

at Helwan, & with the General at the Turf Club, had a very merry dinner party with Pallcuttwards, Mrs Daff & Lewis & another even brighter with Parkinsons & Mein (C.O.s of 4th & 6th Field Regts) after Helioptis Races, did 10 miles of a route march with the 6th Bde, lunched with the C.O of the Officers Training School, took a couple nurses out to dinner & the pictures, had morning tea with Father McKay, never went to bed before two or got up later than 8 & generally had a hectic week. Coming back into Cairo after dinner with the 20th driving by myself I kept on & on for what seemed an unusual time & finally noticed the Nile on my ^{right} left. On all previous journeys from Maadi to Cairo the Nile had been on my left so I stopped to investigate. I couldn't straighten out the geography so carried on & arrived safely back at the outskirts of Maadi, whence of course, by keeping a sharp eye to see that the river played no more tricks, it was easy to get back to Cairo. Very busy driving in a blacker out - is one explanation.

At the races here, all the horses are little Quakers, a lot of them grey, the crowd consists of British & Dominion soldiers of a hundred different regiments uniforms, Greeks, Gypsies, genuine shaggy sheikhs, about 10 descriptions of herantines and many smartly dressed women of whom only a small proportion look as if they would pass a virginity test. You can place bets from 20 ft. upward & back you win a place, for the first two horses on for a double. The 6 races are run very close together & all is over in about 2 hrs. The general opinion is that most of the running is dishonest, it certainly looks it, only smallish crowds attend, there are tremendous bars and as one after all the soldiers have a drink between all races and one is constantly being importuned it is doubtful whether