

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE FIFTH CROSSING.

The meridional line of depressions situated along $86\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East. long., and including Tang-yung-tsaka, Dangra-yum-tso, the valley of lower Targo-tsangpo and Shuru-tso, may in some respects be regarded as a very sharp orographical boundary line in the central part of Transhimalaya. The mountain ranges east and west of that line are without any connection with each other. To the east of the line latitudinal ranges prevail; to the west the Targo-gangri and Shuru range are meridional and belong to the highest of the whole system. Only south of the Shuru-tso there is, undoubtedly, a direct connection between the Pabla and the Kanchung-gangri.

So far we have considered my four eastern crossings of the Transhimalaya. Comparing the four water-parting passes with each other we find that they become lower from west to east: Sangmo-bertik-la = 5 820 m, Angden-la = 5 643 m, Chang-la-Pod-la = 5 573 m and Sela-la = 5 506 m. Then follows Khalamba-la with 5 200 m. This is, however, a mere chance, for were the heights of all the intermediate passes known, we should certainly find many irregularities, and if we continue eastwards the Guring-la has 5 972 m, and is higher than all the others. Continuing westwards from Sangmo-bertik-la we shall again find the passes becoming lower. All my four eastern lines cross the continental water-parting in passes situated on the crests of ranges. So is also the case with the three last passes farthest west: Surnge-la, Tseti-lachen-la and Jukti-la. Only the fifth pass, Samye-la, proves an exception as being situated between two ranges, not on the crest of one range.

My fifth line of crossing begins at Chunit-tso, Camp 371, 4 747 m high, and comes to an end at Ushü, Camp 395, near the Tsangpo, and 4 563 m high. Only the northern half of the line is meridional, the southern runs N.W.—S.E. as dictated by the direction of the ranges. The culminating point is the Samye-la, 5 527 m high. The difference in height between Chunit-tso and Samye-la is 780 m at a distance of 113,6 km in a straight line, and 125,7 km along my road; the difference between the Samye-la and Ushü is 964 m at a distance of 101,5 km in a straight line, and 163,6 km along my road.

The time of year in which this journey was undertaken was April, 1908.

From Camp 371, where the brook of Lungnak-bup-chu goes out into Chunit-tso, our road proceeds straight south on the arid plain at the western shore of Chunit-