

to suppose that, as the level of the Jangi-köl rises and falls from year to year, and from season to season, so this bajir lagoon correspondingly expands and contracts its area.

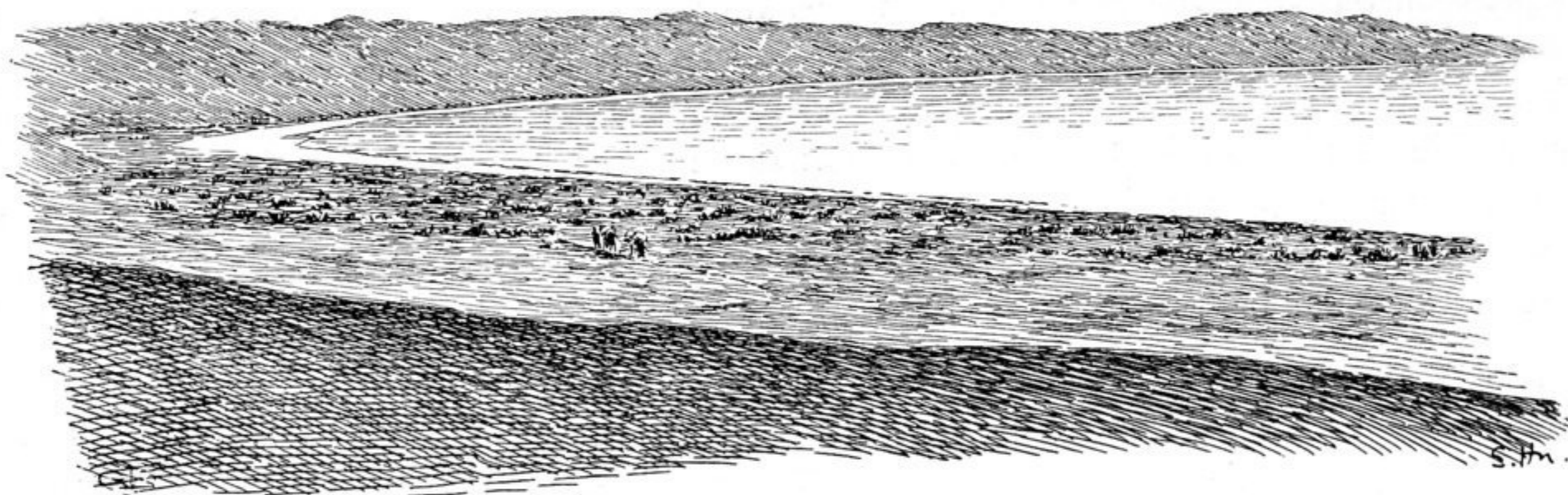


Fig. 204. SOUTHERN PART OF JANGI-KÖL LOOKING NW.

The threshold of sand which separates the Jangi-köl from its first bajir is narrow and only 25 to 30 m. high, and is in part overgrown with kamisch. Viewed from its summit, the Jangi-köl, like the Basch-köl, resembles a fjord, long, narrow, and straight, wedged in between two ranges of yellow drift-sand. The dunes on the south-east of the lake descend very steeply, leaving room at their foot for merely a very thin strip of ground, sparsely planted with tamarisks and kamisch. The lake in that part is said to be at most 4 or 5 fathoms deep, and its water to be perfectly fresh. On each shore we counted perhaps a dozen poplars, of quite tender age; as is usual with this tree, they appeared to thrive in the sandy soil, especially as they had no lack of water. Owing to the distance, and to the fact that the atmosphere was not quite clear, we were unable to distinguish the belt of flat steppe which in the north-east separates the lake from the river, so that the view before us exactly resembled that which distinguishes an oceanic fjord. The level expanse of glassy blue ice formed a most effective contrast to the towering sand-dunes which closed it in on all sides. The long steep dune-accumulation



Fig. 205. ICE OF JANGI-KÖL. VIEW TOWARDS THE NE.

which rose on the eastern shore of the lake was then, it being morning, in deep shadow, and etched its image with astonishing distinctness upon the glittering sheet of ice below. This last, in consequence of the tension created in it by the changes of the temperature, and the process of freezing, whistled and groaned unceasingly. At the south end of the lake the ice curled at the edge, and out in the open parts there were little ridges running across it, and cracks, shining white, in places, as though the ice had been subjected to lateral pressure. The dunes on the west of the lake ascend