

THE BERMUDA OR EASTER LILY.

By H. B. SMALL.

Few people have any idea of the enormous extent to which the cultivation of the Easter Lily is carried on the islands of Bermuda. Acres upon acres are devoted to this plant alone, and its bulbs constitute one of the principal and most lucrative exports of those islands. The beautiful sight which one of the lily fields presents when in full bloom is beyond description, and the fragrance that loads the air is oppressive. For decorative purposes the buds are cut shortly before Easter before the flower opens, and carefully packed with damp moss in boxes the sides of which by means of cleats allow ventilation. These on arrival in New York are immediately distributed to the points whence applications have been received, and if too backward are forced into bloom by placing the stems in warm water. But the flowers form only a small part of the profit attending lily culture. The bulbs are shipped in enormous quantities to wholesale florists, who supply the demand for them all over the continent. This industry only commenced in 1878, when an American named Harris, making a study of the plant and its growth introduced it into Bermuda, and from the success attending its culture there, it received the name by which it is now known *Lilium Harrisii*, the developement of flowers under the genial climate and adaptability of the soil making it supercede the original lily known as *L. longiflorum*.

The industry has of late years been seriously threatened by the ravages of the *Eucharis* Mite which has so deteriorated the bulbs that their sale is seriously injured. The disease is characterized by spotting and distortion of the leaves and flowers, and a stunted growth. The Department of Agriculture in Washington has made a special study of it, and in August 1897 issued a bulletin thereon. Various remedies have been tried, but so far without effect, and application was made to England last year for an expert from Kew to visit Bermuda and examine the whole condition and nature of the disease. The lily is supposed