

Tropism

By Lucy Allsopp

not to have noticed, until now

pearly tulips, impassive while the companion  
blooms sag, imperceptibly and it is  
a matter of days before it occurs to me

those tulips are getting taller

and a little longer before Google gives me  
auxins, and I mull division versus  
elongation, likely the latter of course

because it was only demerara

as the pantry solution, everyday care  
like in books, changing the flower water,  
women's work, the requisite half inch

or so, from the slimed bottom

best to remove any foliage that lies  
below the surface, already there is  
the beginning of rot, friable on the leaf tips

before the buds have opened