more than 2,500 million cub.m. of water. If, as we also assumed, precisely this same amount evaporates every year, then it is necessary that the river should all the year through contribute to the lake a volume of 79 cub.m. per second; for if that is the quantity of water that evaporates every second, it is obvious that the same quantity must enter the lake every second if the balance is to be preserved. And if the 79 cub.m. of evaporation be regarded as a pretty constant value — and this we may indeed assume, considering the continental position of the lake and the small range of the climatic changes — it is evident that, whenever the inflow

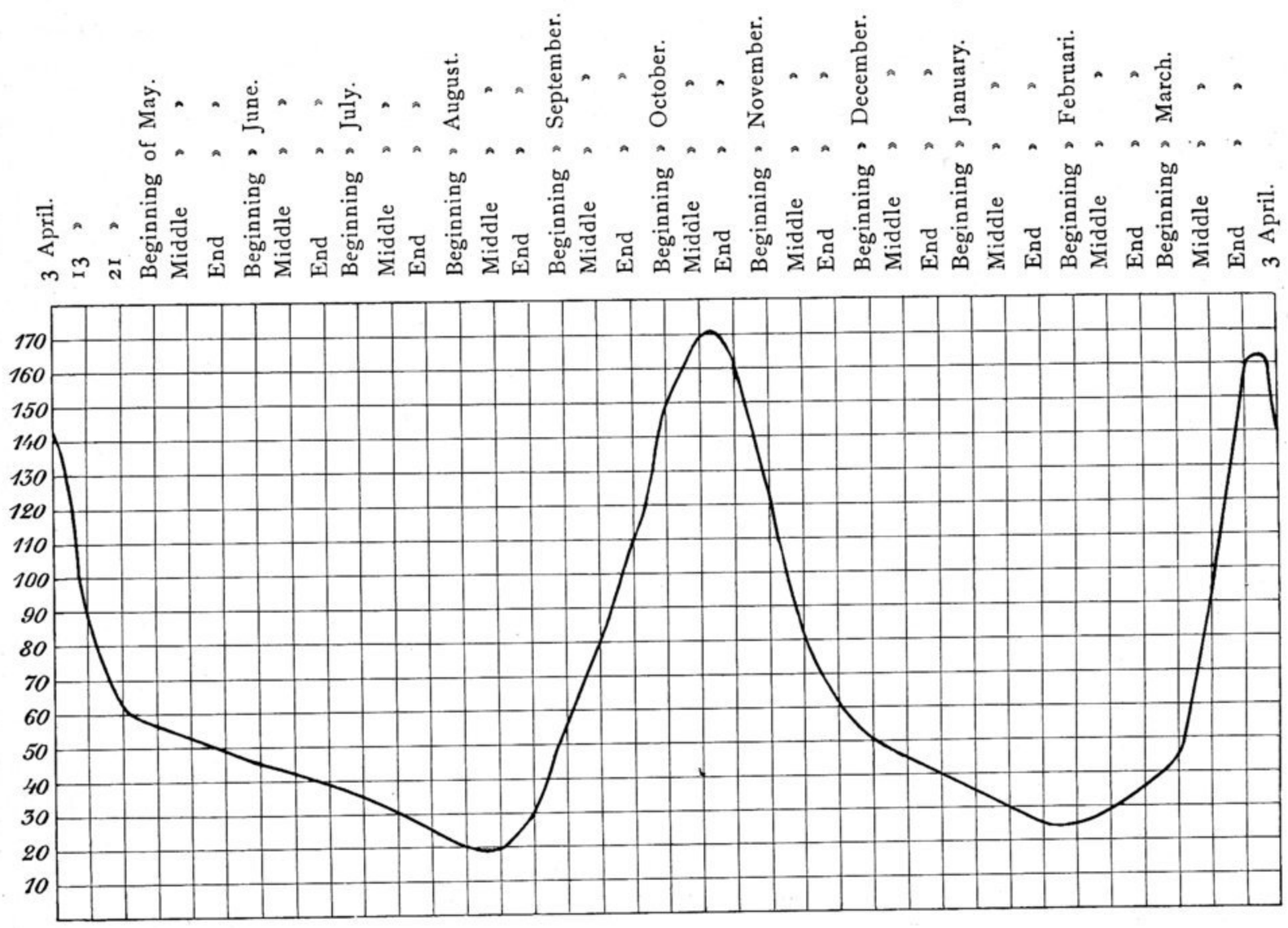

Fig. 129. THE VOLUME OF WATER IN THE TARIM DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. THE COLUMN TO THE LEFT GIVES CUBIC METERS IN A SECOND.

exceeds 79 cub.m. in the second, the lake must expand, and when it falls below that amount, it must shrink. The mean of the four measurements I made at Jurttschapghan is 82 cub.m. in the second; but this figure is too high, because three of the constituent data were obtained in periods when the general volume was exceptionally large and only the fourth belongs to a period of low water. If now we take the middle figure of the first three, namely 86 cub.m., and conjoin with it the fourth, or 39 cub.m., we get a mean of 62 cub.m. Again, if we take the mean of the table as a whole, we obtain 64 cub.m. as the mean volume per second throughout the whole of the year. On this basis the lake would not receive during the course of the year more than 2,018 million cub.m. From this it results that in all probability the mean depth of the Kara-koschun is not so much as 1 m.; that my