

Of course I was only able to note the nearer orographical features of the mountain-ranges; to have traced out their connections and the directions in which they run would have demanded several crossings. Such particulars as I did ascertain are represented in the accompanying little sketch (fig. 6), namely the different zones that intervene between the Kara-koschun and the foot of the mountains, as well as the east and west extensions of the lowest ranges. This orientation was indeed evident from the glen of Tatlik-bulak, which slopes down westwards between two east-west crests of the system of the Lower Astin-tagh. It is perfectly obvious that the orographical structure of the border-ranges of the Tibetan highlands must be more complicated than it is on the flat, level plateau farther south.

At Basch-jol, where we halted for a day's rest, we felt very distinctly the currents of air streaming up and down the glen. The descending nocturnal wind blew with a velocity of 4.6 m. in the second, the ascending diurnal wind with a velocity of 3.6 m. in the second. Basch-kurghan lies at an altitude of 2,629 m., or 676 m. higher than Tatlik-bulak, and Basch-jol at an altitude of 2,936 m.

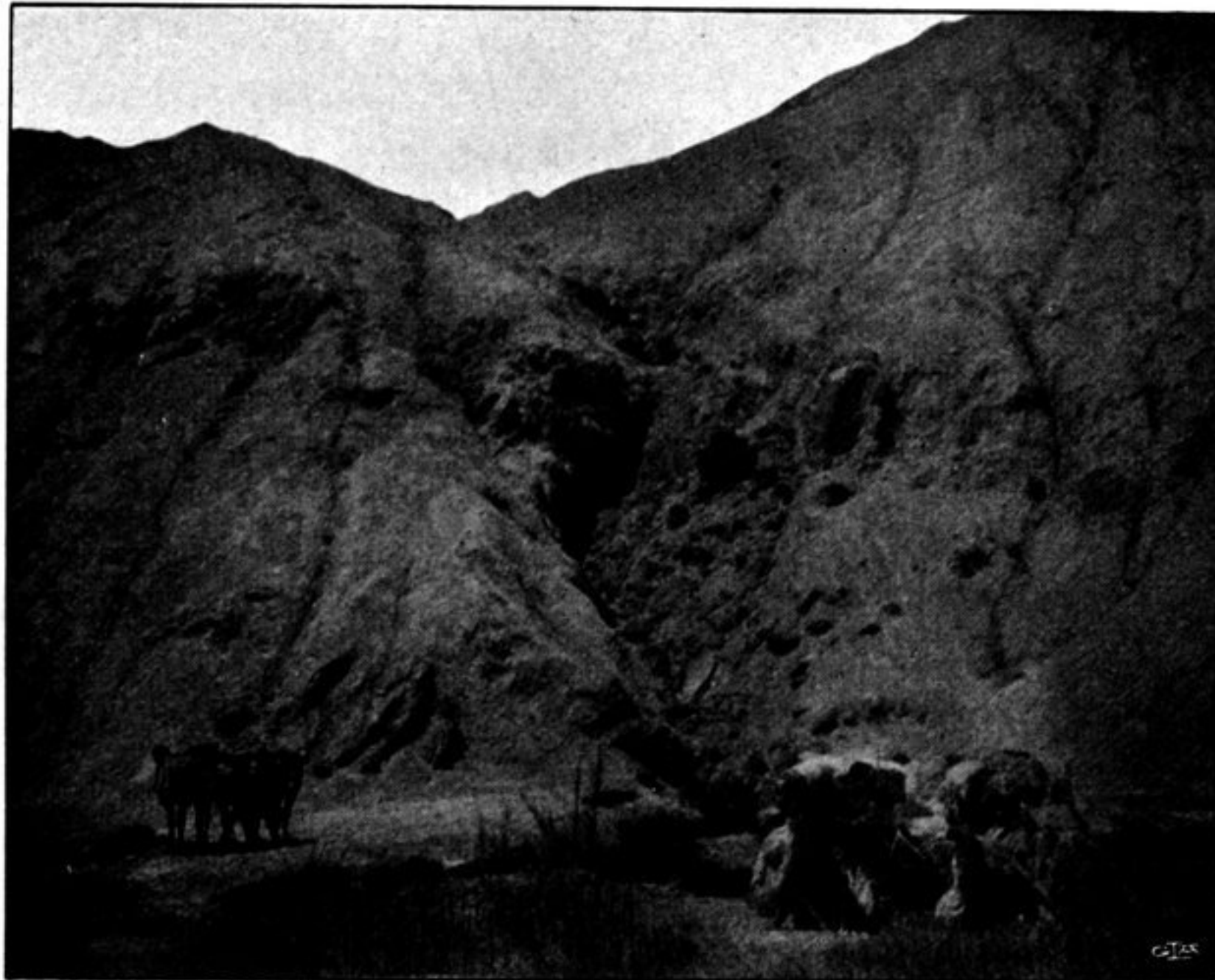


Fig. 18. THE SAME.

July 8th. The gently ascending, débris-strewn glen expands above Basch-jol and is joined by several side-glens, all coming from the northern slope of the main range of the Astin-tagh. From the east issues the Tschokuluk-saj, the upper part of which is said to run east and west; it is almost as big as the glen of Basch-jol. At the junction of the two there was some scanty vegetation around a small spring. A little higher up a glen comes down from the S. 35° W., with a track leading to Jan-bulak, a distance that is stated to be as great as that between Basch-kurghan and Basch-jol. After that our glen inclines to the south-east, and becomes fenced in on both sides by steep, dark, wild-looking cliffs. On the right side of the glen there forms after rain a pool, then dry, which bears the usual name of Tasch-köl. The glen is here far more energetically modelled than at Kurghan-saj: through the