

the water question is always important in this part of Tibet at the season when all watercourses are dry. In one bed between grassy hills water could be obtained by digging, but it proved to be salt. The ground is now rising gradually, and finally on a slope with very good grass, a fresh spring was found. This is *Camp XXXIV*.

We now had reached the point where we could turn S. E. and continue in that direction for a long way without touching explored ground. To continue to the E. N. E. would have been comparatively useless as Wellby and Malcolm have crossed this part of Tibet. Turning S. E., I would leave behind the regions so carefully explored by Deasy and Rawling to the west and S. W.

On *October 10th* we, therefore, turned E. S. E. and made 10.5 km. to *Camp XXXV*, where the absolute height is 5,033 m., or 37 m. above the previous camp, being an average rise of 1:284. The differences in height are, as we see, extremely insignificant, and in these parts of Tibet we may indeed speak of a typical plateau-land where the destructive agencies of denudation have accomplished their work most thoroughly.

The little brook from the spring at *Camp XXXIV* formed ice-sheets in its bed, which became considerably larger after a night of -23° . These ice-sheets of perennial springs increase during the whole winter. The water in this way becomes stored. In spring or early summer when the temperature has become sufficiently high the whole ice-sheet begins to melt gradually and the little brooks have a period of maximum volume.

The day's march is as monotonous as ever. We go downwards among flat, soft hills sometimes with low ridges of solid rock. After one and a quarter hours, we reach the lowest part, which may be some 40 m. below the camp. Here we are again in contact with the level ground of the great latitudinal valley which we, however, soon again abandon, when we go up along a shallow depression between low hills. Here the rock is light reddish calcareous schist. The depression or little valley leads to a kind of open arena or trough to which several dry watercourses gather from the surrounding hills. There is grass and yapkak. From some places here the high peaks of the *Kwen-lun* were seen for a moment. A spring was found not far from *Camp XXXV* which was situated among rounded monotonous hills.

It is a general and very natural law that it is much easier to travel from west to east and *vice versa* on the high Tibetan plateau-land than from north to south or *vice versa*. In the first of these two cases one follows the latitudinal valleys and has only to cross quite insignificant transverse thresholds as we had done now ever since leaving *Camp II* or for 33 days. The open country from *Camp II* to *Camp VIII* cannot be reckoned as belonging to the latitudinal valley in which *Camps IX—XXXIV* are situated, but it is in direct connection with it. From *Camp XXXV* and onwards as we diagonally crossed the high plateau-land and the innumerable small ranges