

The water was impregnated with salt to an extraordinary degree, this being the saltiest lake I encountered in Tibet. Everything that came into contact with it turned white. When we let the water dry on our hands, it left them with a disagreeably rough feeling. The crystals of salt sparkled on the paddle-blades. The water was a greenish colour when you looked straight down into it, but farther away it assumed different tints of light blue owing to the reflexion of the sky above.

Viewed from the lake, the mountains do not bulk very largely upon the scene. The bigger elevations, which are *per se* flat, are at too great a distance, and the smaller ones, which encompass the lake, melt together into a uniform brownish grey. Nevertheless I think I succeeded in making out that the summits of which I had previously taken the compass-bearings — B¹, C¹, D¹, E¹, and F¹ — do not belong to one and the same mountain-range, but to two or three more or less broken ranges (fig. 78). But the same inflexible law of parallelism still prevailed, in that all the ranges still stretched east and west. D¹ is a snowy mass crowning the centre of the most important chain, which is of a brick-red colour, and appears to terminate pretty abruptly at both extremities.

In the morning the lake had appeared to stretch to an immense distance towards the east; but in the afternoon the distance turned out to be not so very great, for we were able to see the eastern shore quite distinctly. When the sun got round to the west, the shore in that quarter appeared to be excessively distant. This circumstance was due not only to the course we were taking and the distance we had already travelled, but also to an illusion or mirage, caused by the position of the sun. When the sun's rays fall upon the shore, it stands out distinctly; but when sun and shore are both on the same side of the spectator, the latter disappears as though a haze or curtain of vapour hung over the water, blurring the outlines in such a way that water and sky seem to melt together.

Early in the afternoon the water out in the middle of the lake had a temperature of 17.°r and the temperature of the air at the same time was 14°, the former being several degrees higher than the mean temperature of the air at that season of the year. This points to a surplusage of heat stored up during the summer months.

This lake was even shallower than the Upper Kum-köl. Between the island and Camp XXXII we measured the depth every ten minutes as we paddled along. At first the soundings increased successively by only a couple of decimeters or so, afterwards by only one or two centimeters, and then remained constant at about 1.88 for several kilometers. Along the line we took the several soundings were as follows — 0.82, 1.20, 1.31, 1.54, 1.76, 1.81, 1.87, 1.88, 1.89, 1.89, 1.89, 1.88, 1.88, 1.85, 1.87, 1.87, 1.88, 1.91, 1.97, 2.03, 2.05, 2.17, 2.33, 2.29, 2.31, 2.01, 1.10, 1.00, and 0.90, the last-named being taken ten or a dozen meters from the southern shore. It can only be pronounced a very unusual and peculiar circumstance that in a distance of 3250 meters the depth should not vary more than 3 centimeters. To construct a bathymetrical map of a lake-basin such as this would serve no purpose, for the curves would vary only by decimeters, and in the middle of the lake by centimeters only. In fact in a case like this one can hardly speak of relief at all. It would have been almost equally purposeless to have taken any great number of soundings across the lake, for every-