

CHAPTER VI.

TIBETAN QUAGMIRES — THE GLACIAL MOUNTAIN.

August 8th. Upon starting again we travelled first south-west, beside a spur destitute of snow. The streams we crossed ran towards the north-west, but no doubt they afterwards turn towards the west, to join the principal stream of the valley. Entering the first large transverse glen, we ascended towards the south-south-east and south-east. This is bordered on the west by a big ramifying arm of the range; while to the east we caught occasional glimpses of the gigantic snowy peaks that crown the great glaciated mass. We were now half-way round this great

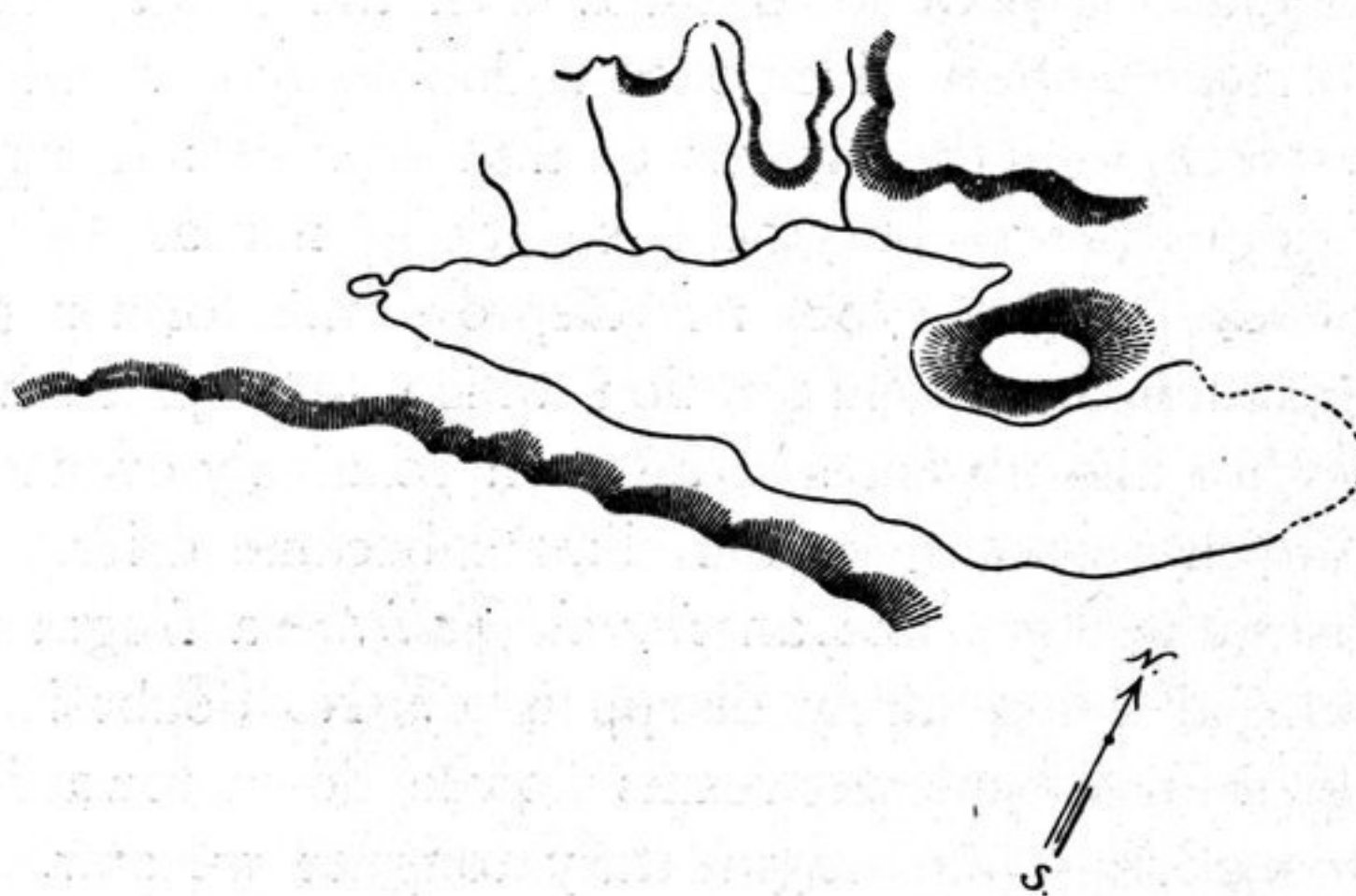


Fig. 67.

obstacle. The ascent was not steep; even the pass in the new parallel range was easy and convenient, although the altitude was great. I did indeed get a clear conception of the profile of the range at the place where I crossed over it; but what the orographical architecture of the rest of the range is like, it would indeed be difficult to say. For instance I am unable to determine whether the glaciated mass is actually to be regarded as an integral part of this new range or whether it belongs more properly to an independent parallel range, of which it forms the western end. Equally difficult is it to make out, whether this range that we had just crossed is continued farther to the west or whether it tails away and comes to an end about a hundred kilometers farther on in the same direction. It is towards that direction