sharply outlined, and the consequence is that the brook empties into a lagoon, to which the rampart serves as a dam. But as these ramparts only occur where the brooks enter the lake, it is pretty evident that they are connected with the capacity which each little stream possesses of depositing sediment (see fig. 97). The deltaic formation is here excessively common; it is seldom that a brook falls directly into the lake, without first traversing a lagoon. Pools exist also at a pretty considerable distance from the shore and at an altitude of several meters above the surface of the lake; they owe their origin to natural springs, which gush out at the bases of the hills, making conchoid hollows in the ground where they emerge. These, when they reach leveller ground, make it marshy and boggy. Some of these torrents have scooped out such deep beds for themselves that we were obliged to make detours round them, although they were frequently only one meter across.

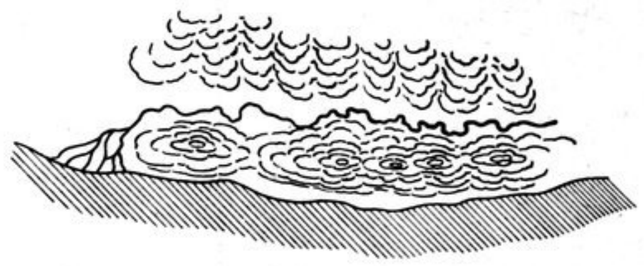

Fig. 96.

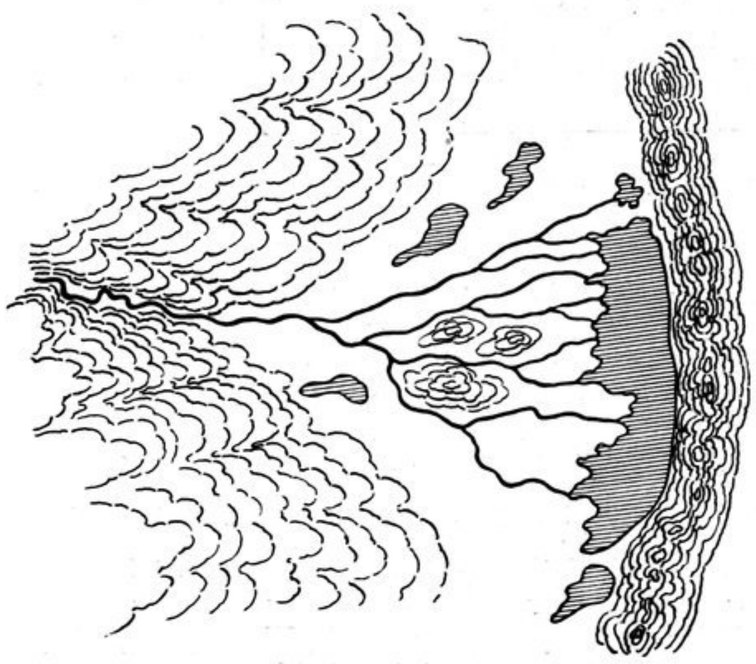

Fig. 97.

From this point the northern shore shoots away towards the north-east in almost a straight line, for this freshwater lake proved to be of very great extent. Then for a space the ridge recedes farther from the lake, the shore being pretty level. Here we had a fresh type of shore formation, in that on the inner side of an exceedingly flat and scarce noticeable rampart the countless little torrents give rise to a long strip of intermittent marsh, containing pools. At the points where they enter the marsh the several brooks split up into a great number of deltaic arms. But the lake being the ultimate destination of the water, this latter every now and again cuts its way through the rampart, forming a fresh delta on the lake side of the rampart. Thus several of these torrents possess the peculiar property of forming each two deltas (fig. 99). Generally the ground is marshy and boggy, and the only line along which we were able to march with comfort was the flat ridge.

Then the ridge once more approaches the shore, and even at one spot goes steeply down into the lake, so that we had perforce to climb up to its crest, which is probably 60 to 70 m. above the level of the lake. Over on the other side we made Camp XXXVIII, as usual beside a shore lagoon containing fresh water. Our camp was about 10 m. above the lake, the surface of which has an absolute altitude of 4847 m. The water in the eastern end of the lake was tolerably clear and contained an abundance of fish. The other representatives of the fauna were wild yaks and kulans, hares, marmots, and »earth-rats». We also saw bears on several occasions, and many of the marmots' burrows had been scratched out by bears in quest of the animals within. Here too there was a species of lizard that is very common