

It is a favourite donkey-ride towards the so-called petrified forest, and on the way one passes the Red Hill, which is composed of a very hard Miocene conglomerate of sand, pebbles, and fossil wood. The two Colossi at Thebes were made of this stone, and it is now used for macadamizing roads, and for making millstones.

Mineral springs.—About half an hour south of Cairo there is a spring in the desert, called *Ain-el-Syra*. There is a dark greenish basin some fifty yards square, surrounded by limestone formations, and with a thick deposit of black sulphur mud. It has a great reputation among the natives for skin-eruptions and especially for scabies, and its votaries also drink from the sulphur spring which feeds the basin, and which rids them of dyspepsia and constipation. The temperature of the water is 104° Fahr. beneath the surface, and 64·4° at the surface on a winter day. Specific gravity 1·092.

ANALYSIS OF ONE LITRE.

Chloride of sodium	...	...	...	59,640 grammes.
Sulphate of magnesium	...	...	...	34,280 „
Chloride of magnesium	...	...	...	18,600 „
Sulphate of lime	...	...	...	6,000 „
Chloride of calcium	1,400 „
Carbonate of lime	0,040 „
Bicarbonate of iron	0,040 „
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GAS.

Carbonic acid	·048 „
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