fractures of the earth's crust, which caused a strip of country from about Edfu, in lat. 25° N., to Cairo, in lat. 30° N., to be depressed, leaving the plateau on either side standing high above it, just as the Red Sea and the Gulfs of Suez and Akaba are supposed to have been formed probably about the same epoch. Into this depressed area the drainage of the southern part of the basin finally flowed, and there was laid down during a long period the bed of alluvial deposit from 33 to 60 feet (10 to 18 metres) in thickness, through which the river runs to-day. The valley of Egypt is therefore the normal plain tract of the ancient river, and it is the portion intervening between that and the White Nile which gives indications of having renewed its youth.

The Nile rises in Victoria Nyanza, which occupies a shallow depression 26,248 square miles in extent on the plateau of the equatorial lakes, a region lying at an average elevation of from 4000 to 5000 feet above sea-level. That the earth-movements on the surface of the plateau are comparatively recent is shown by the moderate amount of weathering which has taken place, and by the incomplete development of the drainage system. As yet the rivers have not had time to deposit and erode sufficiently to give a regular grade to their beds, so that marshes and water-logged depressions still alternate with reaches in which the fall is considerable and the flow therefore rapid. The Victoria Nile, issuing from Victoria Nyanza, flows over the Ripon Falls, pours down 60 miles of rapids, to the still waters of Lake Choga. At Foweira 50 miles of rapids begin, ending at the Murchison Falls, 120 feet high; immediately beyond the material eroded from the rocky bed and brought in by tributary streams is forming extensive mud-flats where the Victoria Nile enters Lake Albert.

Victoria Nyanza.—The surface of Victoria Nyanza is 3720 feet above sea-level;[1] on its north side the land-surface descends gradually to Lakes Choga and Kwania, which lie at an altitude of about 3500 feet, and from there to Albert Nyanza, 2138 feet above sea-level. Victoria Nyanza, which has roughly the form of a parallelogram, being about 200 miles in length by 130 in average breadth, with an area of 26,000 square miles, is outlined by earth-movements, and there is definite evidence[2] furnished by the comparative readings of the lake-

[1] The heights given for the lakes dealt with are the trigonometrical heights taken from a paper by Capt. T. H. Behrens, R.E., on "The most Reliable Values of the Heights of the Central African Lakes and Mountains," *Geogr. Journ.*, vol. xxix. p. 307, 1907; those for Victoria and Albert Nyanzas are from a subsequent letter from Capt. Behrens published in the *Geogr. Journ.*, vol. xxx. p. 219, 1907.

[2] See H. G. Lyons, *Physiography of the River Nile and its Basin*, pp. 18, 43, Cairo, 1906. Lyons' conclusion is questioned by Craig (*Cairo Sci. Journ.*, April 1909).