

dependent again on donkeys for a long *détour* by the banks of winding canals, till at last they reached the desert, hastily visited the Pyramids, and then had to return at once to reach Cairo before sunset. Those who desired to devote a longer time to the sights took out with them tents, a cook, food, and a guard of Bedouins.

Now matters are all changed ; the tourist drives from his hotel to the Great Pyramid in a little more than an hour, and commonly makes the trip between luncheon and dinner. There is a good made road all the way, lined with trees, and flanked on both sides either by the huge irrigation basins during the autumn inundation, or by miles of green cultivated land, in which buffaloes, children, and camels are dotted about.

*Mena Hotel.*—Those who do not know the Cairo of to-day will be most surprised at the existence of a first-class hotel at the foot of the Pyramids, and just seven miles from the heart of the town. Its history is this : In 1884, an Englishman, suffering from chronic phthisis, bought from the Government a desert property of three hundred acres, including a house, in which he and his wife lived very comfortably. He believed that the air was more beneficial to him than that of the other health-resorts he had tried, and though he had had a moribund appearance for two years, he certainly