

CHAPTER XXIV.

FROM MANASAROVAR TO THE SHIB RIVER.

In Vol. III of my personal narrative, »Transhimalaya«, I have given a description of the last section of my journey in Tibet, from *Camp CCCCLI* to *Camp CCCCLXXXV*, in and along the valley of the *Satlej*, from *Tokchen* to *Poo*, the first station in British India I reached. This description, however, chiefly deals with my personal experiences and adventures as well as with the monasteries along the road. A number of photographs and sketches illustrate it, to which I refer. There now remains only to give a short report of the chief geographical features of the same road, a report which properly will have to be regarded as an explanatory text accompanying the last part of Pl. 24 and the whole of Pl. 25 and 26 of my map. This text is at the same time, a direct continuation from the chapter on my sixth crossing of the *Transhimalaya*, Vol. III, p. 324 *et seq.* of the present work. The first stages of this section of the journey, took me along the shores of the *Manasarovar* and *Rakas-tal Lakes*, and will, therefore, be particularly briefly described, as all my observations on and around the lakes have already been entered in Vol. II of the present work. The same may be said regarding the old bed of the *Satlej* and the relation of this river to the *Rakas-tal*. This problem has been dealt with in Vol. II, p. 169.

At *Tokchen* on the *Samo-tsangpo*, we were at a height of 4,634 m. and travelled down the river, *July 24th*, 1908, to the mouth of the valley where the last good grass was growing and the height was 4,611 m. The minimum temperatures of the nights, were now always above the freezing point with only one or two exceptions. The meteorological observations will be found in Vol. VI. of this work.

The next day's march took us down to the northern shore of *Manasarovar*, the even plain of the shore being bounded by a terrace of gravel. On the plain the grass was very good and thick. Here the oblong lagoon, which some Tibetans called *Ting-tso*, is to the right of our course and is in connection with swamps. It had now changed its outlines since 1907 and contained more water. The brooks,