little marl and clay and fragments of *Terebratula*, *Ostrea*, *Pecten*, and *Balanus*, all considerably later than the Eocene period, and tending to show that there was once another sea margin 220 feet above the Mediterranean and Red Sea. Near the Pyramids again are raised beaches, limestone pierced by *Pholades* and *Ostrea undulata;* and two miles south of the Sphinx are fossil sea-urchins (*Clypeaster Egyptiacus*), oyster-shells and pectens (? Post-Pliocene). The geological map shows alluvial deposit everywhere in the Delta and along the banks of the Nile, while to both east and west of this near Cairo is nummulite limestone, and to the north-east of Cairo are sandhills in the desert stretching down to the Suez Canal. The incomparably dry pure air of Cairo and Upper Egypt is due to this same nummulite limestone desert, which for miles and miles acts as a great lung of nature and purifies all the air which blows across it, while the extraordinary fertility of Lower Egypt is caused by the alluvial deposit. The absence of vegetation and of moisture in the desert has left its characters almost unaltered for ages, though there is abundant evidence of mountain torrents in prehistoric times and in the present day.

Lower Egypt consists geologically, therefore, of—(1) Nummulite limestone of the Eocene period, stretching southwards in the desert from Cairo