

This, which is one of the feeders of the Tscharklik-su, we shall become better acquainted with in the sequel. The map of the Russian General Staff of this district is very incorrect, neither its hydrography nor its orography corresponding to the reality. It makes the Haschäklik enter the Dschahan-saj, and flow eastwards, instead of flowing west, as it actually does. Its Atlasch-su no doubt corresponds to one of the two western tributaries. And equally imaginary is its delineation of the mountains from which these rivers flow. For instance, it shows two mountain-ranges quite close together, and calls the more southerly one the Tschimen-tagh and the northerly one the Jusup-alik-tagh, and then makes them both unite in a mountain-knot which in respect of position answers to the Schia-manglaj. But as it happens, there is just there only one mountain-range, namely the Ilve-tschimen, which we crossed over at Ghopur-alik. On the other hand the glens of Mandarlik and Külük-saj are entered pretty correctly. Although the Akato-tagh (Ak-ajtu-tagh or the Range of the White Pass) and the Ilve-tschimen are one and the same range, running continuously east and west, they may nevertheless be practically distinguished, the dividing-line being drawn at the low and easy pass which we twice crossed over, in an exceptionally deep gap in the range. From that dividing-line the Akato stretches eastwards all the way to Tsajdam, where it melts away and comes to an end. The Ilve-tschimen extends from the same gap westwards to the districts in which the head-feeders of the Tscharklik-su originate. We shall cross both these ranges again by new passes, and after that I will seize the opportunity to discuss the mean altitude of their passes in general. Between the Ghopur-alik, Camp XCIII, the Paschalik-saj, and the Usun-schor rises the immense mountain-mass of the Schia-manglaj, which appears to form a stupendous compact swelling; it is at the same time a northern spur of the Ilve-tschimen range.

The little range, already mentioned, which is situated immediately south of the twin lakes of Schor-köl, and which we left on the north of our route, is said to form a south-eastern spur of the southern Astin-tagh, and as such it is shown on the Russian map.

From the crest of the lower Astin-tagh several transverse glens run down towards the north, in the direction of the marsh of Kara-koschun. Beginning at Mian-Dschahan-saj, and proceeding east, we find their names are — Avras-saj, which appears to begin in the vicinity of Kum-davan and at Jakube-bulaghi effects a junction with its nearest neighbour on the east, the Julghunluk-saj; Kövna(=Kona)-bulak and Jajlik-saj, which join at Pakta-bulak, a spring reported to be situated midway between Mian and Dunluk-kuduk (where we rested on 1st June 1900); Asghanlik, which is said to terminate just above Dunluk-kuduk; Julghunluk-saj; Dschan-bulak, which is reported to end half a day's journey east of Dunluk-kuduk; Toghraktschap and Kosch-bulak, which after emerging from the mountains unite and form an eroded watercourse; Kurghane-haltasi, past the end of which we marched on 2nd June; and finally Tatlik-bulak, which I have already discussed. It is only after rain has fallen up in the mountains that these transverse glens sometimes carry water; they are all said to be fed by springs, and this will certainly be true, at all events, of those that terminate in the suffix »bulak». But even after rain their waters never advance farther than to the belt of vegetation to which the common