

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE TSO-NGOMBO LAKES.

On November 27th we continued our journey down the valley towards the S. 64° W., but only covered 12 km. After the everlasting sameness of the high plateaus we found the Tsanger-schar a very welcome change and were in no hurry to get away from it. In the morning the wind blew quite freshly from the *east*, the first time for three months that we had started with the wind at our backs. In point of fact it seemed to be only the cool night breeze blowing down the valley, for it soon began to die gradually away, and by 9 o'clock it had quite ceased. It was followed by breezes from the south and finally from the south-west, blowing irregularly and in gusts.

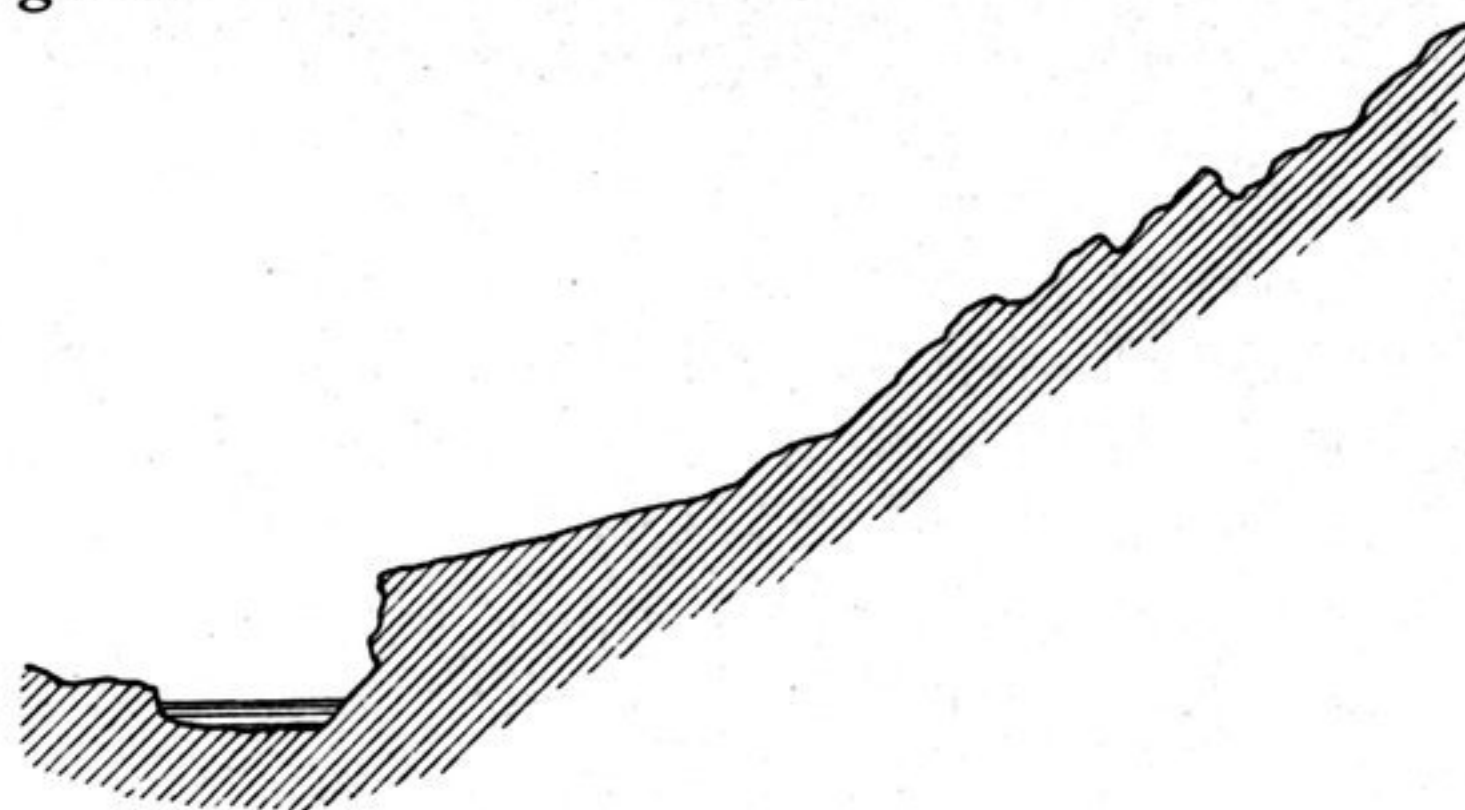


Fig. 160. VERTICAL SECTION IN THE UPPER PART OF THE TSANGER-SCHAR.

On our right we passed the big side-glen; one of its branches, opening up towards the east, presented a perspective of the distant mountains. For a considerable distance we marched along the fringe of the flat gravelly scree belonging to this glen; next the river it consisted of coarse gravel, forming an almost level expanse. Curiously enough, just at this spot there was, growing alongside the stream, a belt of balghun bushes bigger than any we had hitherto seen, their stems being as thick as those of small trees. One would think that here, on a delta of sediment and gravel, they would be less protected than in places where no glen debouches. These are however the only vegetation that exists; except for them the ground is barren, the gravel showing grey and bare amongst the bushes. All the way the