

sand and clay. From the landing place we had to go 3.7 km. N. N. E. to *Camp XVII*. The caravan had in the meantime made a very long march along the northern shore, where M. A. Stein had gone. The men said they had rounded an irregular bay to the north. From *Camp XVII* a short panorama was taken the next morning, No. 33, Tab. 6. The peak here visible to the S. 19° W. is the same as the one visible to the S. 69° E. from *Camp XVI* (Pan. 32A). It had also been in sight during the whole trip eastwards.

During the next day's march, on *September 22nd*, we left the basin of *Lake Lighten* and entered the basin of *Yeshil-köl*. The transverse boundary threshold is here twice as far from the shore as in the west, but still comparatively near the lake. The march to *Camp XVIII* was 13.7 km. in length to the S. E. and E. S. E. From *Camp XVII*, which was situated very near the lake and about 5 m. above it, we had 12 km. to the threshold, giving a rise of 201 m. or as 1:60, as the height of the threshold is 5,301 m. From the threshold it is 1.7 km. down to *Camp XVIII*, which was at 5,168 m. or 133 m. below the threshold. The rate of the slope is, therefore, here as 1:13, which may be said to be unusually steep.

There is a belt of light greyish clay along the eastern shore, only a few meters above the surface of the lake and including the terrace which corresponded to similar formations at other parts of the shore. But here, in the east, where the shore is more particularly exposed to the prevailing winds, wind and water had modelled out a curious relief in the clay ground, reminding one of the so called *yardangs* in the desert of *Lop*. It was a labyrinth of cones, walls, tables, and between them, furrows in these layers deposited in the lake at a time when it stood a few meters higher than now. Amongst and even beyond this belt of clay there were a few small and narrow ribbons of black, rotten lacustrine plants. Such had also been seen under the present water surface near *Camp XVI*. They seem to indicate that the lake has been perfectly fresh not very long ago. If this has been the case at only a 5 or 6 m. higher level, the lake must have had a subterranean outlet to the west or east, more probably to *Lake Yeshil-köl*, which now is 150 m. below *Lake Lighten*. If the surface of the lake by its sinking reaches some impermeable strata, the outflow will be cut off and the water becomes brackish and salt. *Lake Lighten* seems to be in a state of development of this kind, though it may be that its vegetation to a certain extent still is alive. Inside the clay belt at *Camp XVII*, the ground was partly swampy, probably the remains of old lagoons.

Marching along the southern base of a small mountain range, we slowly ascend the valley coming from the eastern threshold. In its centre there is a brook receiving very small tributaries from both sides, but now not growing sufficiently large to be able to reach the lake. The bottom of the broad valley has a good deal of grass and yapkak plants. *Pantholops* antelopes were numerous, and dung of wild yak