

was fresh-fallen; evidently it had come down during the last two days and nights, and the probability is that an even greater quantity had fallen on the Kara-korum, so that, had we reached it a couple of days later, it would have been impossible to force our way over it. At first the snow lay much deeper on the northern versant of the Suget-dayan than on its southern side, precisely the same experience that we had on every pass all the way from the Sodschi-la. But unlike what we found on the Kara-korum, the quantity here decreased pretty rapidly, so that by the time we reached the bottom of the declivity and the well-defined glen which runs thence towards the north, the snow no longer occasioned us any inconvenience. The northern declivity is fairly steep. The horses scrambled down from the pass at haphazard, plunging headlong through the snow-drifts; there was nothing whatever to indicate a path.

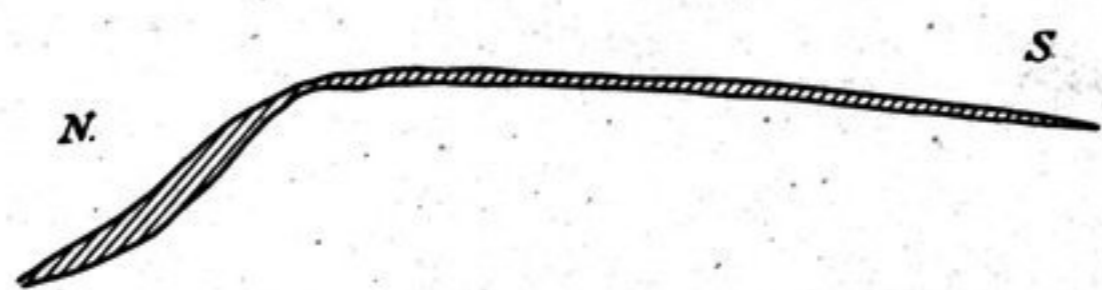


Fig. 338. DISTRIBUTION OF SNOW ON THE SUGET-DAVAN.

The upper part of the glen, by which we now descended at an accelerated pace, is about 50 m. broad, and is bordered by pretty distinctly defined erosion terraces. It runs north-west, without any noteworthy windings. Its bottom is filled with moderately coarse gravel, and at that time possessed neither water nor ice. On our right we passed the side-glen of Kutas-jilgha, coming from the north-east, and just past its outlet we pitched our camp in the bottom of the main glen, where there was any quantity of japkak scrub, so that at least we were able to make fires to warm ourselves at. Yet there was no other fodder for our horses except this hard woody scrub.