

Egypt loosened, Mohammed Ali, graduating from Governor of Cairo, became master of all Egypt, but he had to carry out two massacres of the Beys who disputed his authority. In the second mass murder, which took place in a narrow street between the middle gate of the Citadel and the Bab-el-Azab, only one of the 470 Mamelukes escaped. In 1824, Mohammed erected a palace inside the Citadel and commenced the building of the mosque that bears his name—that beautiful mosque, with its dome and two slender minarets, which is one of the architectural gems of Cairo. It was during Mohammed Ali's reign, too, that the foundation stone of the great Barrage, which took eighteen years to build, was laid. The government of Egypt was made hereditary in the family of Mohammed Ali in 1841, and King Farouk is his great-great-grand son.

The influence of the British and the French is very apparent in Cairo to-day. In 1879, the two countries established a condominium which lasted two years. When the French refused to help Britain quell a rising

in the following year British troops occupied Cairo and retained a garrison in the famous Kasr el Nil Barracks right up until 1936. In 1914, when Turkey displayed her friendship with Germany, Egypt became a British protectorate and Turkish suzerainty was terminated. Eight years later Great Britain proclaimed Egypt an independent sovereign state, thus terminating a long record of foreign domination for the ancient country.

Modern Cairo has been described a thousand times and a thousand times has it been called a city of contrasts. When the Battle for Egypt swayed backwards and forwards across the burning North African sands, and Cairo became the headquarters for thousands of Allied troops the contrasts were even more marked. But in spite of all the dirt and squalor, the innumerable smells and disgusting sights, Cairo even in wartime has an appeal all its own. It is so rich in colour, so unpredictable in its moods, so vivid in its contrasts, and so alluring and mysterious under an Egyptian moon. Tall, gleaming skyscrapers, shining limousines, the latest fashions in dress catch the eye at one moment; and then in the next the scene has changed and one is gazing at a fly-covered beggar, a haughty smelling camel, and dirty, verminous hovels, and shouting "Imshj yalla"! to filthy, roguish-eyed urchins touting for business.

Nowhere else in the world is there a city quite like Cairo and yet part of almost every city of the world exists within its boundaries. It is still the centre of the Arab world, still the Arabian Nights city of fabulous wealth and mysterious adventures, and still the hub of Middle East trade as it was in the picturesque days of the desert caravans. But in the various European residential areas are palatial Western homes, beautiful gardens and



"Mountaineering" at Ghiza