

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### GENERAL HYDROGRAPHICAL RELATIONS OF THE TARIM DELTAIC REGION.

Before proceeding to inquire into the cause of this remarkable horizontality, which, covering as it does such a large area in the middle of Asia, may be regarded as an exceptional circumstance, I will for a moment call attention to another question connected with the Lop-nor problem. In 1896, whilst travelling along the eastern bank of the Ilek, Avullu-köl, Kara-köl, etc., as far as Kum-tscheke, I could not help observing, that the Ilek flowed towards the east-south-east, while the chain of lakes from Avullu-köl downwards stretched towards the south-south-east, so that in this



Fig. 157. THE ILEK AT KUM-TSCHEKE IN 1896.