

for the layer exhibits specimens of *Limnæa auricularia*, (a variety of the same species, which occurs everywhere throughout the old basin of Lop-nor, is called *L. ovata*) and a species of *Planorbis*, very closely resembling *P. marginatus*, but without the lip to the shell; also the vertebra of a fish. This last is however so decayed that it is impossible to determine what species it belongs to; though there can hardly be a doubt but that it belongs to one of the species of fish now living in the Kara-koschun. Did time and opportunity permit, an examination of the various layers over a small area would probably reveal numerous vertebræ of fish, if not entire skeletons. The discoveries would however all belong to the same species, and investigation would hardly pay for the trouble, because we already possess more than sufficient proofs that this spot was formerly situated on the shore of a freshwater lake.

The fourth layer from the bottom is a light yellowish grey, and rather strongly calciferous. Like the layer immediately below it, it contains shells of the same species of *Planorbis* as well as the seed-vessel of some plant. The topmost layer is also light yellowish grey, is intermingled with fine sand, and is rather calciferous. It contains shells of *Limnæa auricularia* and the same species of *Planorbis* as the two layers immediately below it. In this layer the vegetable remains are more abundant than in the lower layers.

On Pl. XX I have brought together a number of mollusc shells from the Desert of Lop. In the top row are five more or less well preserved specimens of *Limnæa stagnalis*; in the second row seven specimens of *Limnæa auricularia*, especially well-preserved and free from blemish, probably they were quite recently dissected by the wind out of the freshwater sediment in which they lay inclosed for centuries. In the third row we have nine more examples of the same species; their bleached appearance, rough exterior, and jagged edges show that they have been for a long time exposed to the influence of the atmospheric elements; from this cause they become eventually brittle and crumble to fragments, and finally are destroyed altogether. The fourth row contains nine more specimens of *Limnæa auricularia*, still filled with clay as hard as cement, with sand and fragments of shells, which they brought with them from the sedimentary beds in which they lay buried. The fifth row consists of ten small, well preserved examples of the same species, which have quite recently been exposed. In the lowest row are specimens of *Limnæa ovata* and *Planorbis*, taken out of the three uppermost layers of the last vertical section from L'ou-lan.

Finally, I adduce the results of the examination of certain specimens of fluviatile mud. The first was taken out of the bed of the Jarkent-darja at Schäschkak



Fig. 200. A WIND-WORN STONE,
QUARTZITIC SANDSTONE.
FROM THE DESERT OF LOP.