

*Library.*—Besides booksellers in the town, there is a very good circulating library with more than two thousand popular works, including many relating to Egypt. This is a recent improvement, and greatly appreciated by travellers.

*Hospitals.*—Paying patients are received at a German and at an Austrian hospital, but the former is generally patronized by the English who desire hospital treatment and the kind nursing of Kaiserwerth deaconesses. The female wards of the native hospital for free patients are now under English management, and can sometimes be visited by special permission.

*Theatres.*—Cairo boasts of a very pretty opera-house, with a splendid stage, for which Verdi wrote “Aida” in the days of the late Khedive’s extravagance. It is generally hired during the winter months by a French or Italian Company, and at other times by travelling actors, among whom have been Sarah Bernhardt and M. Coquelin. At a second theatre there is often Italian comedy to be seen, and a wandering circus visits us every year.

The *Ezbekieh Gardens* are named after a mosque built by the Emir Ezbeky, a general of Kait Bey in 1486, and destroyed to make room for the Court of Mixed Tribunals. A desolate piece of swampy ground was in 1870 converted into a