

them. In the Kum-köl there are also two lakes — the upper one, containing fresh water, sends an emissary to the lower lake, the terminal basin of the system, which is consequently salt. The Kum-köl lakes lie quite close to the foot of a mountain-range, from which they do not receive any noteworthy influx, almost the whole of their supply coming from the opposite or southern mountains. Precisely the same thing is true of this new pair of lakes which I discovered due south of the Kum-köl lakes: they too lie close to the foot of a mountain-chain, but at a great distance from its *vis-à-vis*. From the former they receive no influx; it all comes from the latter. The spring brooks in the Kum-köl basin flow towards the west, and after they have converged into one stream, this flows towards the north. The

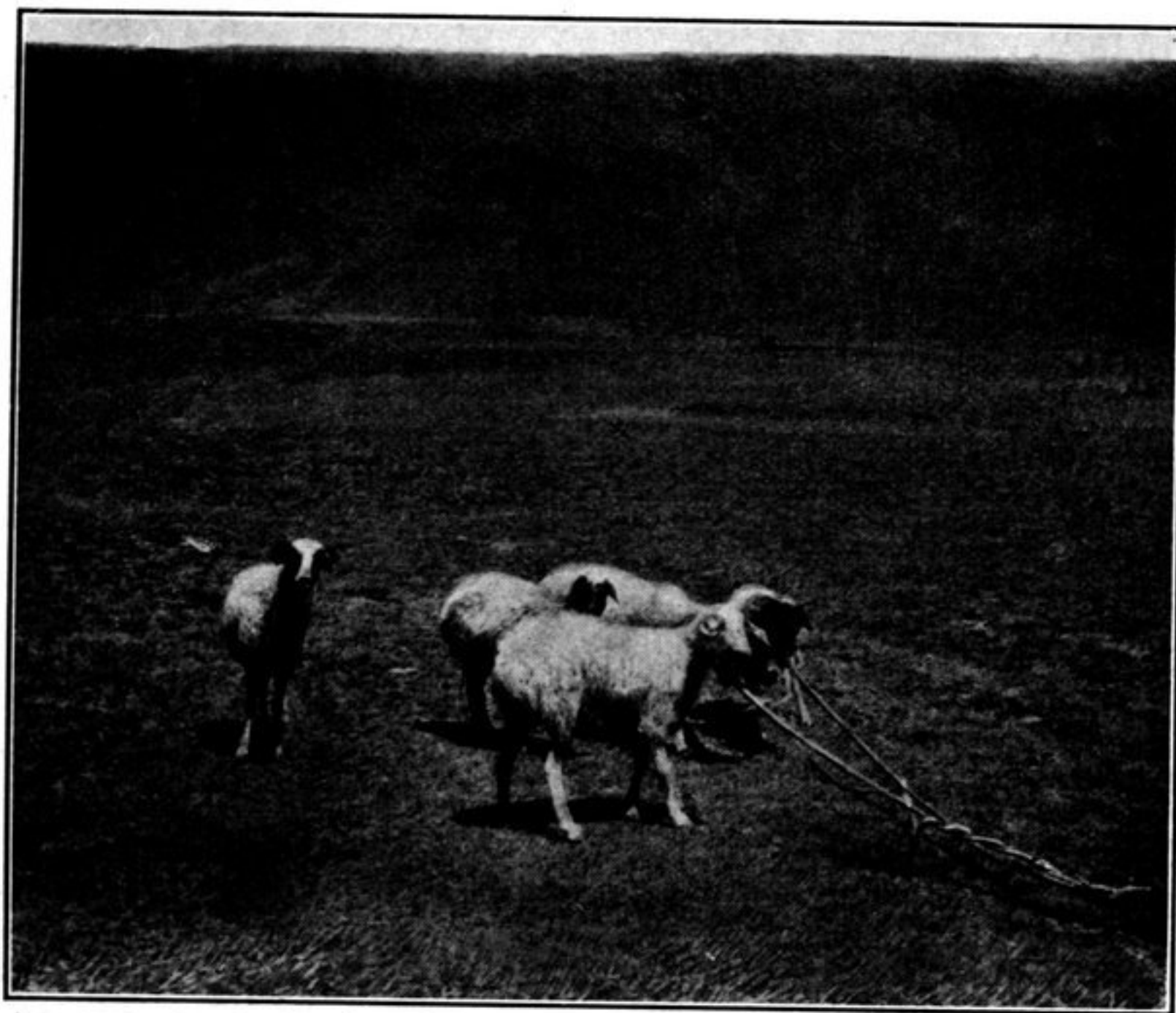


Fig. 86. OUR LAST LIVING PROVIDER.

stream of the new twin-lakes flows at first towards the east or south-east, and afterwards towards the south. Again, in the former basin the deepest depression lies in its northern part: in the latter in its southern. The two basins are separated by a swelling of the highland, namely the parallel ranges of the Arka-tagh. The northern basin is the more pronounced, and gathers up the precipitation from several parallel ranges. The southern basin is separated from the true main range of the Arka-tagh by a couple of other latitudinal valleys, each with self-contained basins, and it gathers its water off one chain only. In the northern basin the deepest part of its long east-west depression occurs towards the western end, that is to say the salt lake lies west of the freshwater lake; in the southern basin the relations are reversed, and the salt lake lies east of the freshwater lake. This however has little to do with the general hypsometrical architecture of the highland region; it is simply an accidental characteristic of the morphology of the two basins. In a word, the deepest part of the northern basin lies in its north-western part, and the deepest part of the southern basin in its south-eastern part.