

CHAPTER XIII

JYE-KUNDO TO CHAMDO

JYE-KUNDO or Chieh-ku in Chinese is officially called Yü-shu-hsien, pronounced locally Yü-fu. Yü-shu, meaning "jade tree", is evidently taken from a Tibetan name. The Tibetans in these parts are of the Gaba tribe and appear to be a very mixed race, unlike the Mongols or the fine types of Aryan and Lolo at Ta-chien-lu. They are short, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, with almond eyes, sunken cheeks, long unkempt hair, snub, hooked or aquiline noses, long moustaches at the end but no hair under the nose and hairless lips. They dress usually in long cloth coats with trousers tucked into long cloth boots, the upper part usually red or red and blue; and wear no head covering.

The Monastery of Jye-kundo stands on the saddle of a 200-foot spur, about half a mile to the north end of the city. Three hundred lamas and "huo-sheng" of the red sect live here and are presided over by an abbot (khem-po), who is sent from the Sakya Monastery south-west of Shigatse in Tibet and changed every two or three years. All houses in Sakya monasteries, as at Hsiu-Gomba, are painted in slate colour, with red