

known. The *Ši yao er ya*¹ gives a number of synonymes of Chinese origin, as *kin tsei* 金賊, *č'i ša* 赤砂 ("red gravel"), *pai hai tsin* 白海精 ("essence of the white sea").

Sal ammoniac is found in Dimindān in the province of Kirmān. Yāqūt (1179–1229) gives after Ibn al-Faqīh (tenth century) a description of how *nušādir* is obtained there, which in the translation of C. BARBIER DE MEYNARD² runs as follows:—

"Cette substance se trouve principalement dans une montagne nommée Donbawend, dont la hauteur est évaluée à 3 farsakhs. Cette montagne est à 7 farsakhs de la ville de Guwašir. On y voit une caverne profonde d'où s'échappent des mugissements semblables à ceux des vagues et une fumée épaisse. Lorsque cette vapeur, qui est le principe du sel ammoniac, s'est attachée aux parois de l'orifice, et qu'une certaine quantité s'est solidifiée, les habitants de la ville et des environs viennent la recueillir, une fois par mois ou tous les deux mois. Le sulthan y envoie des agents qui, la récolte faite, en prélèvent le cinquième pour le trésor; les habitants se partagent le reste par la voie du sort. Ce sel est celui qu'on expédie dans tous les pays."

Ibn Haukal describes the mines of Setrušteh thus:³ "The mines of sal ammoniac are in the mountains, where there is a certain cavern, from which a vapor issues, appearing by day like smoke, and by night like fire. Over the spot whence the vapor issues, they have erected a house, the doors and windows of which are kept so closely shut and plastered over with clay that none of the vapor can escape. On the upper part of this house the copperas rests. When the doors are to be opened, a swiftly-running man is chosen, who, having his body covered over with clay, opens the door; takes as much as he can of the copperas, and runs off; if he should delay, he would be burnt. This vapor comes forth in different places, from time to time; when it ceases to issue from one place, they dig in another until it appears, and then they erect that kind of house over it; if they did not erect this house, the vapor would burn, or evaporate away."

Taxes are still paid in this district with sal ammoniac. Abu Mansur sets forth its medicinal properties.⁴

¹ See Beginnings of Porcelain (this volume, p. 115).

² Dictionnaire géographique de la Perse, p. 235 (Paris, 1861). Ibn al-Faqīh's text is translated by P. SCHWARZ (Iran im Mittelalter, p. 252). According to Ibn Haukal (W. OUSELEY, Oriental Geography of Ebn Haukal, p. 233), sal-ammoniac mines were located in Maweralnahr (Transoxania).

³ W. OUSELEY, *op. cit.*, p. 264.

⁴ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 144.—ABEL-RÉMUSAT (Mélanges asiatiques, Vol. I, p. 209, 1825), translating from the Japanese edition of the cyclopædia *San ts'ai t'u hui*, gave the following interesting account: "Le sel nommé (en chinois)