

pendicular sepia-coloured mud-banks, which vary slightly in colour, and have occasional thin layers of drifted sand intervening. Wherever there is no alluvium, which is of course the only soil in Egypt, there is sterile desert, and this is the charm of Luxor, and of the suburbs of Cairo. The Nile soil is stated to be unlike any other in the world in composition.

The Royal Society, with the aid of the Royal Engineer Corps stationed at Cairo, has made several borings through this soil to the old floor of the Delta. The mixtures of blown sand and Nile alluvium were found to continue down to the depth of 121 ft. from the surface, and 95 ft. below the level of the Mediterranean. At that depth a remarkable change in the deposits took place, and beds of gravel containing both pebbles and subangular fragments of quartzite, chert, compact limestone, with some metamorphic and igneous rocks, were found, and similar beds occurred at intervals down to the greatest depth reached. Up to the present time no contemporaneous organic remains have been found in these deposits. The borings near the Nile at Cairo in 1883 may be briefly summarized thus: For 6 ft. beneath the surface, dry mould; from 7 ft. to 16 ft., dry sandy mould; from 17 ft. to 38 ft., wet sand; and from 39 ft. to 45 ft., wet coarse sand.