

Auswürflinge aussehen». Anyway there exist in this part of northern Tibet numerous signs of former volcanic activity, although it is improper to speak, as Bonvalot does, of active volcanoes. From Camp XI we saw to the south-south-west two similar small buttes, and the black line on their flat-topped summits showed that they too were capped with tuff (see fig. 426).

August 25th. Still travelling south-east we crossed over three little glacier streams containing water as bright as crystal; these came from the Ullugh-mus-tagh and make their way into the little lake mentioned above. Their channels are not very deeply incised. The surface over which they flow consists of extremely finely divided detritus, which was then wet and sodden. This was the first time I had experience of that particular sort of ground, which is so especially characteristic of high Tibet. Soil and mud are washed down from off the surrounding mountains, which are already severely denuded, and gradually fill up the flat self-contained drainage-basins. In summer the ground is kept constantly moist by the precipitation, but in the winter it is frozen. At all events the strongest tempests that blow are powerless to lift it; all the disintegrated material is therefore of necessity detained in the basins into which it is carried down.

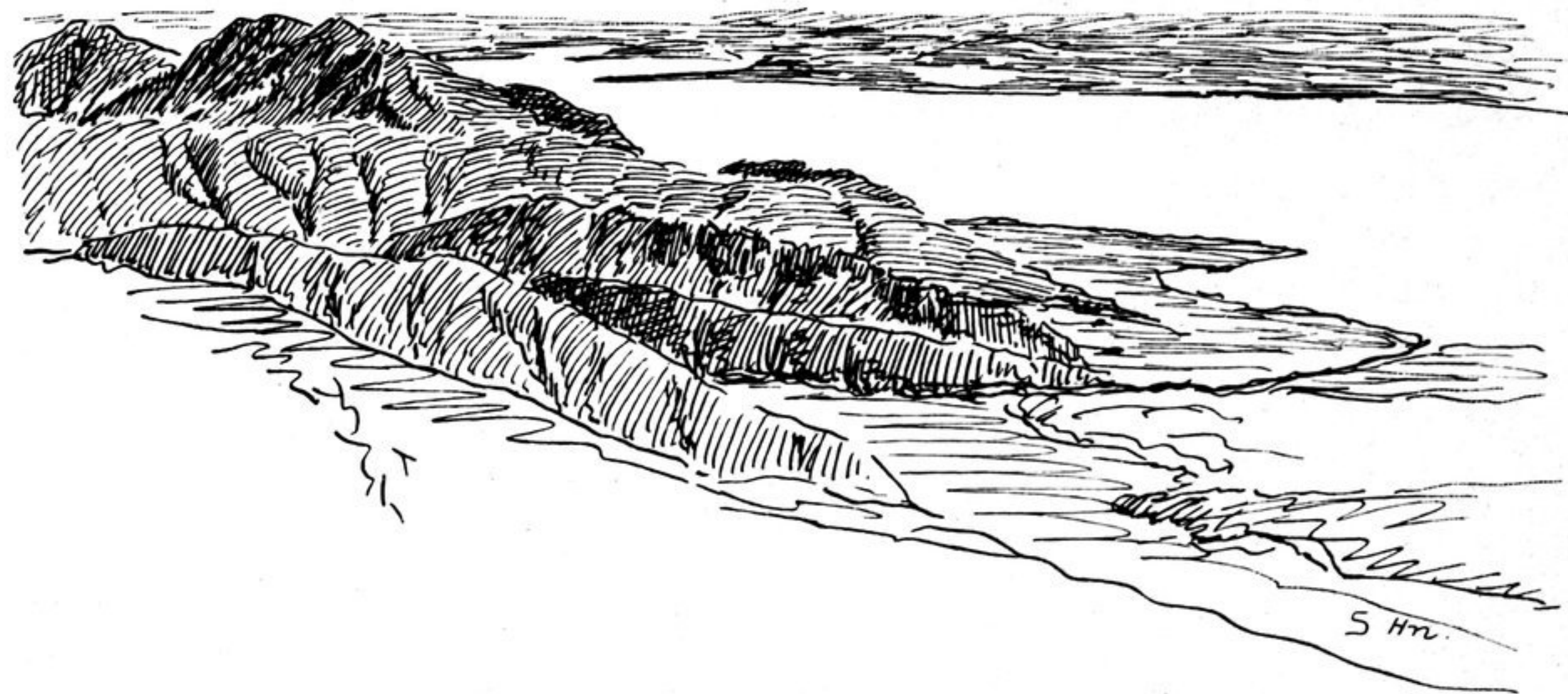


Fig. 427. LOOKING SE FROM CAMP XII.

After getting over an inconspicuous water-divide, we approached a small salt lake, containing clear green water, contributed by several brooks coming from the south-west. I have called this lake No. I and have also used Roman numerals to indicate the succeeding lakes that we found in this latitudinal valley. On the north side of lake No. I there is a small tuff-crowned butte of the usual appearance. After that the ground was much broken, our route running transversely across a system of ridges, between which small glens make their way east-north-east into an insignificant lake. Here the schist had a dip of 23° towards the S. Occasionally there was some short grass. After crossing over yet another small water-divide we forded a larger stream, carrying a volume of about 5 cub.m. in the second and emptying into the western part of salt lake No. II, which stretches east and west. Its southern shore is flat and is dotted with three small lakes. Our camp here had an altitude of 4911 m. and stood about 5 m. above the level of the lake.