

ment-basins. A river like the Jarkent-darja possesses of course to an incomparable degree a greater power of enlarging its catchment-area than does, for instance, the Kerija-darja. Under any and every circumstance therefore the gathering-grounds of the latter stream must of necessity cover a smaller area. In this way the amount of the precipitation, the dimensions of the several rivers, and the areas of their respective catchment-basins must be proportionally related the one to the other. For this reason the breadth of the peripheral zone of the Kwen-lun must increase towards the west. To a certain extent the same law would appear to hold good with regard to the southern peripheral zone of the Tibetan plateau where the catchment basin of the Indus broadens towards the west all the way from its origin near the lakes of Manassarowar.

The following table of the catchment-areas of the streams draining into the East Turkestan basin makes no claims to strict accuracy, for we do not possess sufficiently accurate maps of the peripheral zone; still it will serve to give an approximate idea of the relative size of the different areas. The calculation has been made with the help of a polar planimeter on sheet 62 of *Stielers Handatlas*. The very smallness of the scale on which the map is drawn precludes any great accuracy of detail; nevertheless the sheet in question is the best general map of Central Asia that we as yet possess. The first step was to prick out the boundaries of each catchment-area, that is to say the upper parts only of each individual stream, within which it may be supposed to receive feeders from the mountains. The upper boundary, the water-parting, admitted of being followed with relative certainty; but with regard to the lower boundary, the dividing-line between the gathering-area and the lowlands, considerable uncertainty exists, and the boundary in that direction is to a large extent pure guess-work. Yet for the object we have here in view, the results may be regarded as being sufficiently accurate. I have of course given them in round numbers.

R i v e r.	Area in sq. km.
Kaschgar-darja	56,000
Ak-su-darja and Tauschkan-darja	42,000
A small area between these two	8,000
The Tien-schan between the Ak-su-darja and the Chajdu-gol	38,000
Chajdu-gol (down to Baghrasch-köl)	32,000
Baghrasch-köl	8,000
Jarkent-darja	64,000
Kara-kasch } Chotan-darja {	21,000
Jurun-kasch }	16,000
A small area between the Jarkent-darja and the Chotan-darja	12,000
Kerija-darja	16,000
A small area between the Jurun-kasch and the Kerija-darja	10,000
Nija-darja, Tolan-chodscha, and several other small streams	15,000
Bostan-toghrak, Möldscha, and several minor streams	13,000
Kara-muran	18,000
Tschertschen-darja	17,000
The small brooks of the Astin-tagh from Kum-bulak onwards	30,000
Kuruk-tagh	30,000