

Putting together the nine principal folding-troughs of the Tibetan plateau-land we get the following table:

Kum-köl valley	3875	(I)
My valley of 1896	4927	(II)
Wellby's valley	4895	(III)
The valley of Lake Montcalm—Gore-tso	5012	(IV)
The valley of Lake du sel rouge—Gomo-tsaka	4942	(V)
The valley of Lake Camp XLVI—Tsaggar-tso	4944	(VI)
The valley of Selling-tso—Panggong-tso	4464	(VII)
The valley of Tengri-nor—Nganglaring-tso	4702	(VIII)
The valley of the Tsangpo from source to Shigatse	4295	(IX)

Speaking of the Tibetan plateau-land proper the Kum-köl valley cannot be considered, as it occupies an exceptional position north of the Arka-tagh, and the Tsangpo valley does not at all belong to the plateau-land. The table shows a difference of 548 m. between the highest and the lowest valley. The average altitude of all the valleys is 4841 m., or 31 m. more than the summit of Mont Blanc. This gives a clear idea of the enormous altitude of the great plateau, remembering that we are dealing here with the depressions only, *i. e.* the lowest points existing in the interior of Tibet. Here again the valley of Selling-tso—Panggong-tso is especially conspicuous, being nearly 400 m. lower than the average. The table also shows that the northern, most desolate and absolutely uninhabited half of interior Tibet, in which the valleys II, III, IV, V and VI are situated, is higher than the southern half; the average altitude of the five valleys being 4944 m., whereas the average altitude of the southern valleys, VII and VIII, is 4583 m., or 361 m. less.

The average height of 15,000 feet or 4576 m. given by Sir SIDNEY BURRARD¹ is therefore too low. For even if the Kum-köl trough is entered in the calculation, we get an average height of 4720 m. or 144 m. more.² But in this calculation we have only made use of the lowest points, the depressions of the plateau-land, and not of the convex protuberances between them, which have to be considered when we talk of an average height of the whole plateau. To this calculation we shall have to return in the next chapter where we also shall have to consider the mean altitudes of the mountain systems of Northern and Central Tibet.

¹ A Sketch of the Geography and Geology etc. Part II, p. 64.

² Burrard, however, also reckons the Tsaidam as part of the Tibetan plateau-land.