

The Kondus gorge is even more striking, its portals guarded by the Saltoro spires, vast, smooth-faced granite slabs rising sheer 10,000 feet from the river at Dumsum (junction with Saltoro R.) and culminating in stupendous pinnacles and peaks from 21,000 to 23,000 feet high.

The next great gap in the range is at the gorge of the Baltoro river below Askole, beyond which on the south of the Biafo-Hispar glacier the mountains again attain great heights at Rakaposhi near Gilgit. But while the crest line preserves a great altitude from the Nubra to the Baltoro valley, the minor valleys cut the wide lofty granite mass into blocks containing very many peaks, literally scores, over 20,000 feet high, few of which have been trigonometrically fixed.

The third fold is small if compared with the rest. It stretches north of the Shayok, from the Nubra junction and right on across the mouth of the Hushe to the Thalle-la. »It is of palæozoic rocks, schists and slates, vari-coloured, with some trap.» He suggests that it be called the Saltoro Range.

The fourth range or fold in the series is the Ladak Range. Of the two mightiest ranges in this system, the northern one probably crosses the whole of Tibet, and the Tang-la of HUC may be its continuation, whereas the southern, the Masherbrum Range, may find its continuation in the Transhimalaya. But as I have pointed out before, there is a great gap in our knowledge, and only when this gap in Western Tibet is filled and the geology well known, will the problem be solved.

At any rate the time is gone when the Kara-korum could be spoken of as »a range», for it is no more a range than Transhimalaya. So, for instance, it is not quite correct to say as does Dr. ERNEST F. NEVE:¹ »The valley of the Shigar River leads up to the great mountain wall which is known as the Karakorum or Mustagh range and which divides Chinese Turkestan from Kashmir Territory.»

Dr. ARTHUR NEVE illustrates his article with a diagram of sections from S. W. to N. E. through the four ranges reproduced here as Pl. LXXI. It shows the four ranges, of which the three north-eastern constitute the Kara-korum System, and the one farthest N. E. carries the Kara-korum Pass, which has given its famous name to the whole system. We will have to return to this important diagram at the end of this volume.

Some seven years ago Dr. Arthur Neve published a book on the wonderful experiences of his life.² It is full of interesting geographical and geological problems, and of valuable observation. I must limit myself to only a few quotations.

Of the deep-cut Indus valley he says:

The Indus Valley from Bunji to Chikas is one of barren desolation combined with a terrific grandeur scarcely to be matched elsewhere in the world. Vast as is this chasm flowing between ranges which rise above it for 15,000 feet on one side and 23,000 feet on the other, there is no need to invoke the agency of huge earthquakes or to suppose that

¹ *Beyond the Pir Panjal*. London 1912, p. 209.

² *Thirty years in Kashmir*. London 1913.