

part of these mountains or have been brought there from the mountains which hem in East Turkestan on the west — for the westerly winds do sometimes blow there — the seat of their origin is certainly not very far distant. Anyway we may not assume that they come from the Kuruk-tagh; for the distance is so great, that they would be reduced to powder by friction on the way; and we should also find in the eastern part of the Desert of Tschertschen similar laminae, only bigger than 2 mm., whereas in point of fact there are none. Moreover there exists good reason to believe, as I have attempted to show, that the constant east-north-east wind of the Lop country does not prevail in the western parts of the basin; the winds there are more irregular and more variable.

The following specimens are derived from the Kuruk-darja, the Desert of Lop, and the Desert of Gobi.

At Camp. No. VII, I took, on 14th March 1900 from the terraced bank of the Kuruk-darja, a specimen of yellowish brown dust, strongly calciferous, but with no magnetite to speak of. A specimen from the edge of the upper saj terrace facing the Kuruk-darja, taken on 19th March 1900, consists of yellowish grey powdery sand, moderately calciferous, and with a moderate percentage of magnetite. Another specimen from the bottom of the Kuruk-darja, taken on the 20th March 1900, is very similar — yellowish brown dust, strongly calciferous, and with no magnetite.

In the northern part of the Desert of Lop I took on 10th March 1901 a specimen of grey powdery clay. Two days' south of that point we found, lying loose on the surface, concretions of gypsum, containing a certain percentage of calcium carbonate. Yet one day farther south (13th March 1901) the ground consisted of yellowish grey powdery sand, moderately calciferous, and with slight traces of magnetite.

Along the line I levelled across the Desert of Lop, and in the middle of the desert, I obtained on 13th March 1901 a specimen of sand which contains splinters of gypsum as well as shells of *Limnaea ovata* and a quantity of vegetable remains; it was strongly calciferous, contained a moderate amount of magnetite, and the grains consisted of

6.3 per cent.	2 to 1 mm.
6.3 » »	1 to 0.5 mm.
and 87.4 » »	less than 0.5 mm.

Here then the sand-grains are considerably bigger than anywhere in the Desert of Tschertschen.

On the 14th March 1901 I took a specimen of common salt, which contains also some  $H_2SO_4$  and Mg.

A specimen of clay taken on 30th March 1900 from the middle of the Desert of Lop, between Camp No. XVII and Camp No. XVIII, is pronounced by Aminoff to be mud; which is undoubtedly perfectly correct, for the region in which it was taken was formerly occupied by the lake into which the rivers of the Tarim system formerly emptied themselves. The characteristics of the specimen are — grey, argillaceous, calciferous, powdery sand.

From Camp. No. XIX on 1st April 1900 — fine, yellowish-grey sand, less than 0.5 mm., containing quartz, mica, and felspar, and two or three laminae of