

the bank of the Bos-ilek; and this is in agreement with my own observations made on the eastern bank of the Ilek in 1896.

On the 15th March there was a fresh wind from the north-east, and the temperature did not rise above $6^{\circ}.8$ C. We were now compelled for some time to quit the Kuruk-darja, in order to water our camels at Jardang-bulak, and accordingly we climbed up on to the detritus slope by means of a little ravine. Here the clay dipped 15° towards N. 65° W., and rested upon the hard rock, a species of black stone resembling diorite, and with different inclinations, first at 26° towards S. 30° W., but having a steeper pitch the higher we proceeded up the ravine, namely 45° , 57° , 75° towards S. 30° W. When we got up on the open, the lie of the stratum was 26° E., and then 47° towards N. 70° E. In the next ravine, where we were again travelling towards the north-east, the dip was at first 27° S., then 78° towards N. 30° E. This ravine took us up to the flat summit of a little mountain-spur. On the other side of it we once more descended by a broad shallow valley running towards the north-north-east, and bordered on the west by low hills of a vivid red colour. Then to the north-east there opened out a very extensive area, a flat, shallow, cauldron-shaped valley, which to all appearance was perfectly level. Except for one portion in the north-west, lying just south of the road to Jigde-bulak and Toghrak-bulak, the mountain spurs are quite small. In fact, to the north, strange as it may appear, we scarce saw any mountains at all; whilst to the east there was nothing of that nature, except the flat spur we had just crossed over.



Fig. 48. A BROAD GULLY BETWEEN THE JARDANGS.

In the cauldron-shaped valley, or comb, just mentioned there is an oasis known as Oj-köbrük; it possesses however no water, though it does possess kamisch, tamarisks, and köbrük, or köuruk, a kind of tamarisk, kept alive by chance showers of rain. Here traces of wild camel were extraordinarily plentiful. The track leading to Jardang-bulak still continued to run north-east, crossing the comb diagonally; this last is shut in on the north-east by a low spur of the mountains. On the left we had a continuation of the narrow belt of meagre vegetation. The ground was schor, saliferous material, often glistening white, hard and granular, crunching under the feet — in fact, the same objectionable and tiring conformation as in eastern