Lilium Harrisii and the Electric Light.

At a recent meeting of the Horticulturists’ Club of Cornell University, M. J. C. Nuttall, read a paper on experiments with the Easter Lily. As to the electric light, he said that the bulbs were potted the middle of October, plunged in a solid bed late in December, and the electric light turned on January 1st. A globeless arc lamp was used. It burned from 5 P.M. until 6 A.M. for the following four months. The bed was divided into three sections. The first was exposed to the full glare of the naked light; in the second, the light passed through a large pane of glass which cut out some of the ultra violet rays, but did not impede the passage of the light; the third section was exposed from the light by a black canvas curtain, which was drawn across the box. The effect was very beautiful, the plants growing more rapidly, the blooms being far smaller and narrower; green leaves, very much curved leaves far apart on the stems. These effects were more apparent under the naked light. The plants in the unlighted section were more robust and had deep, glossy green leaves, were more subject to disease, and, on the whole, more evenly developed. After the buds were formed, these differences did not become more pronounced, but the buds under the naked light soon began to show a decided internode, some on the surface, exposed to the direct rays from the lamp, and this burn increased as the buds grew and expanded into blossoms. The seared petals were much more curved than is ordinarily the case, and the plants, all healthy blooms. In some cases a quarter of an inch wide on each of three petals. No much trouble was experienced with the plants in the light which had passed through the pane of glass. The earliest flowers appeared on plants in the naked light, and in the section they lasted on the average nine days. Four days later the plants in section two flowered, and lasted here nine and a half days. The plants in the unlighted section were nine days later than those in section one, and in some cases the flowers, though slightly smaller, lasted eleven days and were more robust. The flowers in the lighted sections, like the naked light effect, were more erect, but not unattractively, excepting those which were burned.

A plant with two remarkably even developed stems was taken from the unlighted section, and so placed that the current of light could be drawn from the one stem into the other. From the unlighted section, the other among the plants behind the pane of glass in section two. A second twin-stemmed plant was also taken from the unlighted plot and placed in the naked light, but the larger of the two stems was covered each night with a tube of manila paper to exclude the light entirely. In each case the stem in the light blossomed a day before the other stem. Some other plants of uniform development were marked, and a part of them removed to the lighted section, the others being left in section three. The former bloomed seven days before the latter, the last blossom in the former group being three days earlier than the first blossom in the lower group. The plants were perfectly healthy and lasted as long as those in the unlighted section. From these experiments it is concluded that it will probably pay commercially to use electric light in cultivating Lilium Harrisii when the buds are sufficiently large to sustain the heat and tension, and that the light must pass through glass to avoid burning the petals.

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S. Sternbergia Fischierriana. This is a spring-flowering species of the well-known Winter Daffodil, and as it now appears in the border is a noticeable flower, even though it comes in November. It is certainly a pretty flower, and at the same time, when they come through the ground and have no length of stem. I have tried giving extra shade, with some improvement, but think I will have to find a colder position for them. There is no trouble with any other species in that regard. Again, I found d...