

are visible with stretches of snow. The ground is full of gravel, the living rock is lava.

At Camp 239, Gyamboche, the height is 4 804 m. On the next section of the road the country is very flat, with small undulations here and there. The valleys are broad, with a fall hardly noticeable to the eye. The hills are either rounded, full of detritus, or rocky and sharp, but always very advanced in decay. All the mountains are low and flat, only Jau-taka to the N.E. is a more dominant height; the rock consists of lava. As a rule the ground falls to the west where a great plain extends. A little depression is called Jambu-tumba-ka with a pool with many *mani* walls. The ground is hard yellow clay with fine gravel; the height is only 4 620 m. Nothing is seen but hopeless aridity, and desolate rocks and hills in all possible colours.

Mugum-gomkor is a salt pool. At the foot of a little ridge of hills with fresh water-springs there is some grass. To the N.W. is one of the roads to Tok-jalung beyond a mountain, Yeran-tombo. At Camp 240 the height is 4 624 m; the rock south of the camp is phyllitic schist. The place is situated at the southern shore of a little brackish lake, Mugu-nirma-gyam or simply Nirma-gyam-tso; immediately west of it is a somewhat bigger lake, Mugu-tanä-tso, or, as other informants called it, Nyanda-nakpo-tso, both very shallow. The mountains to the N.N.E. are called Mugu-margyam; to the north there is said to be a pass, Nomra-la, with Gegi-gompa beyond it.

The Mugu lakes are situated in an extremely flat depression like an extensive plain; they are surrounded with grass and some fresh springs. Outside of the grass belt the soil is arid as usual. From the south enters the valley Gyekung-hloma, from the N. 80° E. Gyekung-sherma, to which our road leads. This valley is bounded by limestone rocks; there is a little brook; the rise is gradual; Camp 241, or Gyekung, is at 4 802 m. North of this place is a pass called Gyekung-la, and to the east, very near, is Nima-lungchen-la, east of which is the district Yumba-matsen with a chief residing at Tavän or Tavä-nanak. From the eastern side of Nima-lungchen the water is said to flow to a little salt lake, Gomo-tso, three days away.

The *Gova* of Yumba-matsen is said to be chief of 45 tents. The seventh crossing of the Transhimalaya goes through a very thinly populated country. Leaving Diripu-gompa and the pilgrims' road around Kailas, one very seldom sees even travellers. But there are often *mani*-walls, sheep-folds and camping grounds, the latter mostly used by traders and pilgrims.

The animal life was represented by numerous kyangs round the small lakes. Wild geese were common on and near the lakes. Sometimes partridges and ravens were seen. At Tseti-la appeared the *Arctomys*. At the source of the Indus and round Lamo-latse-la we saw herds of *Ovis Ammon*. Once the track of a wild yak was seen.