

After April the Cairo temperature is always above 70° Fahr., and invalids are glad to hurry away through the gates of Europe, which are no longer closed against them. Rheumatism and lung cases which are in need of "sun-bathing" can and do stay till May and June, and the few phthisical patients who have remained in Egypt all the year round have not regretted it so far as we know. It is only natural that Europeans should wish to leave Egypt for their own homes directly the heat becomes markedly felt; but every spring we have the same experience of patients writing back to us of the cheerlessness and cold in some spot less favoured than sunny, rainless Cairo.

Has the climate of Cairo changed during recent years or not? Modern visitors are always told by travellers of an earlier generation that the climate has woefully depreciated, and has lost its charm of dryness because of the improvements in irrigation, and of the trees and gardens which have sprung into being since 1850.

Let us examine the few broken records of the climate that we possess and compare them with Table I. But before we make this modern comparison, let us remember that we have no grounds for supposing that during historic times has there been any appreciable change in the rainfall, the