

practical good from this annual washing of the subsoil which must not be overlooked. For many years the resident population has allowed its filth to percolate into the porous soil and drain away as it pleased till it joined the level of subsoil water, and it is easy to conceive that if this earth were not periodically cleansed and oxygenated by the Nile infiltration, it would have long ceased to have any beneficial properties as a sponge. This cleansing process, which takes place in September and October, has, of course, the disadvantageous effect of altering the level, not only of the infiltrated soil water, but of the contents of all the uncemented cesspools of former and more insanitary days.

It must be borne in mind that the subsoil water has a slope of its own equal to that of the Delta, viz. 1 in 10,000, and, instead of remaining local, is constantly flowing northwards towards the sea. This is easily proved by experiments in this Delta or in India.

*Sun, moon, and stars.*—An average of eleven years taken from the Greenwich records tells us that there are in England only 1211 hours of bright sunshine during the twelve months, or less than two hours a day in the winter. It is unnecessary to take a similar observation at Cairo, but Table I. shows that we do have clouds during the cold months, in spite of an apparently perpetual sun-