

their sharp edges unimpaired. This applies especially to their upper parts, upon which the wind plays with much greater force than upon the parts near the surface of the ground.

In the interior of this house we hit upon a red clay earthenware jar, half buried under the sand. It is 70 cm. high and 65 cm. in diameter at its widest part, while the diameter of the opening at the top is 25 cm. It possesses no ears or handles, but close beside it we found a species of wicker basket with a strong handle, which had manifestly been used to transport the jar in.



Fig. 291. 'HOW THE JAR WAS CARRIED.

Amongst the sand on the leeward side of the platform on which this house stood we dug out a thick plank, upon which were carved a number of figures of Buddha, sitting each under a rounded arch, cross-legged upon a stool and with the hands folded upon the knees. The arches are supported by columns with decorated capitals, and between every pair of arches the half of a lotus flower is visible. Unfortunately this plank had for some time been exposed to the atmospheric influences, and all the finer details, which undoubtedly at one time existed, had been filed away and rounded off; nevertheless we took away with us the part of the beam containing four of the best preserved figures. We turned over the sandy slope and the interior of the house, but without finding any more similar wood-carvings; probably this plank had been fixed up inside the structure.

Nothing remains of the building which formerly stood south-east of this house except heaps of splintered beams and planks, and the original ground-plan could not be made out; though the débris form as it were a continuous series, stretching for 13.8 m. towards the S. 30° E.

The house G on my plan is rather small, measuring 11.8 m. by 6.3 m., and yet it was divided into four smaller apartments. Its walls consist partly of beams resting on the ground, partly of vertical posts, and partly of kamisch sheaves; from its south-east wall there projects at right angles a beam lying on the ground. The distance between the western corner of the MSS house and the eastern corner of the house G is 24.1 m., and their two platforms are separated from one another by a deep hollow, through which the wind sweeps unchecked.

The house H is not quite distinct, for we were able to trace out completely only three of its walls, measuring 8.15, 11.17, and 12.40 m. respectively. They consisted of vertical poles, of which nothing was left except fragments and broken ends.

At a distance of 16.9 m. to the N. 50° W. stands the house I, crowning its own detached little platform; it measures 11.80 m. by 9.33 m. The north-east wall is indicated by two beams lying on the ground with a doorway between them, and the other walls of horizontal kamisch sheaves and vertical poles. The two eastern walls project too far; possibly they point to the presence of yet a couple of other apartments, the outer walls of which have in that case been swept away. Between H and I too there is a deep wind-eroded hollow. And there is yet another similar hollow between the two small detached platforms on which stand the houses I and J. The ground-work of this last consists of four beams of exceptionally massive di-