

m. thick, spread out over it perfectly horizontally; its faces are vertical and its surface appeared to slope just a shade towards the north-east. The steep slopes below are littered with blocks and smaller fragments of tuff, which have fallen from the deposit above; and this scree continues all the way down to the base of the ridge, where the grass again becomes predominant (fig. 115).

By utilising a small side-glen, we succeeded in reaching the top of a third scarped ridge, which however is destitute of the protective layer of tuff. The northern slope of this ridge is so steep, that it was quite impossible to descend it directly; but we managed to get down by a side-glen similar to that by which we climbed up it. The bottom of the next principal valley we now descended into is likewise broken (fig. 116) and traversed by two brooks, which soon unite and enter the lake.

Apart from the capping of tuff, the only hard rock we passed occurred near the large pool, where there was a hard, finely crystalline variety, dipping 56° towards the S. 30° W. All the débris consisted however of tuff, fragments similar to the capping layer which I have mentioned. Camp LII stood at an altitude of 4,966 m. above sea-level.

This region abounded in game: wild yaks, kulans, arkharis, and orongo antelopes occurred in large herds; hares were very common and there were partridges on the slopes beneath the tuff.

On the 18th September the country was favourable for travelling, as it consisted of dry, lightly compacted earth, sometimes strewn with gravel of the usual kind, sometimes without it. It was very seldom that we came across a marshy bit. The snow had now for the most part melted away or evaporated. There was a sprinkling of grass almost the whole of the way.

Soon after starting we marched diagonally across two other valleys of precisely the same appearance as the preceding, and separated from one another by similar scarped ridges. Their strike was N. 42° E. It is very likely that all the brooks which flow down through these broad troughs gather into a large watercourse, and that this then makes its way into the lake at the north-east. But the next valley we came to, although running parallel with the preceding, presented a different appearance, being very broad and flat, and having a scarped ridge on its right side only, and this descended steeply to the bottom of the valley. Some kilometers higher up, above our route, this same valley is bounded on the right by the flat-topped mountain-mass B₂, while on the opposite or left side are the peaks C₂ and D₂. These, as also E₂, belong to a smaller range which we had all day on our left, it being the continuation of the same range that we had on the same quarter the day before.

The bottom of this valley consisted of alluvial mud, and between a small lake, not exceeding one kilometer in length, and a couple of pools the surface was rather broken. By this we had reached the foot of the mountain, and then proceeded to ascend it by a broad gently sloping glen, with a marshy bottom and a pool, into which gather a number of brooks and torrents that issue from springs embedded in fairly good greenery. On the other side of the low flat saddle a similar glen leads down to the north-west. Its little brook courses down a well defined channel with grassy banks. Afterwards it turns towards the north-east, and enters