

district is said to be traversed by an ancient highway, passing the two villages of Jigde-örtäng and Kök-tschol, due north of Dugha-dschaji.

At our camp at this last-named station the river measured 27 m. in breadth, 3.090 m. in mean depth, 0.2245 m. per second in mean velocity, and had a volume of 18.73 cub. m. in the second; these results again being a little uncertain by reason of the great depth. In the bend which the river makes at Dugha-dschaji there were several hydrographic peculiarities, such as counter-current, eddies, and reaches of »dead» water.

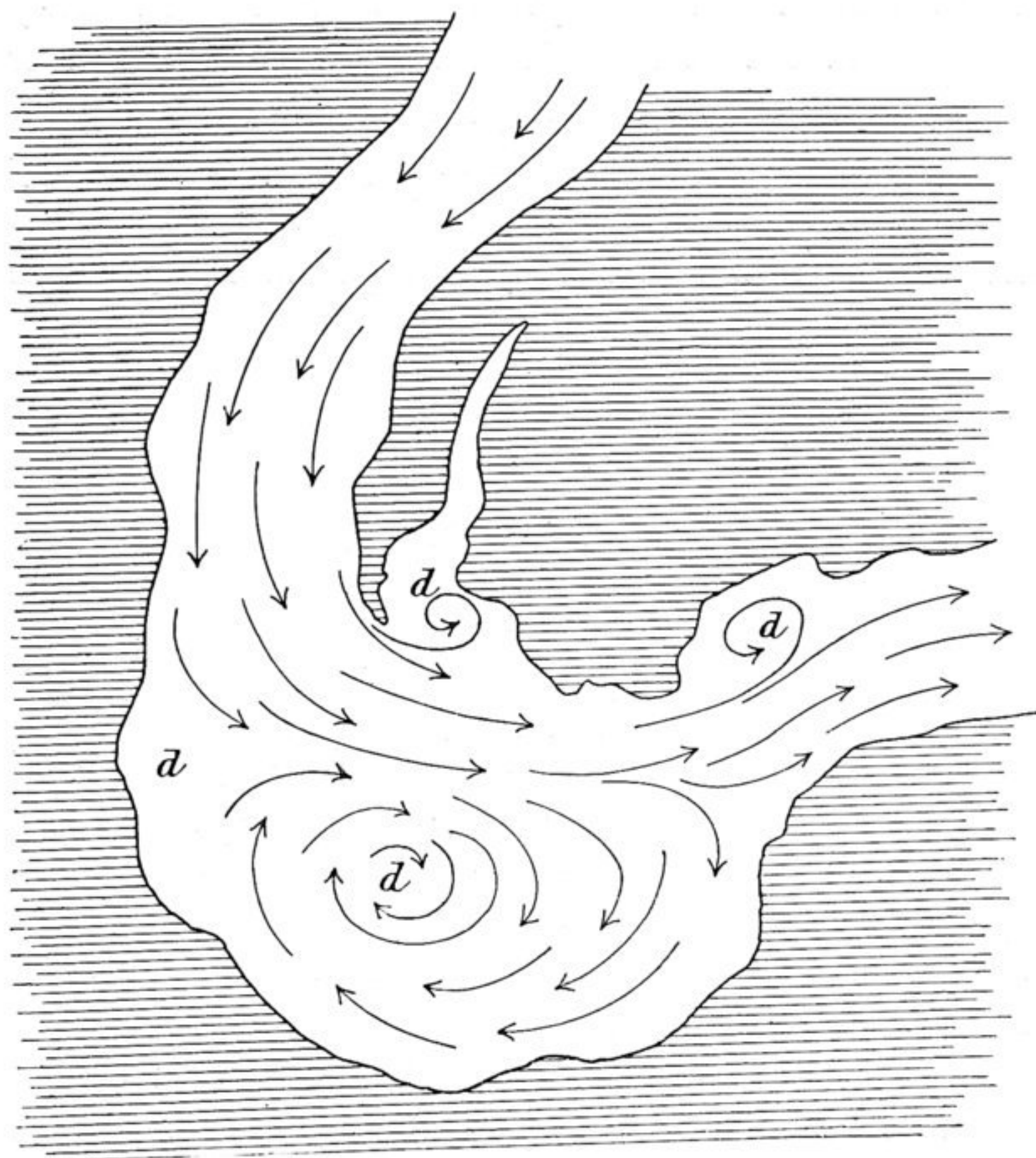


Fig. 60. THE BEND AT DUGHA-DSCHAJI.
— *d* = DEAD WATER.

October 12th. A drop of 1.2 cm. Transparency, 39.1 cm. During the night the thermometer went down to -1.0°C ., and we had the first frost of the autumn. In the vicinity of our camp the river-banks were 2.08 m. high, but appeared, notwithstanding, to have been covered at high flood, for the sandy soil of the right bank was still moist up to the top and also at some distance from the edge. On the crescentic alluvial promontory, on the opposite side of the river, we noticed a *tor*, that is a kind of springe to catch birds of prey in, which the neighbouring shepherds had set. It consisted of four rods, stuck into the ground and meeting together at the top, with a net let down inside them. Inside the net a pigeon or hen is

fastened, in such a way that, when the hawk darts down upon its prey, the tops of the rods spring apart and close the opening of the net.

The farther we advanced the more serpentine became the river, as well as, at the same time, both narrower and deeper. The country still preserved the same features as yesterday, although dense forest was less common. In fact, it was becoming evident, that the belt of vegetation which accompanies the river, is only narrow; we seldom had a vista of deep, dark forest. There were a couple of leafy huts at a place called Ak Supa Baj-kotan on the left bank. The first big loop to the south brought us, I was given to understand, to the most easterly extension of the now desiccated lake of Jantaklik-köl. Beyond it the locality is known as Numet-bulung. At Sävät-asti an old disused channel leads off through the right bank; it was reputed to be the beginning of the mysterious Kara-saj, which I have