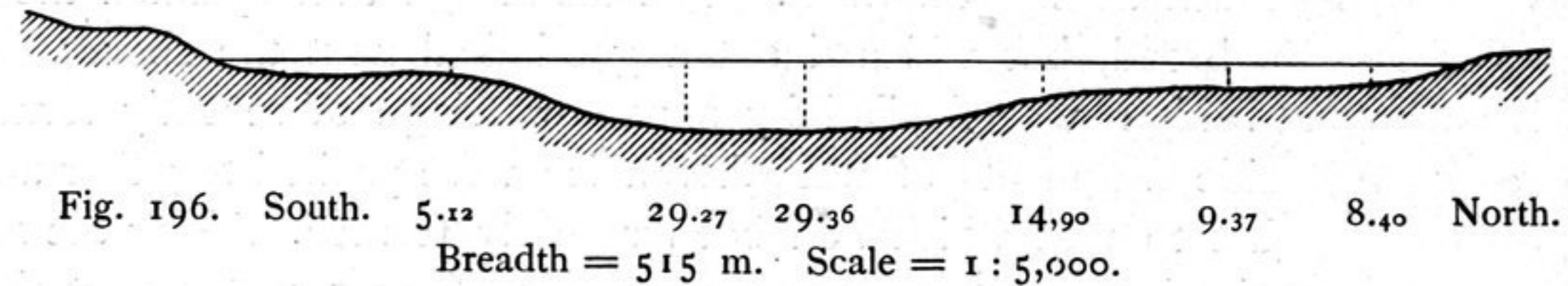
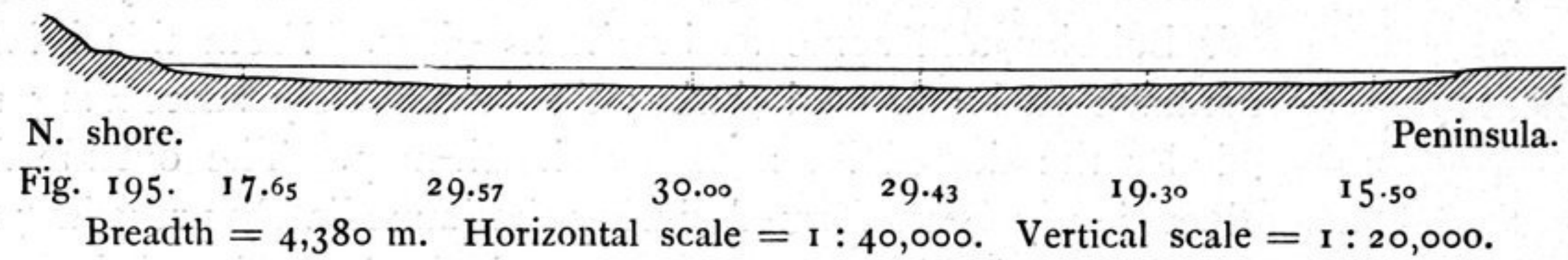


not be noticeable in consequence of the great depth and the relatively considerable breadth, amounting to 515 m. West of the ice-bridge came first a stretch of thin ice one night old; then an area of somewhat thicker ice; then a second stretch one night old; and after that open water, sufficient to allow us to paddle across the lake in our skiff; finally, beyond this open belt, a thin lamina of ice. That the freezing of the lake proceeds in the way shown on my sketch-map is thus due in part to the shelter afforded by the projecting peninsula and in part to the fact that the wind blows from the west. Most of the ice had obviously been formed since the last storm; and during the ensuing still nights all this middle part of the Tso-ngombo became entirely frozen over. Probably however the water above the springs along the southern shore remains unfrozen all winter; and along the northern shore also a strip of water is kept open by relatively warm spring-water.

Unfortunately in consequence partly of the strong wind, and partly of the ice, which would neither bear nor break, it was impossible for me to carry out systematic and complete series of soundings in the Tso-ngombo. It was not until we reached this middle part of the lake that I was able to take three series across it, and thus obtain at least some sort of an idea of its true bathymetrical relations; although it would of course have been far more interesting to have been able to get a sufficient number of soundings throughout the whole of the lake to define the relief of its bottom; for possibly they might have suggested conclusions pointing to a presumable connection between this string of long narrow lakes and a former ice-stream. It is true, glacial scratches or other signs of a vanished glacial epoch were no more observable here than in any other part of Tibet; nor should that excite any surprise when the intense local disintegration is borne in mind.



The first of my three sounding-lines was drawn from Camp CXLI to the southwestern extremity of the blunted peninsula, and gave the profile shown in fig. 195. From this it appears that the lake-bottom slopes from the shore rather steeply towards the deepest part, in which the bottom is very level, the depth being between 29 and 30 m., while the very deepest sounding which I obtained was exactly 30 m. Quite close to the shore of the peninsula the depth amounted to as much as 15.5 m. Possibly there are even greater depths near the southern shore in the tract east of the peninsula, and this becomes conceivable when we consider the annexed