

Greenwich, which is 87, or with 70·7, which is the record for Algiers in the year 1884.

But although Cairo is exceptionally dry, it has its damp moods at times, and several times a year for a few hours reaches saturation on the humidity scale. During the khamseen wind the percentage falls phenomenally low—to an absolute minimum of 4 on March 24, 1888, and once even to 3 per cent. in April, 1887.

*Evaporation.*—The quantity of water evaporated has been measured since 1887, and is obtained by means of a vessel containing water protected by coarse wire-gauze, and placed in the shade, but so that air can pass freely over it. The difference between the level of the water at any two observations gives the depth of water which has evaporated. The following are the numbers in inches for 1888, which was an average dry year;—January, 2·8; February, 2·8; March, 7·8; April, 7; May, 8·1; June, 11; July, 15·5; August, 12·3; September, 9·5; October, 7; November, 5; December, 4·4—total, 93·7 inches. For practical irrigation the evaporation in the basins is reckoned at 7 inches a month all through the year.

*Rainfall.*—Visitors sometimes come to Cairo believing that it never rains there, which is, however, almost true of Luxor. Table I. shows clearly that showers of rain are liable to fall during eight