

but various fires have destroyed all trace of former dwellings. There remain, however, for those who dig, the *débris* of bricks, granite, marble, pottery, glass, and even coins.

After the records of Arab historians we come down to 1830, when Linant Pasha, a French engineer, discovered that the region of sulphur springs extended southward from Helouan to opposite Benisuef, where borings used to be made by the natives, who bathed in the springs and built tents near them. In 1849 the Egyptian Government took possession of Helouan, built wooden huts, and even sent sick soldiers to be experimented on by the waters. The results were so satisfactory that the spot began to be a little popular, but it was not until 1871 that the Government could make up its mind either to work the springs itself or to let them to an intelligent European. In that year a Dr. Reil was appointed Director of the Baths, a small town began gradually to spring up, and in 1873 the Grand Hotel was built and was confided to its present manager. Trees were planted, the swamps were drained, and in 1876 a railway from Cairo was opened. Great improvements have been made to the baths, and the place is every year becoming more popular, the number of baths during 1885 having been only 7031, and being now doubled every year.