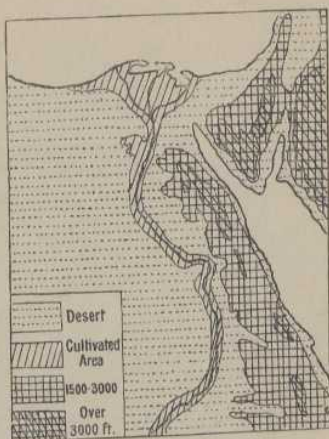


At the present time the United Kingdom carries on far more trade with the Mediterranean region than does any other country. It supplies it largely with coal, in which it is deficient, as well as with manufactured goods, and receives in return such characteristic fruits as oranges, lemons, grapes, and figs, as well as wine, olive oil, wheat, tobacco, and esparto grass; dates from the African coast; cotton, pulses, and onions from Egypt; marble and sulphur from Italy; and iron, copper, and mercury from Spain, etc.



EGYPT: OROGRAPHICAL.

## EGYPT.

Though this country is almost three times the size of the British Isles, the area fit for cultivation is only about one and a half times the size of Yorkshire, for agriculture has to depend entirely on irrigation from the Nile. This small district is, however, able to support about ten million persons on account of its great fertility. This fertility depends on the Nile, which not only waters the land, but actually creates it and constantly renews it. The Blue Nile and Atbara, which rise in the Abyssinian Mountains, wash away the soil, and carry this into the main river. It is then borne along through the narrow valley which the river has worn in the desert plateau, and whirled down several rapids till it is deposited as fine silt to form the floor of the valley of the Lower Nile and the delta at the river mouth.

The great lakes in which the Nile rises act as reservoirs, and constantly supply it with enough water to cross the desert; but its volume is greatly increased after the rainy season of Abyssinia at the beginning of June. During our summer its waters rise, till, early in October, they are usually about 24 feet above the ordinary level at Cairo. Much of the water is led off by numerous canals, called flood canals, to irrigate the land, and embankments are made to insure that the water shall stand in the fields about seventy days, so as to soak well into the ground, and deposit the red fertilizing silt. At this season Egypt looks like an inland sea divided into basins by the embankments, with a number of mud