

Mehemet Ali built modern Alexandria on a spacious scale and the large square which bears his name is a handsome centre for the city. The square—often referred to as the Grand Square—is lined with handsome trees and in the middle is an equestrian statue of Mehemet Ali. The main shopping area is on Rue Sherif Pasha which leads off the south end of the square. The Rue Tewfik Pasha leads to the boulevard or Rue de Rosette. In it is the municipal palace containing the public library. In a street running south from the boulevard to the railway station is the mosque of Nebi Daniel containing the tombs of Said Pasha and other members of the Khedival family. A splendid marine drive connects the city with the fashionable beach at Stanley Bay. During the months when the weather is hottest in Cairo there is usually a cool wind at Alexandria and the wealthier residents of the capital spend a period there each year.

There is little for antiquarians to see in Alexandria apart from the Museum and the neighbourhood of Pompey's Pillar, which incidentally has nothing to do with Pompey but was put up in the third century by an unimportant individual of the same name, in honour of the Emperor Diocletian. The latter's main claim to fame was that during his overlordship of the city he arranged the death of all his enemies among the population. Pompey's (or Diocletian's) Pillar is a splendid sight when seen against the setting sun. It is of polished red granite, about one hundred feet high, thirty feet round at the base and fifteen feet at the top. It stands on the highest point in Alexandria. Almost under the Pillar lies the Serapeum. What remains of it is mostly catacombs. It was here that

the famous basalt Apis bull of Emperor Hadrian was found—in the women's catacomb. In the days when books were the glory of Alexandria and the world acknowledged the city as one of the great centres of culture the Serapeum housed an extensive library.

The Alexandria Museum has few ancient Egyptian exhibits but contains an interesting collection of Grecian and Roman antiquities and Ptolemaic coins, found during excavations. The ruins of Kait Bey's fort hold interest only because it was the site of the great lighthouse of the Ptolemies, the Pharos of Alexandria, *one of the seven wonders of the ancient world*. It was



of pure white marble, four-tiered and 500 feet in height. The base was square, the second tier octagonal, the third circular, and at the top was the lantern covered by a dome on which stood a statue of Poseidon. It stood for nearly 1,500 years and then, it is said, simply slipped from the rocks into the sea. Some authorities are of the opinion that it was destroyed by an earthquake. A few squared blocks are all that can be seen today.

