

CHAPTER VII.

VOYAGE UP THE NILE.

THE traveller who wishes to visit Luxor, Thebes, Philæ, or Abu Simbel, is dependent upon the great water-way of Egypt. He may go up all the way by steamer or by dahabiyeh, or he may, if he chooses, save himself 230 miles by taking the train from Cairo to Assiout. In 1891, the Upper Egypt railway will have a station in Cairo itself, and will be pushed on to Girgeh, ninety-two miles south, so that patients will be able to leave Cairo one morning and sleep in Luxor the second night. But at present we are dependent on a railway station three miles outside Cairo, and a tiresome dusty journey of eleven hours is necessary to reach Assiout. Moreover, the invalid has the double disadvantage of starting from Cairo before the day is warmed by the sun, and of reaching Assiout after sunset. On the other hand, he has the advantage of getting without delay into the warmer latitude, and of escaping all risk of cold and