



Fig. 18. The meteorological station at Tsondol

According to the meteorological schedule about twenty readings were made three times a day (at 7, 14 and 21 o'clock). From seven till twenty-one, moreover, the most important observations were made every hour, some even once every quarter of an hour. The hypsometer, on the other hand, was used only every third day.

Four Mongol yurts were to be erected at the edge of the wood, one for ZIMMERMANN, one for MA, one for the Chinese servants and one for MERIN and the other Mongol camel-men.

As our finances were very low we could not leave more than some few hundred dollars behind for the needs of the station, in addition to a smaller sum for YUAN's account when he should arrive. It was resolved that HASLUND, who was a brilliant caravan-leader, should ride back over the seven hundred kilometers to the Edsen-gol immediately after my arrival in Hami, taking money and mail to Station I.

The three who were to serve at the station during, as we planned, a whole year, would sometimes find time hanging very heavy on their hands. Though the one who happened to be looking after the instruments would have enough occupation and to spare, and the little »community» would always find a thousand and one things that had to be done. The countryside, moreover, was the most idyllic we had seen in Mongolia, with park-like woods flanking the broad river. In a following volume a special section is devoted to the strange adventures of the staff of the Edsen-gol station.