

rather low mountain-range, dominated by several quite small peaks, only one of which appeared to be hard rock. On the left rises a much more imposing mountain-arm, and out of it numerous side-glens issue, the upper reaches of which appeared to be a long way from our line of march.

From the little saddle or pass (alt. 5,107 m.) we descended into the main glen, which makes its way west with slight windings. The running water, however, occupied then only a fraction of the breadth of the bed. The ground underfoot was moist all the way across, and whilst it did indeed bear, it yet »wobbled» alarmingly under the weight of the camels. When this glen at length grew too narrow, we turned from it to the right and made our way north-west across open, broken ground. The mountain-range which we had hitherto had on our left (fig. 111) continued onwards towards the west, and in the same direction the river also became lost to sight; probably it empties sooner or later into some lake. On the other hand the mountain-range which we had had on our right came here entirely to an end. To the north of it are a couple of large ranges, running from east to west, and far away to the north a snowy range, probably the range at the southern foot of which we made Camp XXVIII. The country was flat and level for an immense distance towards the N. 30° W. The surface consisted of nothing but soft red sand, with little knobs of sandstone sticking up through it here and there. A sprinkling of grass. Camp XLIX was situated beside a tiny freshwater pool, at an altitude of 4,903 m.

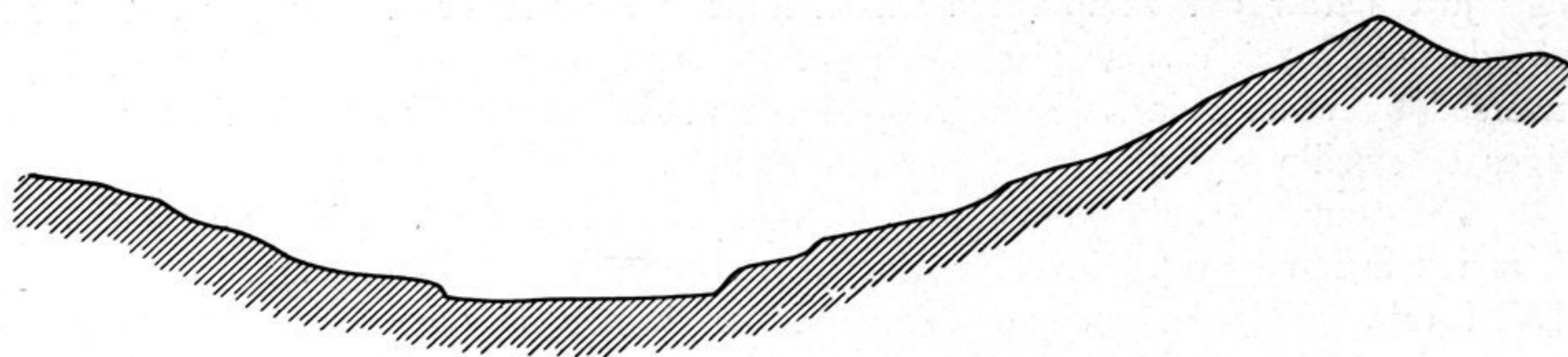


Fig. 111. VERTICAL SECTION OF THE VALLEY.

In the lower part of the main watercourse there was red sandstone dipping 60° W. and this dip appeared to predominate throughout the day, though the colour of the sandstone sometimes changed to light green. As a rule the rock only crops out in the faces of the eroded terraces, more seldom out of the soft, level ground. Apart from this there was no hard rock, unless it were higher up nearer the summits of the ranges, which it would have cost us a great effort to reach. Here and there were loose fragments of a rather fine conglomerate.

September 14th. For a short distance the ground still continued to be broken. Here were two small brooks, running west-south-west, and probably uniting with the principal river of the day before. The nearest mountains on the south were low. Due east was a large snowy range, which appeared to incline to the south-east. We advanced towards the north-west, and so approached the mountain-chains on the north. Due east we perceived the terminus of the latitudinal valley which no doubt runs north of the mountain-mass T'. After that the surface became quite level, and often it was impossible for the unaided eye to tell in which direction it