

Starlings arrive. Oranges and lemons again, as in all the winter months. Balsam and heliotrope.

*January.*—There is often a cold south wind from the desert, and though the days are not really cold, the evenings require a fire indoors and an overcoat abroad. Lung invalids ought not to be out after sunset. Temperature like the last week of September in England. Quail return to Upper Egypt from the Soudan. Roses bloom all the year round in Cairo, but they are now at their best. Hyacinth, camellia, mignonette, ranunculus, cyclamen, verbenas, gypsophila, and orange-flowers.

*February.*—Temperature like a dry English September, chilly at the beginning of the month, but warm and pleasant at the end, so that fires and overcoats are hardly wanted at night. Invalids return from Luxor to Cairo at the end of February to escape the south winds, which begin earlier there. Quail breed in Upper Egypt, and appear again in Lower Egypt; starlings take their flight. Oranges, lemons, and loquats. Violets, petunias, phlox, bougainvillia, and roses.

*March.*—Temperature is a little like London in July, but the great feature of this month is the south wind, which is almost certain to blow at least twice for two or three days at a time. It is at first welcomed as a pleasant change after the cold weather, but soon becomes disagreeable. The last