

XV. ANOTHER SIX MONTHS IN PEKING

The journey to Jehol and back turned out much cheaper than we had calculated before the start. On the other hand, it proved that the temple-copy would cost considerably more than we had at first thought; but then it was not a question of any plain and simple temple-structure, but of a colourful and stately pavilion, with all the overwhelming wealth of detail and functional or ornamental wood-carvings characterizing Chinese architecture. Mr LIANG, our architect, returned to Peking one day later than we. His painters, who were to copy all the ornaments and figure-paintings, were now making reproductions of all the patterns with colours, and would be staying on in Jehol for a couple more weeks. The drawing of the plans and taking of measurements in the Golden Pavilion had been completed while we were still there.

NEWS FROM OUR WORKERS IN THE FIELD

In Peking we found everything in the best of order in our comfortable Chinese house, where we were greeted by pleased servants and our wildly excited dogs. In the once more stationary headquarters there was now a greater pressure of urgent work than ever before. During the journey to Jehol piles of post had accumulated, and a number of important letters calling for immediate reply had arrived from the members of the expedition who were working in the interior.

NORIN and AMBOLT, as well as our three Chinese members, YUAN, HUANG and TING, were farthest away from Peking, being dispersed in different places in Sinkiang. The Gobi-group, consisting of BERGMAN, BEXELL, BOHLIN, HÖRNER, CHEN and FRIIS-JOHANSEN, were working in several different sections in the vicinity of the Edsen-gol. HUMMEL and BÖKENKAMP were in the Tebbu country on the frontier between Kansu and Tibet. The latter two, especially, had had some rather exciting adventures with robbers; but thanks to his medical qualifications HUMMEL had been able to cope with these difficult situations, and had even achieved great popularity among the wild inhabitants of the frontier country. In