

CHAPTER LXIII.

RECAPITULATION OF THE OROGRAPHY AND MORPHOLOGY OF TIBET.

In Vol. I, II, III and VII of the present work I have dealt with the geography of Tibet from a historical point of view. I have done my best not to forget or overlook a single traveller or scholar from the remotest times to our own days. Even if not absolutely complete, the material brought together will, I hope, be sufficient to give the student a fairly clear idea of the slow and successive development of our knowledge of the general geography and principal orographical features of this country.

As a résumé or a kind of cartographical index to the history of exploration in Tibet, especially from an orographical point of view, I have, on the accompanying 80 small sketches (Pl. LXXV—LXXXVIII), drawn the principal mountain ranges as they were supposed to run by geographers and explorers of different epochs, all the way from Ptolemæus Romæ, 1490, to Neve, 1910. The maps speak clearly enough for themselves without a text that would only be a reiteration of what has already been said. While the history of Asiatic maps in Europe may be regarded only as embracing five centuries, the cartographical history of the Chinese, as is set forth by Dr. ALBERT HERRMANN in Vol. VIII of this work, embraces 3000 years and more. It is, however, interesting to follow step by step through the centuries the difficult and arduous struggle for knowledge of this remote and inaccessible world of mountains which finally has brought us so far as is shown on the map in 1:1 000 000 accompanying this work.

After having examined the 80 small orographical maps, the reader will have to direct his attention to Pl. LXXXIX which may be said to be the next step after the maps of BURRARD and NEVE. It is a reproduction of the large map in 1:1 000 000, and therefore may be said to contain all the principal mountains known to exist in Tibet. As has been described in the preceding chapters, I have made an attempt to follow the alignments of the principal ranges which, on the map (Pl. LXXXIX), have been drawn in thick, black lines. In the west the ranges, as