nuously during the night arrive at maturity sooner. The electric light has the same effect as the sun in promoting the decomposition of carbonic acid in vegetables and in arresting the injurious effect on plants of radiation from the earth during the night.

THE INCANDESCENT LIGHT.

The incandescent light, invented quite recently, is of far greater importance than the light of the Voltaic arc, and is destined to play an important part in the interior illumination of houses. From the moment that it is found possible to divide the electric current at will the matter no longer offers any great difficulty. The leading inventors of this system, Maxim and Edison, have kept lights constantly burning at New York for six months past which have not failed one minute during all that time. The light has been tried at Montreal, particularly at the St. Lawrence Hall with the same satisfactory results. This system of illumination is very simple. Electricity, as every body knows, follows a conducting wire: if the currents meets on the way a body less accommodating than the copper wire, a struggle immediately ensues. If this body is not a conductor of electricity at all, the current is beaten and its career is ended; but if this body is merely an imperfect conductor, one through which the current can pass with some difficulty, heat results from the struggle and the obstructing body is set on fire. In the open atmosphere, the struggle would be over in the half a second, and the resisting metal or body would be melted or consumed almost immediately; by confirming the warring elements within a hermatically sealed glass globe however, about the size of a pear, and from which the air has been extracted, the inconvenience that would result from the destruction of the resisting body is avoided. The resisting body which the current has to encounter in the globe is a small piece of card, reduced to carbon and cut and bent in the form of an M with rounded angles. It is, of course, within the globe that the struggle takes place. The piece of card, a bad conductor of electricity, takes fire, and remains in an *incandescent* state as long as the current passes through it; it may be a whole night, a whole week, or during three months if the gererator is kept in motion so long, because the combustion of the card cannot take place in a *vacuum*. This incandescence produces a soft, golden light, exactly similar to a gas jet; it is neither stronger nor weaker than gas, but it possesses three advantages over gas. 1st. It is perfectly steady, digering in this respect from gas which flickers continually. 2nd. As it burns in a *vacuum*, it does not consume, like gas, the oxygen we breathe, nor does it give off carbonic acid which is injurious to silver-ware, gilding and oil paintings. Nor does it heat the atmosphere. 3rd. Lastly it cannot set fire to the premises, nor cause suffocation, because, if the globe should break, the light would be extinguished instantly on the first fissure appearing in the glass. This system is