

VIII. AMERICAN INTERLUDE

Here follows a very curious phase in the history of our expedition, during which I was out of Asia, partly in America and partly in Sweden. The adventures that fell to my own personal lot during this period had little enough to do with geographic exploration, and they will be touched upon here only in so far as they were directly connected with the expedition and its further development.

DEPARTURE FROM PEKING

My back-ache now left me for a time, and I was able to spend the last few days at the hotel again. On May 13th I left Peking accompanied by HUMMEL, and arrived in Kobe on the 17th. From here we sailed on the 21st on the »President Taft». A radiogram from BOHLIN reported that he had been granted passports for the new members, but that BERGMAN, HÖRNER and BEXELL had been detained in Chuguchaq on the Sinkiang frontier.

On June 3rd we disembarked in Seattle on the west coast of North America. In the course of a stay in Detroit during our crossing of the continent I received via Stockholm the sad news that our Chinese student MA, who since 1927 had served at our meteorological station on the Edsen-gol, had committed suicide as a result of a fit of depression. (Cf. pp. 108—111).

IN BOSTON

On June 10th we reached our destination, Boston. At the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital I was cross-examined for an hour by one of Dr CUSHING's assistants, and the result was to be submitted to CUSHING. When I was received by him the following day he put a number of questions, studied the case-history from the P. U. M. C. and made a thorough examination with HUMMEL, as assistant. And