http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1831-Cuvier-Revolutions/README.htm

The height of the soil of Egypt is produced at the same time as the extension of its surface; and the bottom of the bed of the river is elevated in proportion to the adjacent plains, whence the inundation of every succeeding century much exceeds the height of the marks it left of its preceding ones. According to Herodotus, a lapse of nine hundred years was enough to establish a difference in the level of seven or eight cubits (ten or twelve feet;) (1) at Elephantia, the inundation now reaches seven feet higher than during the reign of Septimus Severus, at the beginning of the third century. At Cairo, before it is deemed sufficient for the purpose of irrigating the lands, it must attain a height of three feet and a half more than was requisite in the ninth century. The ancient monuments of this country are all more or less enveloped in the soil. The mud left by the river even covers the small artificial hills on which the ancient cities were founded, to a depth of several feet. (2)

The Delta of the Rhone is no less remarkable for its accumulations. Astruc details them in his history of Languedoc; and by a careful comparison of the descriptions of Mela, Strabo and Pliny, with the state of the places as they were at the commencement of the eighteenth century, he proves, by the aid of many writers of the middle ages, that the arms of the Rhone have extended them-

(1) Herod. Euterpe, xiii.

(2) See the Observations on the valley of Egypt, and on the regular increase of the soil which covers it, by M. Girard, in the great work on Egypt, and Mod. Mem. v. 2, p. 363. On which we may remark that Dolomieu, Shaw, and other good authors, estimate these accumulations much higher than M. Girard. It is to be regretted, that the thickness of these layers have been no where examined, either on the primitive soil or the natural rock.