

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 14, 1935

EGYPT CAN BE CHILLY

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Authority on Meteorology

If you go to Egypt in winter in search of warmth you may be disappointed. That country is generally warm and frequently hot, but it is not entirely unacquainted with cold weather.

A freezing temperature has been recorded only once on the Egyptian coast, where the influence of the Mediterranean tempers the climate. It occurred at Port Said in December. Readings slightly below freezing occur rarely in Cairo district, but are more common farther south, where the influence of the desert is more felt. Thus, freezing has been recorded several times in the Siwa and Dakhla oases. Even at Wadi Halfa, just within the tropics, though the altitude above sea level is only 420 feet, the influence of the desert in causing a wide diurnal range of temperature is so great that the winter nights are often decidedly cold, and a temperature of 28 degrees Fahrenheit has been recorded there. Freezing has also been recorded at El Obeid (altitude 1870 feet), in latitude 13 N.

The lowest temperature ever registered in Egypt by a properly screened thermometer was 25 degrees Fahrenheit at Giza, near Cairo, in December, 1905. In January, 1925, during a period of cold northeast winds, freezing was recorded five times at Giza, and hoarfrost formed there. Even during the coldest weather, however, the temperature does not remain near the freezing point very long after sunrise.

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