CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE TSO-MORARI COMPARED WITH THE MANASAROVAR.

In his article quoted above: *Observations on the Spíti Valley and circumjacent country within the Himaláya*,[1] Dr. J. G. GERARD compares the hydrography of the Manasarovar with that of the Chumoriri or Tso-morari, and it may be of some interest in this connection to make a short review of the history of the latter lake as reported by a few prominent travellers from different epochs.

Gerard found that the Tso-morari had no passage outward, though it was fed by considerable streams. In the dry atmosphere the evaporation would be sufficient to graduate the marginal limit of Tibetan lakes to the extent of 4 or 5 feet. Gerard travelled one day along the lake and camped at its eastern extremity. He saw no watermark above 5 feet. His visit fell at the end of September, so he considered the 5 feet as the limit of fluctuation, a circumstance which had been »assumed by theorists in regard to Manasarovar as proving the reverse of what Mr. Moorcroft asserted, or that there must be a drain from the waters of the lake». The Tso-morari had no efflux either, and evaporation preserves the balance; he found it more surprising that any water should remain at all, than that no outward communication should exist. In spring the torrents from the surrounding mountains cause the surface of the lake to rise to its maximum limit. By the end of August the lake has sunk to its lowest depression. »Mánasarovara is precisely similar, but upon a much larger scale in respect to the volume of its waters, its elevation and magnitude of the scenes around it. The water is well tasted, which would seem to argue some outlet, which the oral accounts of the Lamas would confirme to be that of the Satlej; . . . the waters of Lake Chumorerîl (as might be expected from their having no drain) are unfit to drink, though barely differing in taste from that of running streams.»

Captain ALEXANDER GERARD, on the other hand, says the Tso-morari has an outlet: »The Lee or Speetee river is formed of two large branches that unite below

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[1] Asiatic Researches, Part II, Vol. XVIII, 1833, p. 259.