

CHAPTER XLI.

THE ROAD TO PORU-TSO.

The Lunkar valley is rather narrow and has a considerable rise; its bottom is covered with tussock grass and granite gravel; the brook follows the left hand mountains. Lunkar-la, situated in quartzite, has a height of 5 570 m. Ascending a hill close to the pass one has a beautiful view over the Tarok-tso; the mountains visible to the N.W. are Panglung-ri. To the N. 20° — 26° E. the yellowish white basin of Tabie-tsaka is clearly visible beyond the very low ridge of Elung-ri; N. 26° E. the pass Gongdong-ngopta-la may be seen. The Tabie-tsaka is practically simply a bed of salt deposits, and my guide pretended it could be walked round in half a day. The salt is said to stand on a bed of clay, and only in some places does water pour up as springs. The Tarok-tso, on the other hand, looks large, even if it be an exaggeration to say that it would take four days to walk round the lake. It may be deep, as it is said to remain frozen only for two months. To the N. 49° E. the Shakangsham is clearly visible. The mountains just east of Tarok-tso are called Chokbo-ri, and to the N. 63° E. is pointed out a pass, Chokbo-la. The eastern end of Tarok-tso appears in N. 70° E., and the mouth of Buptsang-tsangpo is quite visible; to the E.N.E. is a region called Amlung, and S. 79° E. Charko-ri; S. 58° E. is a small snowy summit not far away. To the S.S.W. there are snow-covered, but not very high mountains, over which a road goes to Tuksum *viâ* a pass, Shang-la. To the S.W. a considerable range of snowy mountains is visible, obviously the Surla range.

From Lunkar-la the ground slopes down to the valley Goang-shung at 5 349 m, surrounded by black schists. Where this valley opens out to a plain the rock is again quartzite. To the west there is a low reddish ridge, beyond which a great snowy range, Surla, is sometimes visible. The road continues south-westwards over a great open plain; a valley to the right is called Longlung; a place where nomads are accustomed to pitch their tents is called Devo-utsuk. After having crossed a low threshold one reaches a considerable brook, Gyänor-tsangpo or Goang-tsangpo, coming from a red, partly snow-covered mountain, Kapta, to the S. 53° E. Here, at Camp 426, the height is 5 187 m. The river continues to the W.S.W. and empties itself into the eastern part of Poru-tso. On the sides of the surrounding mountains