The subsoil of Cairo is washed every year by the Nile, which brings to it in the summer the rain from the mountains of Abyssinia. In June the river at Cairo is at its lowest; then slowly begins to rise throughout July, and reaches its maximum flood in the first ten days of September, remaining high during September; and in October attains an artificial height, in consequence of the irrigation basins in Upper Egypt then allowing the water to escape and swirl on to complete the flood irrigation. During October the water gradually recedes from the basins, and is carried all over Lower Egypt by an elaborate system of canals, so that the early months of the year become gradually drier and drier, until the period of low Nile is again reached in May.

In the ordinary flood-time, there is considerable infiltration beneath the river-banks, besides the desired inundation for the future crops, so that the subsoil water rises in Cairo to a height of only 5 ft. from the ground surface, and at low Nile it sinks again to about 19 ft. below the surface. We may take it that during the winter season the subsoil water is more than 10 ft. from the ground.

Now, although subsoil drainage in England would seem to have resulted in an increase in the health of the population, and an especial diminution of phthisis and enteric fever, there is one