

these heavy, dark, brown or reddish dust-clouds were swept to the N. E. Under such conditions every kind of work is impossible.

On *March 7th*, we made 13 km. to the S. E., rising from the 4,663 m. of the nameless lake, to 4,740 m. at *Camp CCCXLVIII*, or 77 m., being a rate of 1:169; figures that again show how very flat the gradients of the plateau basins are. The temperature of the night was at  $-15.0^{\circ}$ . The storm continued the whole night and the whole new day. After sunset, *March 6th*, the air became so much clearer that the upper parts of the nearest mountains were visible. In the night the strength of the wind was not quite as great as during the day. In the morning the air was sufficiently transparent to allow me to draw the last-mentioned panorama. The sky was over-clouded, though the clouds were not thick.

Leaving *Camp CCCXLVII*, the grass soon comes to an end and we traverse hard, barren ground with fine gravel, and flat undulations. The most characteristic feature of the shore region are the six well-developed terraces or beach-lines with flat rounded forms and depressions between them. This lake, therefore, is under the usual law of desiccation. At some distance from the shore, snow-patches were left here and there. Kyangs and *Pantholops* antelopes were seen in a few herds. We followed a path though we could not tell whether it was trodden by men or wild animals. As a rule, I believe that a single path is trodden by wild animals, whereas a road used by nomads consists of several paths parallel to one another, which is due to the fact that the sheep and tame yaks go in flock, not in single file. Just before 11 o'clock a. m., the storm grew to its full force and the mountains which at intervals had been in sight for two days, disappeared, and we were surrounded by darkness. We simply follow the path, and I read the compass. In the chaos surrounding us, we suddenly found ourselves at the edge of extended ice-sheets. We had to cross seven ice beds the broadest being about 100 m. across, and all at the same level as the ground around. The ice-bands came from N.  $52^{\circ}$  E and were directed to S.  $40^{\circ}$  W., obviously indicating a new tectonic valley of this rare direction. The broad belt of ice, clear as glass and disappearing to the N. E. and S. W., gave us the illusion of our standing on the bank of a large river. There was, however, no running water at all, and the ice-sheets had been accumulated in the usual way by a small brook. In the rainy season, the bed may, no doubt, carry a considerable volume of water. Only at one place was some open water, though not running. The bed proper, had minimal terraces, at the most, one foot high. On the other side a ridge of hills became dimly visible, and in the mouth of a little valley where grass and fuel were found, we made *Camp CCCXLVIII*. The storm ceased at midnight. The morning was windy, but the severe storm of the next day did not set in until 10.30 o'clock a. m. I could, therefore, draw the little panorama 430, Tab. 78, showing the contour-lines of the mountains to the west, north and N. E.