

valley on the north; this no doubt starts in the greatest swelling of the Anambaruin-ula.

After that our latitudinal valley turns towards the east-south-east, and carries the largest drainage stream of the region, namely the Mo-baruin-gol proper. This in the expansion of the valley is as much as 100 m. broad, and is in general bordered by low scarped terraces; indeed it is only at the bends, and where the southern tributary glens emerge, that these terraces attain any noteworthy development. They are frequently clothed with vegetation, and even in the watercourses that are choked with gravel small islands of vegetation show here and there. Higher up the valley the stream is narrower and its containing terraces higher. The southern

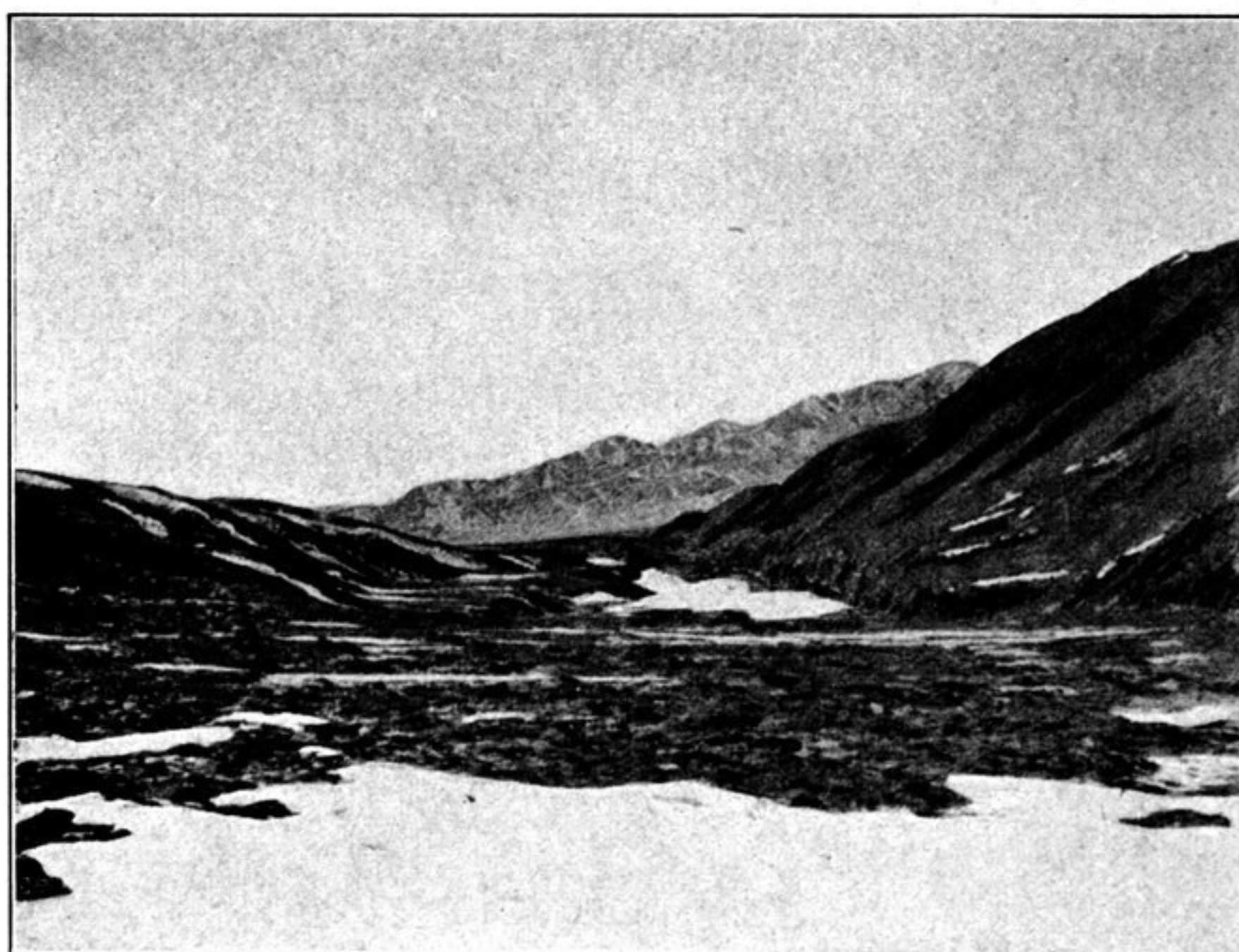


Fig. 265. UPPER PART OF THE VALLEY OF ANAMBARUIN-GOL.

range terminates in a dark, sharp-cut crest, with occasional strips of snow, and is flanked by a confused congeries of rounded offshoots, ramifying arms, and hills, filling the space between itself and the *thalweg*. In and out amongst these wind the deeply trenched transverse glens; they are far more numerous than those of the northern range. The watercourses that issue out of them, having steeply scarped sides, forced us to keep almost all the time to the bottom of the main valley. On the west side of some of these ravines the snow lay as much as two foot deep. A little way up the valley a spring gushed out, and gave rise to a long strip of clear, pure blue ice.

After threading some narrow passages in the valley, we found that it again widened out, and at the same time the eroded terraces came to an end; the northern range grew lower and lower, until it was like a chain of hills rather than a mountain-range. The southern range too decreased in altitude; yet after all it was only apparently that it did so, for it was the difference in the relative heights of the range and the bottom of the valley that decreased. Already it appeared likely