

And various plants are extraordinarily susceptible to light. And in a truly interesting book, Mr. Darwin says that, "Light seems to act on the tissues of plants almost in the same manner as it does on the nervous system of animals." It is another remarkable circumstance that this sensitiveness to light seems to be localised in the tips of the cotyledons; just as the sensitiveness to light is localised in the eyes of animals. The same eminent person just mentioned compares the tip of the radicle of a plant to the brain; in that it is able to distinguish between rough and smooth substances, avoiding one and turning towards the other; this faculty being confined to a very small area. Experiments on the influence of the electric light upon plants have led to the conclusion that it is efficacious in promoting growth; that plants do not require a period of rest during the 24 hours of the day, but make increased and vigorous progress if subjected during daytime to sunlight and during night to electric light; and that, while under the influence of electric light, plants can sustain increased stove-heat without collapsing, a circumstance favourable to forcing by electric light. During the recent war in Afghanistan, 250,000 specimens of plants were raised in the mountains.