

east the more individualized and the more connected became the ranges, and the easier it grew for him to advance along the latitudinal valley which he was travelling in. A map of Tibet showing nothing but the lakes and rivers would alone be sufficient to suggest to us the regional difference in the configuration of the country. In the parts of Tibet which I and others have explored the lakes stretch almost without exception east and west, whereas the lakes in western Tibet are more irregular in shape, and stretch quite as often north and south as they do east and west. Even in the central lacustrine region, in which Nain Singh made his important discoveries, the lakes are distinguished by their irregularity of outline, although the two largest of them, the Tengri-nor and the Selling-tso, incline to stretch east and west. With regard to those parts of Tibet which have not yet been visited, it may fairly be assumed that, at any rate towards the north, they lie in respect of relief and character intermediate between the regions that border them on the east and those that border them on the west. But for the country between Nain Singh's route and the Tsangpo we possess no data whatever, even if we follow Wegener and Grenard and assume, with tolerable certainty, that there exists in that region a vast main range, parallel with the Himalaya, and flanked by several minor parallel ranges, and assume further that there are river valleys and lakes between them.

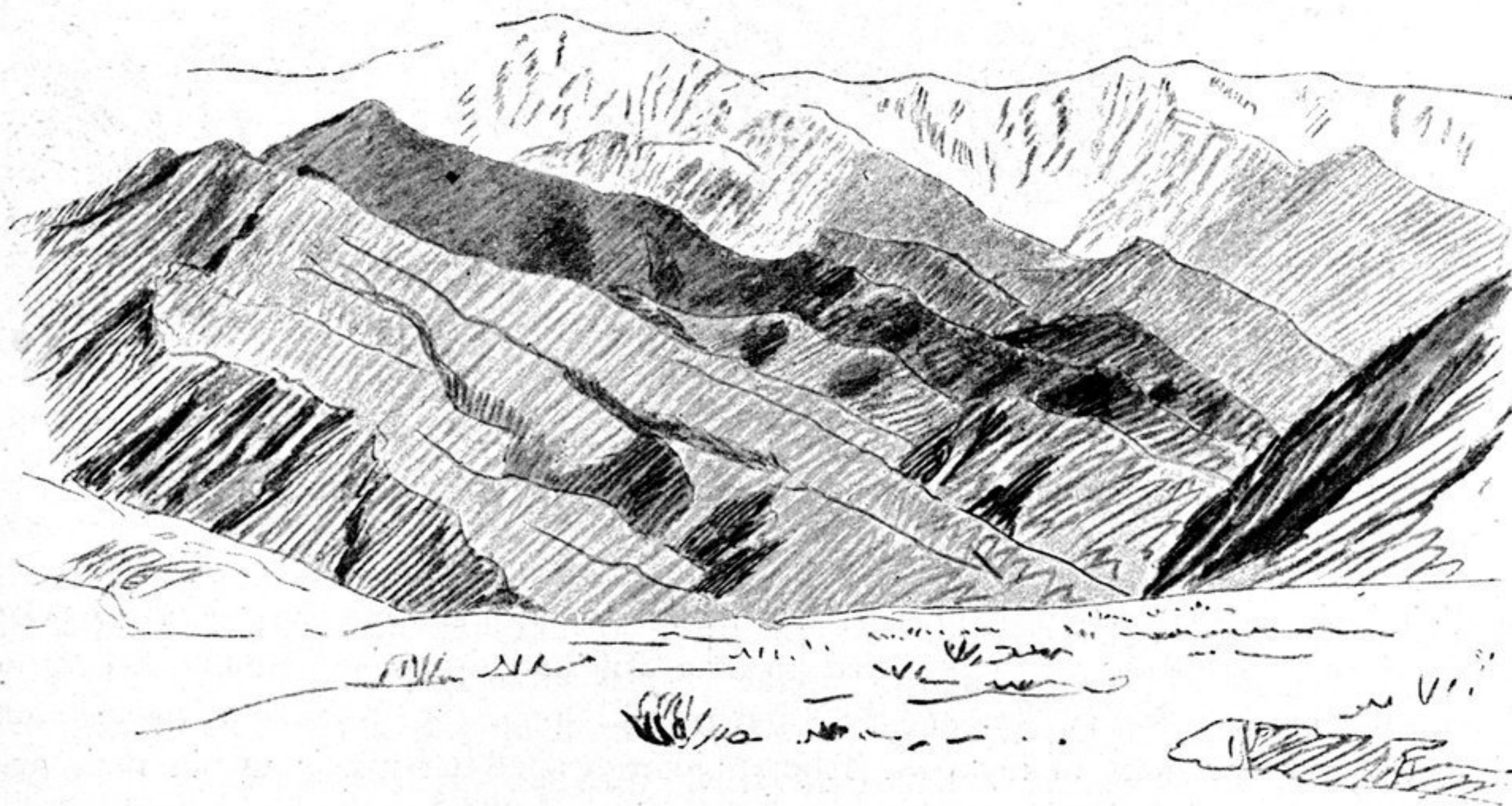


Fig. 356. THE ARPA VALLEY; LOOKING SOUTH.

It is not merely the recollection of the deficiencies that are still incidental to our knowledge of Tibet which has prevented me from carrying out my original plan of making an accurate analysis of its orography, but other reasons of a practical nature have also weighed with me. Before I were in a position to carry out my purpose, I ought to have at my disposal the whole of my own cartographical materials properly worked up; but at the moment of writing Major Byström and Lieut. Kjellström have not yet finished their labours. And I am even farther off