

down from the pass another steep, subsidiary spur had however intruded itself; it really forms the continuation of the end of the crest which separates the pass glen from the glen which leads to Tanksi, but they unite soon afterwards. At Singrul we were at an altitude of 4898 m., and thence we descended rapidly to still lower regions, by following the left slope of the united glen; the path, very steep, gravelly, and difficult, runs high up above the bottom of the glen. Upon reaching the outlet of a side-glen on the left we once more went down to the bottom of the main glen, doubled a bluff, and so reached the station-house and village of Tagar, consisting of ten or a dozen houses. Since leaving Singrul we had descended a good 1000 m.

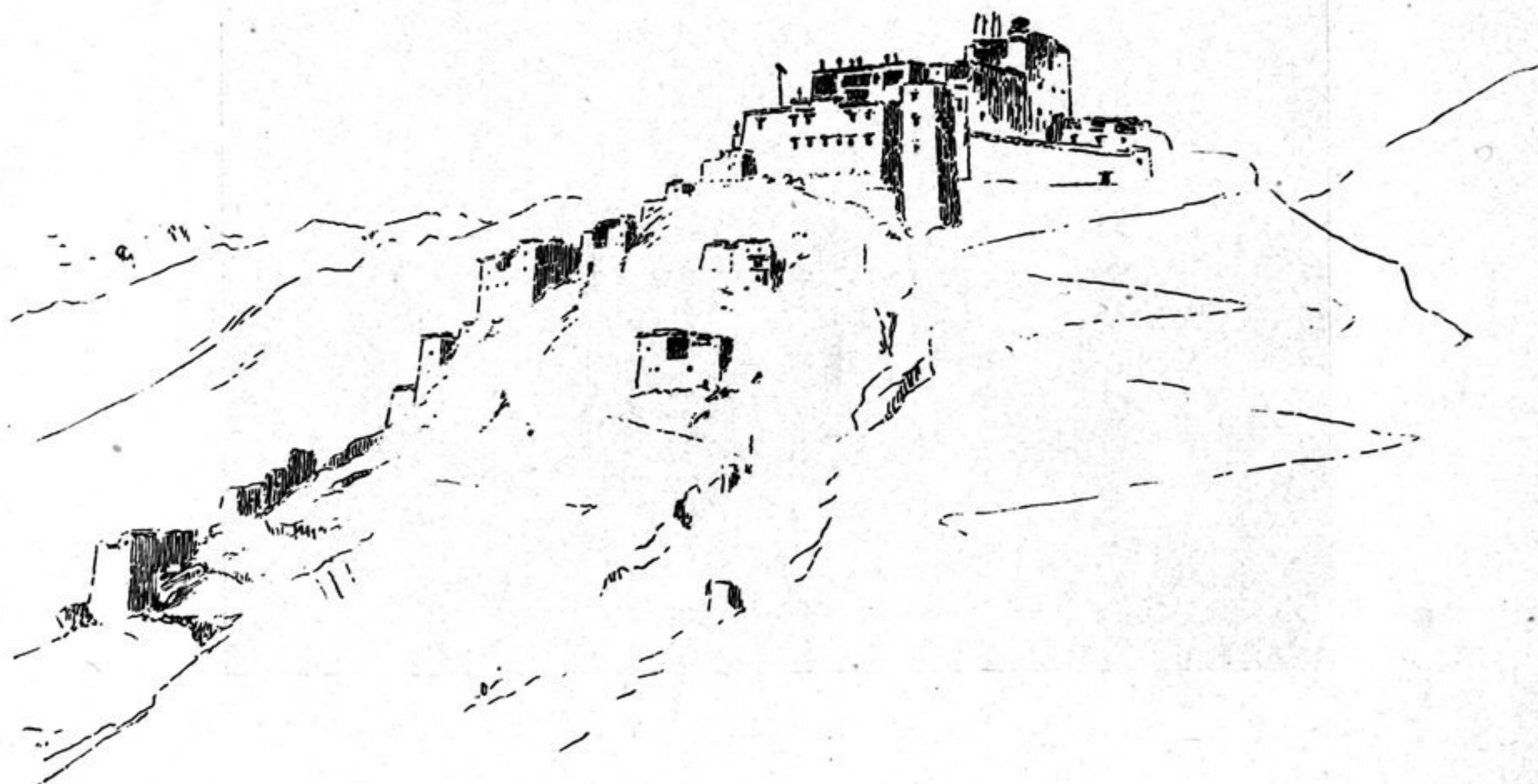


Fig. 276. DSCHIMRE.

On 19th December we continued our ride down the glen, keeping mostly to its left side, or rather on the left bank of its gradually increasing stream. Until we reached Dschimre the path was very stony, though from there it gradually improves, and is better cared for in consequence of the greater amount of traffic. We constantly passed houses, steadings, and cultivated fields. The next village that we came to was Sakti. At Dablung we passed a little frozen brook that issued from springs on the left side of the glen. On the right our glen was joined by an especially large side-glen, higher up in which stands the monastery of Dschagtak-gompa. This latter glen leads on farther to the pass of Varis-la, over on the other side of which lies the village called Tschema-tschungru. The religious stone-kists now became increasingly more numerous; in fact they form quite the characteristic feature of this route, as well as afforded me a fresh interest. Ladak is indeed the land of stone kists; nowhere in Tibet are they so numerous as here. One of the first of the larger type that we encountered measured 260 m. in length and the whole of its surface was covered with slabs of stone, all inscribed with the usual precatory formula. Fortunately for the monks who build up these votive monuments, they