The lake freezes probably in the middle or end of October, unless the formation of the ice is delayed by continuous storms. The conditions under which the lakes of northern Tibet freeze must of course vary, being dependent upon several different factors, such as the absolute altitude, the more or less exposed position of the lake relative to the locality, and its accessibility to the prevailing winds, the area of the lake and its depth, and above all the varying degree of salinity. In a can of water taken out of this lake at a perfectly open spot the areometer gave a sp.gr. of 1.002

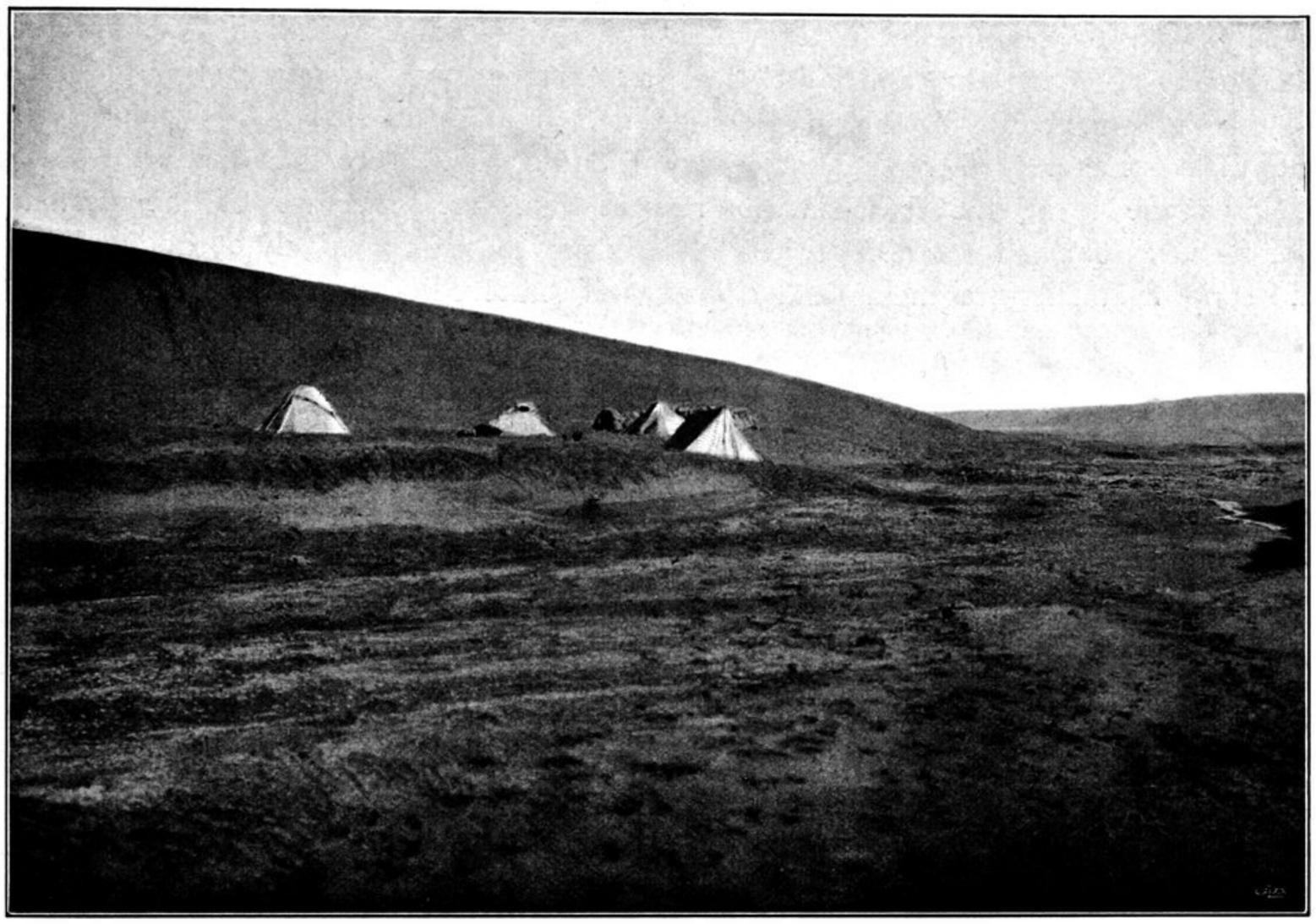

Fig. 347. S 30° W FROM CAMP XXIV. 1901.

when the temperature of the water was + 5.2°. Close to the edge of the ice the salinity was hardly noticeable to the taste; but this was no doubt because the ice was just then thawing. This lake lies 4948 m.* above sea-level, and from the flat plateau-like country around it, I should suppose that it does not go down to any very great depth. I was unable to make any observations with the view of ascertaining the depth owing to the ice, and even though the lake had been free of ice, it would have been impossible to launch our skiff upon it, because of the gale. As the prevailing wind comes from the west, it may safely be assumed that the ice breaks up at that end first; then the wind eats away at the edge of the broken ice, which thus recedes farther and farther east.

When one travels through a country such as this is immediately south of the loftiest and most connected range (that is considering the crest) on the face of the

* The altitude of Camp XXIV (= Camp LXI, 1900), ought to be 4948, and not 4907 and 4990 resp. as in the meteorological part and on the map.