

A WONDERFUL LIGHT.

An Illumination Equal to About 250,000,000 Candle Power.

The idea of an electric light which, fed by a current from a dynamo actuated by a forty-horse power engine and giving 7,000-candle power, can have its illuminating power intensified more than 35,000 times, is not easy to grasp. It means the projection of a stream of light of about 250,000,000-candle power, and it is no wonder that the announcement that such a light is about to be used in this country has been received with some incredulity in Europe.

Yet this is the efficiency of the light which will be shortly erected at Fire island for the illumination of the adjacent coast and the protection of the fleet of ships entering New York harbor. Bearing in mind that an ordinary oil lamp is about thirty-eight or forty-candle power, and then try to imagine the combined beam of about 3,000,000 lamps.

The most powerful oil lamp yet made is supposed to shine out on a clear night for a distance of thirty-five or forty miles, but the new light will flash its welcome rays to the incoming European "liners" when they are 120 miles away. The light revolves rapidly and throws out its beams with the intensity and speed of lightning. The motive power which actuates it is a simple clock-work arrangement contained in a box two feet square, and although the revolving portion of the light weighs fifteen tons, the mechanism controlling it is so delicate that the pressure of two fingers will turn it.

The value of this marvelous lamp can only be determined by practical working, but it promises to represent an immense stride in the science of coast and lighthouse illumination. —Chicago Times.

Sharks Are Useful.

The shark, much as the sailors may hate it, furnishes several valuable products. An oil obtained from its liver vies in medicinal qualities with that obtained from the liver of the cod; its skin, when dried, takes the hardness and polish of mother of pearl, and is used by jewelers for fancy objects, by binders for making shagreen, and by cabinet-makers for polishing wood. —Philadelphia Ledger.

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