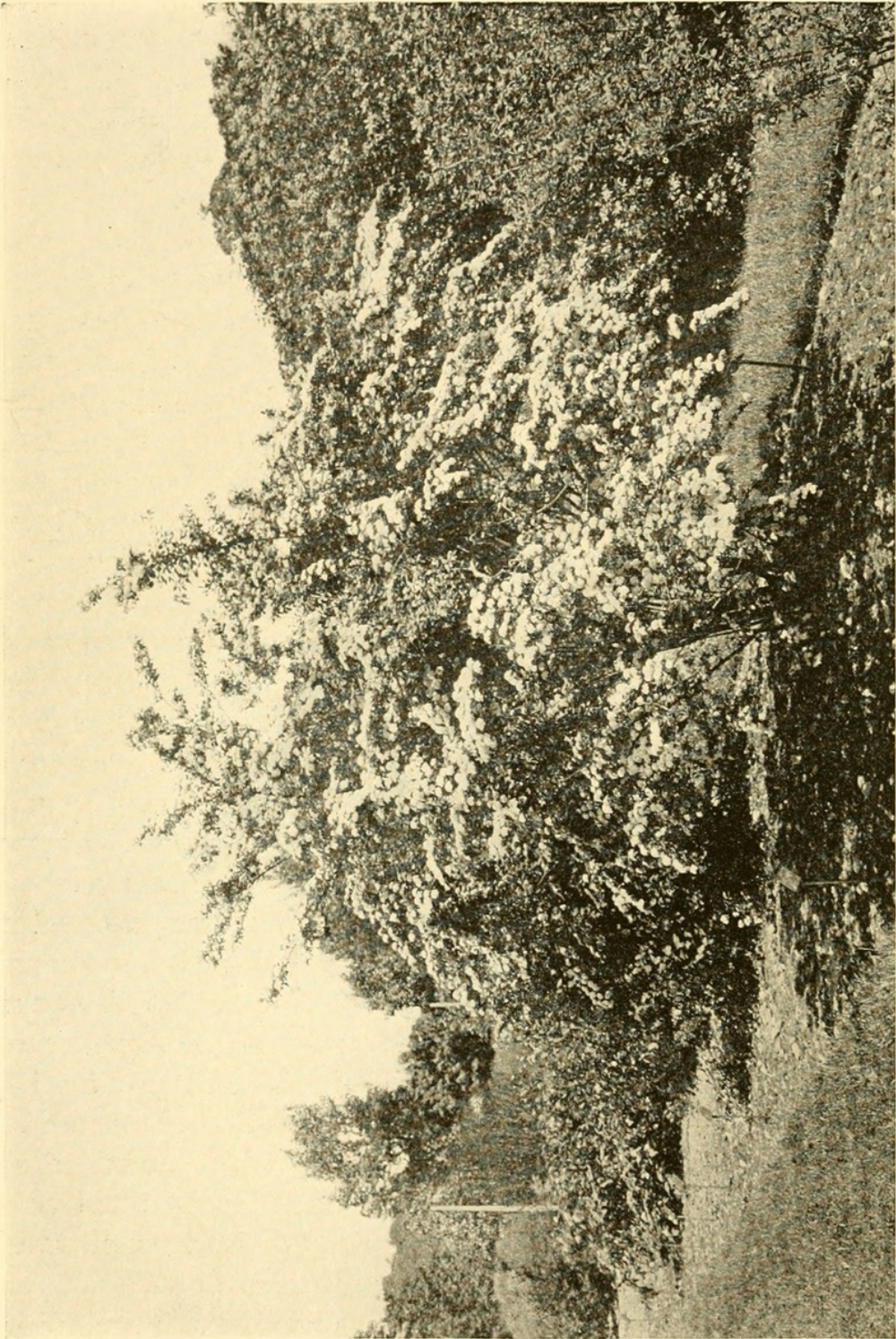
Honeysuckles as fruit plants. It is not perhaps generally realized that the fruit of several Honeysuckles is more beautiful

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than their flowers, and that among the species which are bushes and not vines are plants perfectly suited to this northern climate which are not surpassed in the abundance and brilliancy of their fruits by any plants which ripen their fruit in summer. The Honeysuckles which produce the earliest and the showiest fruit are *Lonicera tatarica* and some of its hybrids. The Tartarian Honeysuckle, which is a native of western Siberia and central Asia, is an old inhabitant of gardens and one of the best shrubs for cold countries, for it can support without injury the excessive cold of the long winter and the burning sun of the short summer of the north, fatal to all but a few of the plants which decorate the gardens of more temperate regions. It cannot be too often repeated that the Tartarian Honeysuckle and its hybrids are large, fast-growing plants, that they only thrive in rich, well-drained soil, and that they can only show their real beauty when allowed sufficient space for free development of their branches. Twenty-five feet between the plants does not give them too much room. There are many varieties of the Tartarian Honeysuckle in the Arboretum collection varying in the color of their flowers and in the color of their fruits. The varieties of *L. tatarica* which have this year the handsomest fruit are the var. *rosea* with scarlet fruit and var. *lutea* with bright yellow fruit. The fruits, however, of some of the hybrids are more beautiful than those of any of the varieties of the species. As fruiting plants, the best of these hybrids which are in the Arboretum are *Lonicera bella*, *L. muendeniensis*, *L. notha*, and *L. amoena*. *L. bella* was raised in the Botanic Garden at Petrograd and is believed to be the product of a cross between *L. tatarica* and the Japanese *L. Morrowii*. There are several varieties of this hybrid differing in the color of their flowers. They are large, free-flowering plants with large, lustrous red fruit. *L. muendeniensis*, which originated in the Botanic Garden at Muenden, is probably of the same parentage as *L. bella* altered by a cross with another species. It is a very vigorous plant with large, lustrous, orange-red fruit. *L. notha*, which is believed to be a hybrid of *L. tatarica* and *L. Ruprechtiana*, is another large, vigorous,



THE CREEPING HEMLOCK, A FORM OF
TSUGA CANADENSIS



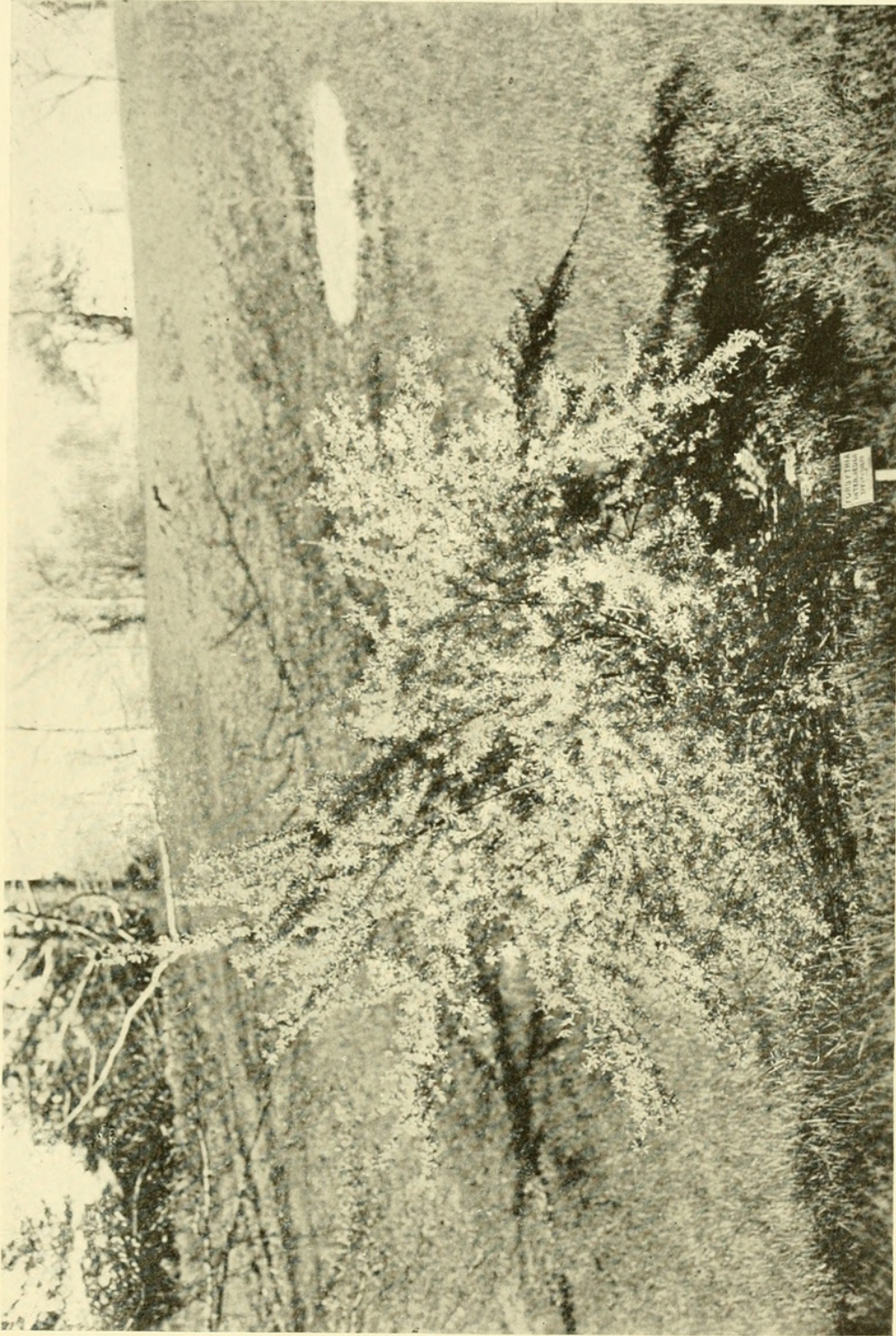
SPIRAEA NIPPONICA

fast-growing plant with lustrous orange-red fruit. *L. notha* and *L. muendeniensis* as fruit plants are the handsomest of the large-growing Bush Honeysuckles with dark green leaves and orange-red fruits. More beautiful when in flower is the hybrid of *L. tatarica* with the Persian *L. Korolkovii* which is called *L. amoena*. This is a smaller plant than the other hybrids of the Tartarian Honeysuckle with pale gray-green leaves, small pink flowers and small red fruits. When it is in bloom this plant is considered by many persons the most beautiful *Lonicera* in the collection. The Japanese *L. Morrowii* is more beautiful when it is covered with its large orange-red fruits than it is when the yellow and white flowers are open in early spring. This is a round-topped shrub, much broader than high, with gray-green foliage, and long lower branches which cling close to the ground. When it can have sufficient room in which to grow this is one of the handsomest of the Honeysuckles and one of the best shrubs introduced into the United States by the Arboretum. There are two hybrids of this species in the collection, *L. minutiflora* with small, translucent, yellow fruit, and *L. muscaviensis* with large bright scarlet fruit. They are large, hardy and fast-growing plants. Very different are the bright blue fruits of the different geographical forms of the widely distributed *Lonicera coerulea*. These fruits are beautiful but they are a good deal covered by the leaves, and the plants are not as conspicuous at this season of the year as the Tartarian and several of the other Bush Honeysuckles. The bright red fruit of *Lonicera trichosantha* is conspicuous in the last weeks of July. This is a shrub now three or four feet tall in the Arboretum, with erect stems, large yellow and white flowers, and fruits rather larger than those of the Tartarian Honeysuckle. It is a native of northern and central China and promises to be a useful addition to summer fruiting shrubs. The fruits of two western American Bush Honeysuckles, *L. involucrata* and its varieties and *L. Ledebourii* ripen in July and are handsome and peculiar, for the large, lustrous black berries rise from the much enlarged bractlets of the flowers which are bright red and

much reflexed. One of the most interesting of these plants is the variety *serotina* of *Lonicera involucrata*. This has bright yellow flowers flushed with scarlet which do not open until July; the enlarged bractlets of this Colorado plant are spreading, not reflexed.

The tree with the showiest fruits in the Arboretum in July is the Tartarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*) which is an early-flowering, very hardy small tree from southeastern Europe and western Asia. The wings of the fruit are bright red, and their beauty is heightened by the contrast of the dark green leaves. The female plants of the so-called Mountain Holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*) are handsome in July when their rose-red berrylike fruits are ripe. *Nemopanthus*, which belongs to the Holly Family, consists of a single species which is common in cool moist woods in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, and is a wide round-topped shrub with erect stems covered with gray bark, thin pale green leaves and inconspicuous flowers. It has taken kindly to cultivation in the Arboretum where there are a number of plants in the Holly Collection in the rear of the Horsechestnut Collection. The snow-white fruits of the red and yellow-flowered forms of the North American *Cornus stolonifera* ripen in July. Very beautiful in winter from the bright coloring of its stems and branches, this Cornel is equally beautiful in July and August when it is covered with its large and abundant clusters of fruit. A garden form of the Old World *Cornus alba* (var. *Rosenthalii*) is fruiting abundantly this year and promises to be a valuable addition to July and August fruiting shrubs.

Indigofera. Five species of this genus of the Pea family bloom in the Arboretum during July. They are small plants with handsome flowers in terminal racemes, well suited to decorate a garden border. The three species with pink flowers, *I. Kirilowii*, a native of northern China, Manchuria and Korea, *I. Potaninii* and *I. amblyantha* are perfectly hardy and the last will continue to open its small flowers on the lengthening racemes until October. The other species, *I. Gerardiana* and *I. decora*, are killed to the ground every winter, but like herba-

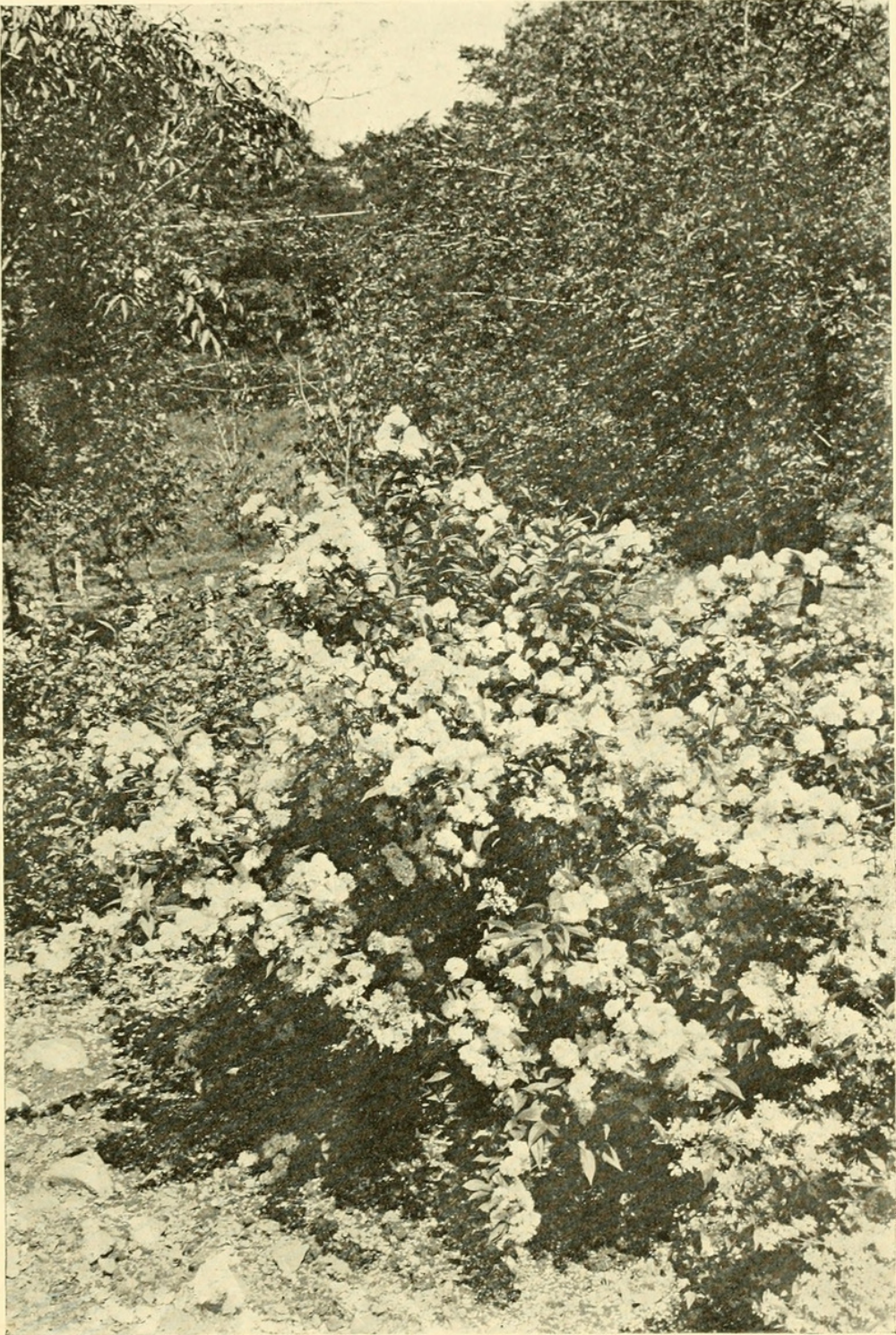


THE HANDSOMEST OF ALL THE FORSYTHIAS
F. INTERMEDIA SPECTABILIS

ceous plants produce new stems in the spring which never fail to flower during the summer. *I. decora* is a native of southern China, and in the Arboretum the flowers are pure white. *I. Gerardiana*, which is a native of the northwestern Himalayas, has gray-green foliage and rose-purple flowers. This is the least beautiful of the five species now growing in the Arboretum. The collection still needs *I. hebepetala*, another Himalayan plant which is rarely seen in English gardens. It has red flowers, in elongated racemes, and, judging by the picture of it which has been published, is a handsome plant. This and another red-flowered Himalayan species, *I. atropurpurea*, are desired by the Arboretum.

Rubus laciniatus. This European plant, which produces long red stems and deeply divided leaflets, is one of the handsomest of the Brambles and is well suited to cover banks or to train over fences and arbors. In England it is valued for its fruit which is described as "one of the finest blackberries in size and flavor." In competition with some of the American blackberries it will not probably find much favor in this country. There are two double-flowered Brambles in the collection which bloom in July and which are also important ornamental plants, very well suited to cover arbors and fences. They produce in a season stems from ten to twenty feet long and their white or pink flowers in long, many-flowered crowded clusters resemble miniature Roses. These plants are called *Rubus ulmifolius* var. *bellidiflorus* and *R. thyrsoides flore pleno*, and seem to be little known in the United States.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides must be included among the shrubs which flower in July. This beautiful climbing plant has not had a successful career in the Arboretum. Seeds were first sent here in December, 1876, from Sapporo in northern Japan with those of *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Syringa japonica*, *Phellodendron sachalinense* and other interesting plants. A large number of *Schizophragma* plants were raised and sent to other American and European gardens. Those planted in the Arboretum never flourished, and soon disappeared, probably because the right place was not found for them. Plants



DEUTZIA LEMOINEI
BOULE DE NEIGE

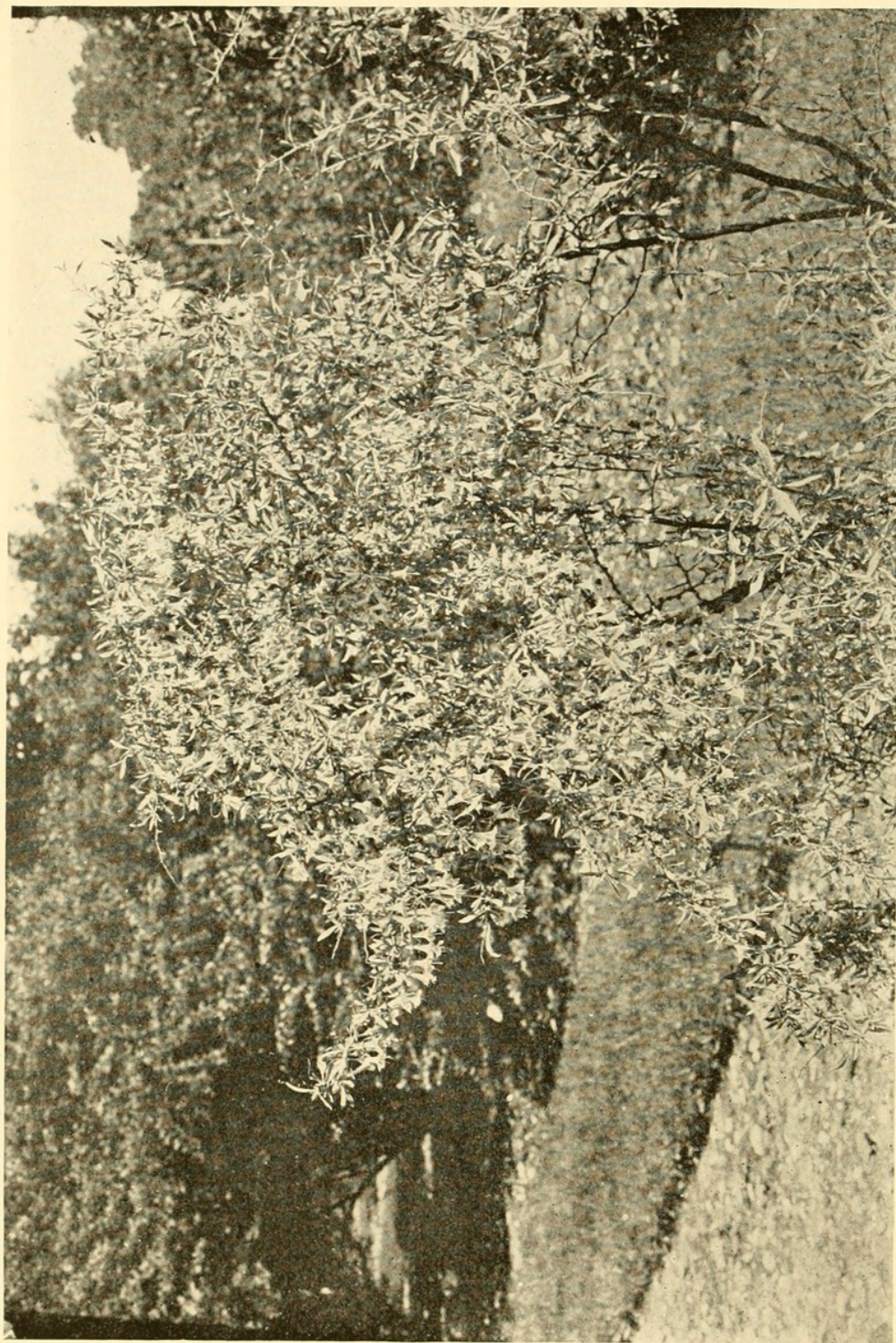
raised later also disappeared; and it is a matter of some satisfaction at the Arboretum that this beautiful plant, after forty-three years of failure, is at last established on the Administration Building where it has flowered this year for the first time. It clings as firmly to the brick wall as *Hydrangea petiolaris*; the leaves are smaller, more circular in shape, more coarsely toothed and of a darker color. When in flower *Schizophragma* is more interesting, although not as showy as the *Hydrangea*, for instead of the surrounding ring of neutral flowers there are only two neutral flowers to each of the divisions of the large compound inflorescence; these neutral flowers are white, ovate, often an inch or more long, and hang on long slender stems an inch in length. *Schizophragma* appears to be an exceedingly rare plant in American gardens in which *Hydrangea petiolaris* often passes for it.

Summer Flowering Trees. Several trees with handsome or interesting flowers bloom in the Arboretum in July and August. All these and many summer flowering shrubs should find a place in gardens which are chiefly used during July, August and September, that is in many northern seashore gardens. The most important of summer flowering trees here are the Lindens. Some of the species begin to flower about the middle of June, but in the Arboretum collection are Linden trees which are covered until the end of July with their beautiful fragrant flowers, beloved of bees. In the meadow on the righthand side of the Meadow Road there is a large collection of these trees with many species, hybrids and varieties. Among them are trees of great beauty of habit, and trees which can be successfully used in New England to shade streets and roads and to decorate parks. A careful study of the Linden collection in the Arboretum during June and July will repay lovers and planters of trees.

Koelreuteria paniculata. This Chinese tree blooms during July. It can be seen on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road beyond the Evonymus Collection. *Koelreuteria* is a medium-sized tree with large, dark green compound leaves and large erect clusters of bright yellow flowers which are followed

by conspicuous bladder-like fruits. This tree is now often planted in this country, especially in the middle states. In nursery catalogues it often appears as "The Japanese Lacquer-Tree," an absurd name, for it is not a Japanese tree and it does not produce lacquer.

The *Aralia* Family furnishes the Arboretum with three handsome trees which flower in late summer and early autumn. They are *Acanthopanax ricinifolium*, *Aralia spinosa* and *A. chinensis* and its varieties. The *Acanthopanax* is a tree which is common in the forests of northern Japan, Korea and China where it is often seventy or eighty feet high with a massive trunk and great wide-spreading branches armed, like the stems of young trees, with many stout prickles. The leaves hang down on long stalks and are nearly circular, five- or seven-lobed and often fifteen or sixteen inches in diameter. The small white flowers are produced in compact, long-stalked clusters which form a flat compound, terminal panicle from twelve to eighteen inches across and are followed late in the autumn by shining black fruits which do not fall until after the beginning of winter. This tree is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has been growing for twenty-four years and where it has flowered and ripened its seeds now for several seasons. It is one of the most interesting trees in the collection and, because it is so unlike other trees of the northern hemisphere, it is often said to resemble a tree of the tropics. *Aralia spinosa*, the so-called Hercules' Club of the southern states where it is a common inhabitant of the borders of woods and the banks of streams, is a tree often thirty feet high with a tall trunk and wide-spreading branches covered with stout orange-colored prickles. The leaves, which are borne at the ends of the branches, are long-stalked, twice pinnate, and from three to four feet long and two and one-half feet wide. The small white flowers are arranged in compound clusters which rise singly or two or three together above the leaves and are three or four feet long. The fruit is black, rather less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and ripens in early autumn. It is now well established on the slope at the northern base of



LYCIUM PALLIDUM
FROM NEW MEXICO

Hemlock Hill in the rear of the Laurel plantation and is now spreading rapidly there over a considerable area by shoots from underground stems. The Asiatic tree-Aralia resembles in habit and general appearance the American Hercules' Club, but is distinct from that tree in the absence of stalks to the leaflets. There are a number of geographical forms of this tree; the one which is most commonly cultivated in this country is a native of Manchuria and eastern Siberia (var. *mandshurica*) which is sometimes found in nurseries under the name of *Dimorphanthus mandshuricus*. The Japanese form (var. *glabrescens*) is chiefly distinguished from it by the pale color of the under surface of the leaflets; it is less hardy than the Manchurian form and is not often seen in this country.

Sophora japonica, sometimes called the Pagoda-tree, is in spite of its name a Chinese tree which has been cultivated in Japan for more than a thousand years, and as it first reached Europe from that country was long considered a native of Japan. It is a round-headed tree which in Peking, where it has been much planted, has grown to a large size and looks from a distance like an Oak-tree. The leaves and branchlets are dark green, and the small, creamy white, pea-shaped flowers, which open here in August, are produced in great numbers in narrow, erect, terminal clusters. There are also in the collection the form with long pendent branches (var. *pendula*) which rarely flowers, and a young plant of the form with erect branches (var. *pyramidalis*).

Oxydendrum arboreum, the Sour Wood or Sorrel-tree, so-called from the acrid taste of the leaves, is the only American tree in the Arboretum which flowers in August. It is a native of the Appalachian forests from southwestern Pennsylvania and is most common on mountain slopes, but reaches the coast of Virginia and North Carolina. The Sorrel-tree, which is perfectly hardy in New England, is a beautiful tree with bright green shining leaves which turn bright scarlet in the autumn, white Andromeda-like flowers erect on the branches of spreading or slightly drooping terminal clusters, and pale capsular fruits which in the autumn are conspicuous among

the brilliant leaves. There is a group of these trees among the Laurels at the base of Hemlock Hill.

Summer Flowering Shrubs. Many shrubs with conspicuous flowers bloom in the Arboretum during the summer months. The list includes the Heathers (*Calluna vulgaris*), and several species of *Genista* and *Cytisus*. Of this European group the handsomest which can be grown here is the bright yellow-flowered *Cytisus nigricans*, the yellow-flowered *C. capitatus*, the white-flowered *C. leucanthus* and the yellow-flowered Woad Wax and its varieties (*Genista tinctoria*), too well known in Essex County, Massachusetts, where, escaped from cultivation, it has ruined many hundred acres of hillside pastures. The Lespedezas with their abundant purple, pea-shaped flowers, and the handsomest of the Chinese Buddleias bloom late, as do the very hardy *Acanthopanax sessiliflorum*, a vigorous shrub of eastern Siberia, most conspicuous in winter when the compact round clusters of the shining black fruits are on the ends of the branches. The Japanese *Hydrangea paniculata* and its varieties, and the Hydrangeas of North America produce here the showiest July and August flowers. The early-flowered forms of *Hydrangea paniculata* (var. *praecox*) which are the handsomest of the group, flower in early July. The most popular of these American plants is the form of *H. arborescens* (var. *grandiflora*) with snow-ball-like heads of white sterile flowers. There is a similar abnormal form of another of the American species, *H. cinerea*. More beautiful, and one of the handsomest of the genus, *H. quercifolia* flowers in July. This is an unusual event for this shrub, which is a native of the southern states, and is frequently killed to the ground here. In the middle and southern states it is an important and valued garden ornament. Of the American Hydrangeas which are perfectly hardy in the north the handsomest is *H. radiata*, a native of mountain slopes in North and South Carolina, once a popular garden plant but now rarely cultivated. It is a broad, round-topped shrub with leaves of ample size, dark green above and silvery white below, and broad flat heads of flowers surrounded by a ring of white neutral flowers.



DAPHNE MEZEREUM ALBA

Amorpha canescens, the Lead Plant, is beginning to open its small, violet-colored flowers arranged in long, narrow clustered spikes, which are conspicuous by the contrast with the color of the leaves and branches and are thickly covered with gray down. This plant is a native of the Mississippi valley where it grows on low prairies from Indiana and Minnesota to Texas.

Aesculus parviflora occupies an important place among summer flowering shrubs. This native of the southeastern states is hardy in the north, and with abundant space and in good soil will spread into great thickets with stems seven or eight feet high. Toward the end of July it is covered with its tall, narrow, erect spikes of small white flowers which stand up well above the foliage.

Cornus paucinervis suffered somewhat in the cold winter of 1917-18, as was to have been expected, as it grows naturally at low levels in central China where the Orange flourishes and rarely ascends to altitudes of three thousand feet. It has recovered, however, and flowered in July. If it were a little hardier it would be one of the best summer flowering shrubs introduced by Wilson from China. It is a shrub five or six feet tall with erect stems, small, narrow, pointed leaves with only two or three pairs of prominent veins, small clusters of white flowers and black fruits.



Sargent, Charles Sprague. 1919. "Notes from the Arnold Arboretum." *Journal of the International Garden Club* 3(3), 473–488.

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