

But, though I give an analysis of all three kinds of waters, the only important one at present is the sulphur variety. It owes its sulphur properties to the chemical processes which sulphate of lime, meeting with nitrogenous matter and becoming sulphate of calcium, produces by setting free carbonic acid and nitrogen from the decomposition of the nitrogenous matter. Then the carbonic acid decomposes the sulphate of calcium and forms carbonate of lime, which, in presence of an excess of carbonic acid and under great pressure, is converted into a very soluble bicarbonate of lime, which at last sets free sulphuretted hydrogen gas. The nitrogenous organic matter which is found in all the Helouan waters has been named Barégine, because it was first discovered in the Baréges waters of the Pyrenees. It is found in all sulphur waters when exposed to light and air, and is the cause of the greenish vegetation which collects round the edges of stagnant sulphur water. The sulphur is sufficiently strong in the air to turn silver ornaments black, but after the first day one ceases to notice the odour.

*History.*—The village is said to take its name from the great grandson of a certain untraceable king of Egypt. It is known to have been frequented in A.D. 690, and at other times by notables who were driven out of Old Cairo by the plague,