

*obo* or *mane* in Ladak, especially in the neighbourhood of Leh. This was in fact the most easterly *obo* I saw that betrayed traces of Ladak influence.

The *obo* in question crowns the summit of a terrace, 4 or 5 m. high, which can hardly be anything else except a former strand-rampart of the Dadap-tso; for this lake, like all its neighbours, is shrinking. What remains of the lake, and it is very little, and almost circular in shape, lay quite close to us on the north side of our route. Its shores, exceedingly flat, gleamed white with gypsum and saline incrustations. To the north-east of the lake we perceived the characteristic crescentic clay

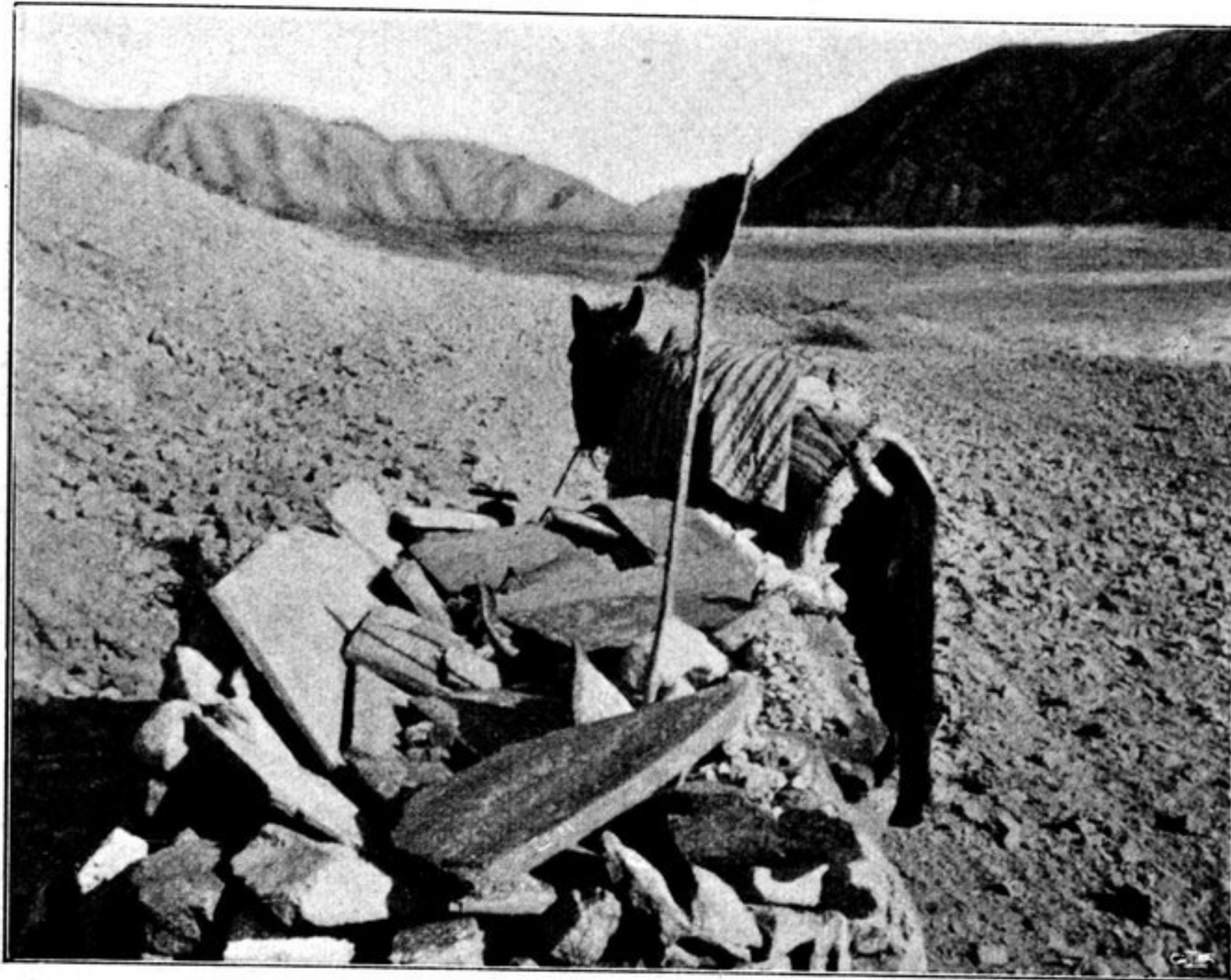


Fig. 110. THE FIRST OBO OF LADAK TYPE.

expanses, yellow, level, and dry, which mark successive stages in the shrinkage of the lake; they are even yet at times covered with water. After doubling a north-going shoulder of the southern range, we came upon a level area of chalky white gypsum, which stretches between the Dadap-tso and the still smaller lake of Oman-tso to the south of it. This gypsum expanse differs from those which we have considered before in that its surface is practically level, without the mound-shaped and pyramidal gypsum elevations that are peculiar to the similar expanse around the Lakor-tso. As the intrinsically quite small isthmus between the two lakes can only be one or two meters above their level — and they may indeed be said to lie at the same *niveau* — it is evident, that the gypsum expanse there has only recently been exposed by the departure of the water from off it, so that wind and water have not yet been able to model its surface. Of erosion one can hardly speak in such a case, for the gypsum expanse is sheltered between the lakes, and lies in a part of the big latitudinal valley into which no river ever finds its way. But the direct erosive action of the precipitation, in conjunction with the effects of the wind, will some day make this gypsum expanse just as rough and irregular as those which