

morasses, which, through their abundant evaporation, can receive without overflow the constant addition of the waters. Such is the Zenderoud, in Persia, which terminates its course in a swamp. Many of these all-devouring marshes are found in Africa and Central Asia.

Other rivers there are which disappear in subterranean cavities, though most frequently they rise again at a lower point.

[The Rhone is thus engulfed at a place called *La Perte du Rhone*, to the west of Geneva, and re-appears some distance further down. When the waters are tolerably low, the whole river is absorbed for about one hundred and twenty yards; but the Italian Government, to facilitate the passage of the timber-rafts, has blown up an extensive portion of the covering rocks, and opened up the channel.

A similar phenomenon is observable on the river Mole, near Boxhill, in Surrey. In very dry seasons it entirely disappears, from Burford Bridge to within a short distance of Leatherhead, nearly three miles of its course. The places where it is absorbed are locally called *swallows*, and through these crevices the water rushes with velocity. These phenomena, says Dr. Mantell, are referable to the cavernous nature of the subsoil over which the river flows. The vale of Boxhill, like the other transverse outlets of the chalk of the North Downs, has evidently resulted from an extensive fissure produced in the strata while they were being elevated from beneath the waters of the ocean by which they were once covered. A chasm of this kind must have been partially filled with loose blocks of the chalk rock, the interstices being more or less occupied by clay, marl, sand, and other drift brought down by the floods which traversed this gorge, and found their way to the vale of the Thames.

We may add that disappearing streams, dry in summer but full in winter, are common in Kent and Hampshire; in the former county they are called *nailbournes*, and in the latter *lavants*.]

The river De la Lys, in Belgium, precipitates itself into the grotto of Han, whence it emerges at a distance of 1650 feet.

The Meuse disappears near Bazoilles, and rises again at Noncourt, after a subterranean course of six miles.