

vanced a gigantic step, or rather two or three gigantic steps, towards the west, for the presence of these old river-courses proves that migration has taken place not one stage only, but two or three stages. Here then we have a convincing proof of the theory I put forward several years ago, namely that the Tarim is moving to the right, that is to say, the lower Tarim is shifting its bed to the south-west.

The sharp bend which penetrates into the sand is known as Tung-lung-tschökön, or Tung-lung Sank, from a Chinese who was transporting wares down the river on canoes, but overloaded them so that they sank. On the left stands the village of Sin-mähallä, with a canal in which there was water. Opposite the next indentation into the sand an arik goes off to Kuslek, and near it stand some *Eleagnus* trees, some of them about forty years old. In the old bed leading to the Ara-tarim there exists a pool called Ak-iti-sokkan-tschol; here are some shepherds' huts, and a canal Chodai Vär-di-tschapghan, which supplies the lake with water.

May 23rd. On the left we passed Atschik-uktu, and on the right Lakulluktake-uj, situated on the canal which supplies Bajir-köl and its separate basins—Muhamed Aru, Dschan Nias, and Lakulluk-köl—with water. Just below this point is the beginning of a bed of the Tarim, abandoned five years ago, which ran along the foot of the high sand and reunited with the existing channel opposite the canal of Chodai Vär-di-tschapghan.

About midway it is further connected with the existing Tarim by a canal Adoko-kok-alasi, which was dry when we saw it, but is in part filled with water at high flood. The country in the vicinity is called Adok-ottogho. This former river-bed demonstrates that the Tarim *can* indeed sometimes shift to the left. The probable explanation is that the river made such a violent assault upon the sand as to fill up and choke its own channel. The present channel too is of quite recent formation, for its poplars, which are indeed quite rare, cannot well be more than thirty years old. Even

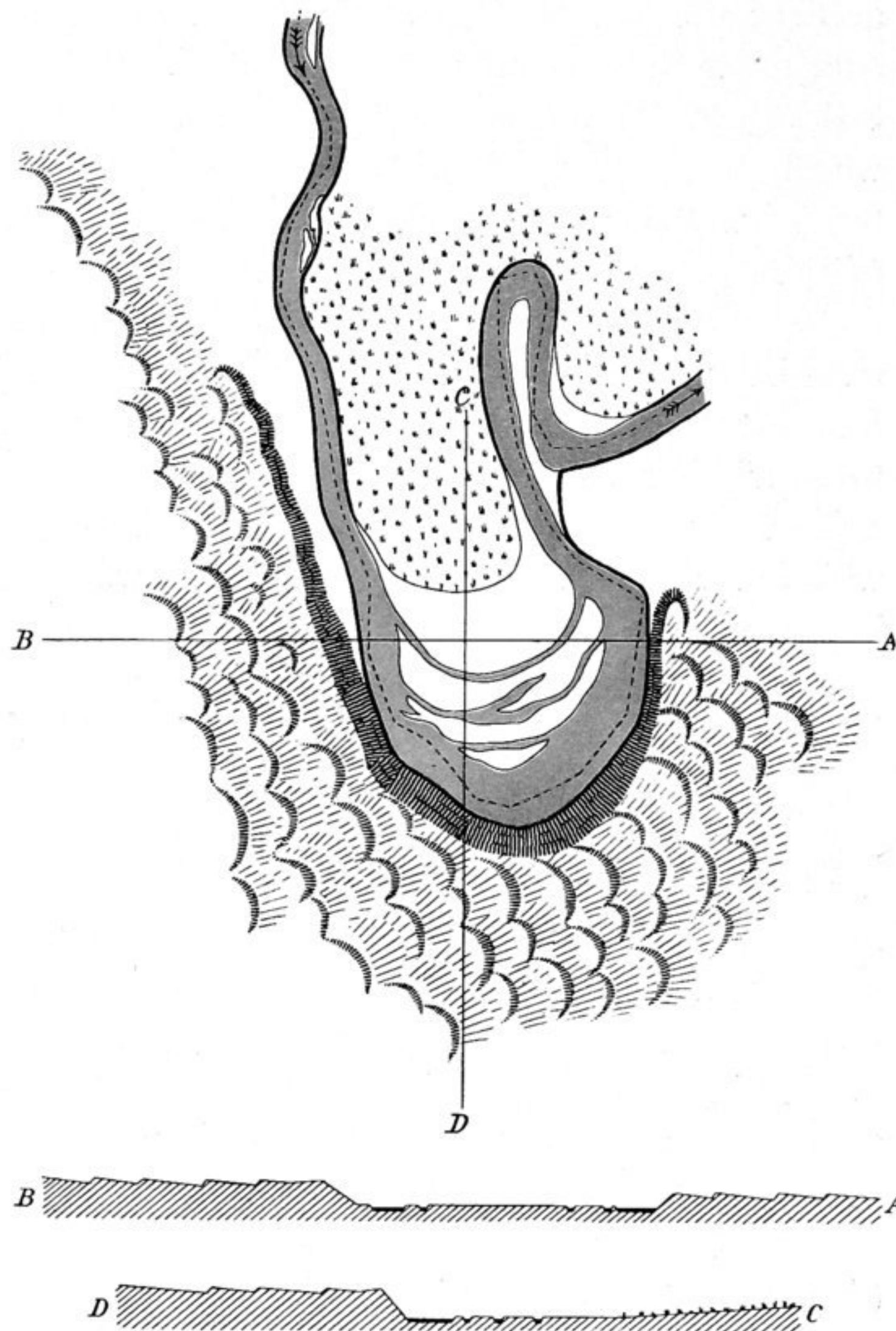


Fig. 145. THE LOOP OF TUNG-LUNG-TSCHÖKÖN PENETRATING INTO THE SAND; TWO SECTIONS CORRESPONDING TO THE LINES AB AND CD.