

Progressive Electric Lighting of American Cities

By STANLEY DAVID.

Street lighting in America has made wonderful progress in the past year or two, due first to the great strides that have been made in the art of illumination with electricity, and secondly to a realization on the part of the public that a city, even though beautiful from the standpoint of parks, boulevards, and clean streets, is still far from attaining the desired perfection if poorly and inartistically lighted.

of usefulness and beauty, is to be found in Oakland, California. It is similar to that used in many other cities and can therefore be taken as typical of the general standard. One special feature of this installation is the ornamental iron post, spaced about every 150 feet and fed by underground conduits which do away with the unsightly appearance of numerous overhead wires. Another is the large sixteen inch globe, so treated as to diffuse the light

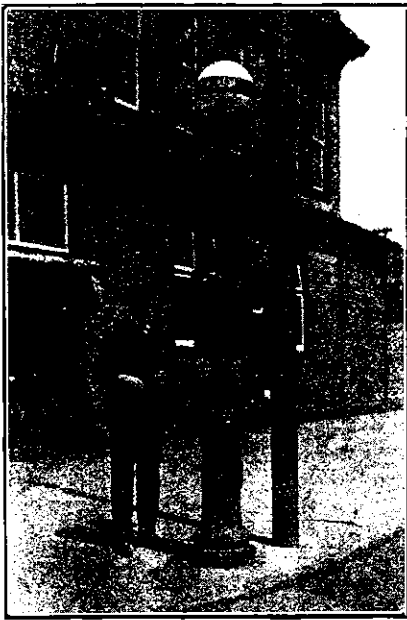


Fig. 1—Fire Alarm Box and Street Lamp Standard in Combination.



Fig. 2—A Typical Californian Street Corner showing Electric Lamp Standard.

In past decades streets were lighted with little regard to beauty, since protection was the end sought, but to-day, protection is merely one of a number of considerations which have evolved naturally, by the rapid growth and extension of American cities. These considerations include the aesthetic as well as the economic advantages of such systems to which I will refer and which are typical of what is being done, not only in San Francisco and other Pacific coast cities, but in all the larger communities throughout the country. Sometimes a false economy shuts out entirely the possibility of an artistic installation, but this is only in rare cases, as city administrators are quick to realize the advertising features as well as the more common utilities of good street lighting.

A splendid example of good city lighting, and a system which illustrates perfectly the combination

and give uniform illumination. This latter consideration is important as in good street lighting glare should be avoided, and an unprotected light source of high intensity if placed directly in the line of vision, produces a blinding effect which materially reduces the effectiveness of the lighting.

The system is modified in various parts of the city to suit conditions and to avoid unnecessary expense. Thus, the down-town business and theatre centres, and the main streets to and from the city are beautifully lighted with standards carrying three globes, while at the more important corners, and in the vicinity of prominent public buildings, etc., by standards carrying a shower of five globes each.

This down-town and main thoroughfare installation consists of light standards placed directly opposite each other on the two sides of the street and the uniformity of appearance is ideal for orna-