

was pitched on a short, stumpy peninsula, with a surface of hard, white schor. The grazing in the vicinity was miserably poor and scanty; but there was a spring with drinkable water. From that point we saw the snowy peak H to the N. 11° E. and the glen we had aimed for to the S. 1° W. To the N. 83° W. we had the culminating point I of the little mountain that is situated on the northern shore of the western part of the lake.

The salinity at this camp was precisely what it was at Camp LXXXIII, although one would have expected it to be higher, because the latter camp lies so much nearer to the mouth of the stream. The salinity will however no doubt vary with wind and weather. At Camp LXXXV the surface water had a temperature of $\pm 0^{\circ}$ in the middle of the day, when the sun beat upon it, and at a spot quite close to the shore; out in the middle of the lake it was no doubt colder. There was a faint breeze from the east; the winds here appeared to be less regular and decided than in the interior and in the southern parts of Tibet.

From this camp we sounded a third line across the lake towards the S. 20° W., and although we did not carry it all the way to the southern shore, we advanced beyond the trough in the middle. The soundings we obtained were 2.27, 4.18, 6.52, 8.96, 18.75, 19.70, 17.23, and 15.59 m. At this last sounding, a distance of 6 km. from our starting-point, we turned back; the distance from the same point to the southern shore was somewhat less than 6 km. Comparing our three series of soundings, we find that the eastern gave a maximum depth of 19.63 m., the western of 19.70 m., and the middle series a depth of 24.03 m. We may infer therefore that this last line was run approximately over the deepest part of the lake, and that from that point the lake bottom ascends, though very gradually, both east and west. I think it is pretty certain that there is no depth east of the first line we sounded equal to 19.63 m., for it is in that part of the lake that the alluvial sediment is accumulated which the river brings down in suspension; while as for the extreme eastern end of the lake, it is evident, both from the shape of the waves and the colour of the water, that it must be shallow. The shape of the lake renders it probable that to the west of the western line of soundings there is no depth that exceeds 19.70 m., for in that quarter the lake contracts and not far from the little detached mountain I terminates in a shallow bay, with which we shall form a nearer acquaintance lower down, because it was on its shore that we encamped in June 1901.

The number of soundings which I had an opportunity to take in the Lower Kum-köl — 59 in all — is not sufficient for a lake that measures 734 sq.km.; but since we have nothing better, we must make the best use of it we can. Thus we find that the mean depth of the lake is 11.42 m., and this may be accepted as being pretty near the actual figure, when we bear in mind the regular shape of the basin as revealed by the sounding lines.

November 22nd. The lake having been examined, the next thing was to return to Temirlik, crossing on the way over the Kalta-alaghan and the mighty range which forms the westward continuation of the Akato-tagh. Accordingly, leaving the lowest point (3867 m.) in the basin of the Lower Kum-köl, we travelled first towards the west-north-west, skirting round the northern base of the little detached mountain I. This, upon a closer acquaintance, turned out to consist of several small rocky por-