

## XI. CHRONICLE OF THE EDSEN-GOL STATION

A summary will now be given of the narratives of experiences and adventures that ZIMMERMANN and SÖDERBOM gave me on their respective returns from the Edsen-gol.

In connection with my account of the founding in October 1927 of the first meteorological station, at Tsondol on the Edsen-gol, I have described the plan that was drawn up for the scientific work (cf. Part I, pp. 180 f). When on November 8th 1927 the main body of our expedition had set off westwards for Hami, ZIMMERMANN and the student MA had taken turn and turn about with the daily observations.

The sixty-five camels that we had left behind in the charge of the Mongol MERIN,<sup>1</sup> a veteran from the ANDREWS expedition, comprised a special camp about fifteen kilometers from the station.

HUMMEL's medical services had been much in demand during his stay at the Edsen-gol, and ZIMMERMANN was afterwards obliged to take over the "practice". Mongols and Chinese with syphilitic sores, skin diseases, tumours, bone-fractures, trachoma and many other complaints came to the station and were treated according to the instructions that HUMMEL had left behind. Patients often returned with milk, cheese or other goods in lieu of fee. In this way ZIMMERMANN gained the confidence of the natives.

On December 1st a little caravan arrived from the south. When crossing the river one of the camels sank through the ice so that only his head was visible. Our people hurried up to lend a hand, and found to their delight that the new arrival was our long-lost Professor YUAN, who had at last turned up. This was a bright spot in the history of the station; but as YUAN was in a hurry to catch up with the main body in Hami he stayed for only two days.

### TROUBLE BREWING

Not long afterwards a rather different occurrence gave them quite other things to think about. Like a bolt from the blue came a messenger from the Torgut

<sup>1</sup> This is not his name, but his title, derived from Manchu *meiren* = fogleman. F. B.