

process is now being applied to flowers. It appears that in Paris there is a great demand for white lilacs for ladies' bouquets in winter, and as the common white lilac does not force well, the purple "Lilas de Morly" is used. The flowers of this variety, when made to expand at a high temperature, in total darkness, are of a pure white; those of the Persian lilac will not whiten.

PAPER MATERIALS.—The cry for "more rags" which the paper-makers raised some years ago, necessarily failed to increase the supply of rags, but it served to bring materials to the paper-mill that had not been previously thought of. Hollyhock stems and straw and heather, and a hundred other substances, were tried and found suitable in various degrees. Many of these, while capable of being converted into paper, could not be profitably used in the manufacture; but several have taken their place as really important sources of paper fibre. Plants that require to be cultivated exclusively for this purpose are not likely to yield satisfactory results, and of late years, therefore, attention has been especially directed to the waste products of agriculture. In all agricultural plants woody fibre is produced to a greater or less extent, and that of the straw of cereal grains has been used for a number of years to a considerable extent. The leaves and husks of Indian Corn (*Zea Mays*, L.) are also coming into extensive use, as appears from interesting details published by Professor Lindley in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Dr. Lindley's account of the manufacture appears to be founded upon statements that have appeared in the *Breslauer Gewerbeblatt* and the *Daily Telegraph*, a London paper. The following extracts will be of interest, on this side of the Atlantic, where Indian Corn is produced in such enormous quantities:—"Recent experiments have proved Indian Corn to possess not only all the qualities necessary to make a good article, but to be in many respects superior to rags. The discovery to which we allude is a complete success, and may be expected to exercise the greatest influence upon the price of paper. Indian Corn, in countries of a certain degree of temperature, can be easily cultivated to a degree more than sufficient to satisfy the utmost demands of the paper market. Besides, as rags are likely to fall in price, owing to the extensive supply resulting from this new element, the world of writers and readers would seem to have a brighter future before it than the boldest fancy would have imagined a short time ago. This is not the first time that paper has been manufactured from the blade of Indian Corn; but, strange to say, the art was lost, and required to be discovered anew. As early as the seventeenth century, an Indian Corn paper manufactory was in full operation in the town of Rievi, in Italy, and enjoyed a world-wide reputation at the time; but with the death of its proprietor the secret seemed to have lapsed into oblivion. Attempts subsequently made to continue the manufacture were baffled by the difficulty of removing the flint and resinous and glutinous matter contained in the blade. The recovery of the process has at last been effected, and is due to the cleverness of one Herr Moritz Diamant, a Jewish writing-master