

misch, and fine poplar groves. In places the ground is somewhat broken, and there are hills round the fields. The river, making a bend to the east, becomes lost to sight for a good hour. At Tokus-köl there is a salt pool, fed by the infiltration of water; and beside it stands a hut. At Kök-jantak there is another hut, cosily and comfortably situated amongst some magnificent poplars by the river-side. Another satma on the right bank is called Kok-kapa. At the point where the Nija road crosses the river, the bed of the latter lies about 15 m. below the general level, and down below on the left side stands the *lenger* of Andere. Here, as also at Kök-jantak, there was a lively current running, amounting probably to 3 cub.m. in the second, but the water was not clear. The springs are reported to be situated a little way south of the road. Here too there were sheets of ice in the river-bed, though the »cake» formation begins properly speaking lower down at Kök-jantak. The deep-cut, but meandering, channel is here not half so wide as at Kürtsch-aghil.

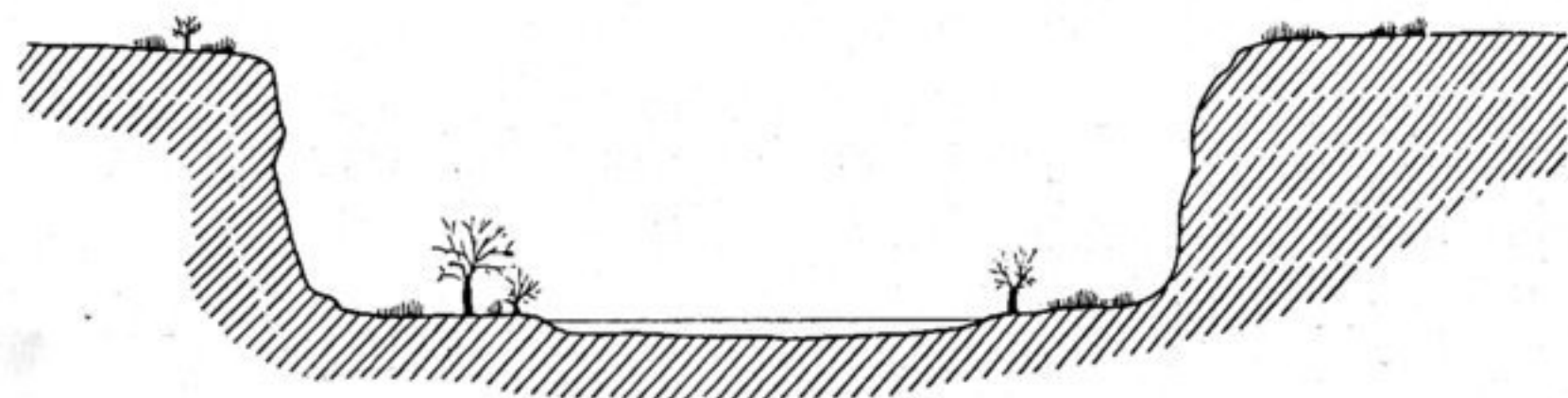


Fig. 332. VERTICAL SECTION FROM THE POINT WHERE THE NIJA-ROAD CROSSES THE BOSTAN-TOGHRAK.

We encamped in the district of Baba-köl, immediately east of the well of the same name. The snow lay foot-deep, and it still continued to snow a little. That winter there was said to be on the whole a greater quantity of snow than usual. In the summer a fine rain falls sometimes. From this point we failed to perceive the sand to the south; but then the belts of vegetation are broader beside the rivers.

At Kamaghas we once more struck our old route, which we followed until we came to Tschertschen. The night of the 27th—28th January was the coldest we experienced that winter, the thermometer dropping to  $-32^{\circ}.2$  C.