

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

From the London Times, Nov. 25.

The practical utility of electric lighting was fairly tested on Saturday morning during the heavy fog which shrouded the metropolis. For more than a century readers at the British Museum have been compelled to suspend work on the occasion of a fog, and to leave the reading-room; but on Saturday morning, shortly after 10 o'clock, when many readers, unmindful of the improvements of the age, were about to quit with their papers, the electric light was turned on, and, without any apparent preparations, the spacious room was suddenly illumined as by a magic ray of sunshine, to the great satisfaction of all present. There was a murmur of applause. For with the new carbon which Messrs. Siemens have manufactured at their Berlin works, and with the gilt reflectors suggested by Mr. Bond, the principal librarian, the light is about as good a substitute for sunlight as can yet be desired. Since the latter part of October the electric light has been continuously used in the national reading-room of an evening until 7 o'clock, and an average of more than 200 students and literary men have been nightly able to proceed with their researches to that hour, instead of leaving off, as formerly, when the shades of evening fell. It is reported that one of the staff—Mr. Nichols—has worked closely for two hours for a fortnight by the light with a view to try the effect on the sight, and finds that there is not only no inconvenience, but that the optic nerve is strengthened and that glasses are quite unnecessary as a protection.

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