



Fig. 8. A branch of the Edsen-gol in summertime

SUMMER

ZIMMERMANN built a poultry-house, which soon aroused the interest of passing birds of prey. But the hens and chickens were well protected, and ZIMMERMANN was now plentifully supplied with eggs.

In June the heat was unbearable. The river-bed dried up, and only here and there in the deeper places were there still some pools left. In one of these our hermit used to bathe, in water at a temperature of over 30° C. Gnats and mosquitoes were a plague, and great spiders, scorpions and myriads of other creeping things swarmed about on the ground. Worst of all were the snakes, that during the warmest period literally invaded the camp. On one occasion ZIMMERMANN killed three of these beasts in his yurt. Every night before turning in he used to go a-hunting in his yurt, killing all the vermin that had crawled or flown in.

At last, on June 16th, SÖDERBOM and MA returned, and ZIMMERMANN's hermit existence came to an end. Meanwhile, SÖDERBOM related the wonderful experiences that had befallen him in his absence.

SÖDERBOM's ADVENTURES IN KANSU

On his arrival in Suchow SÖDERBOM became uneasy as to the fate that awaited the station, for MA had been taken from Suchow to Lanchow, situated at a distance of about 650 kilometers from the former town. SÖDERBOM requested to be allowed to speak with the Civil Governor, but the latter refused to receive him. However, SÖDERBOM succeeded in getting hold of his man in the street, only to be told that