

undergone concentration by evaporation, besides having washed the lower strata, from which it extracts chlorine.

As a confirmation of this, we see that the chlorine is at its maximum just before the annual flood.

The deficiency of nitrates is interesting, but does not necessarily show an absence of defilement. The softness of the water makes it very agreeable for all domestic purposes; the slight variation in hardness is due to carbonate of lime, through which the river has cut its way. The analyses of 1888-9 showed a trace of iron, but of no poisonous metals, and no nitrites, and Heisch's sewage test never gave the slightest evidence of sewage contamination.

The unfiltered water should never be drunk by visitors or residents, though the natives prefer it infinitely. Some imprudent tourists drink it from the dirty porous jars of the villagers, and must not wonder at suffering occasionally in consequence.

The suspended matter, which is the chief fertilizing ingredient of the Nile, varies in quantity in the most wonderful way. Mr. Pollard's figures vary from .9 in July, to 161.8 in September, while Dr. Letheby found 3.3 in May, 1875, and 104.4 grains in August, 1874. The fertility of the flood, besides the clay, is due to the organic matter,