



*Kalmuk soldiers in my
camp.*

musical gifts. It began without their forcing their voices, but the notes of the monotonous melody kept rising higher and higher and the last part was sung in a piercing falsetto. In the evening there was again a musical entertainment which consisted once more of the only tune.

These anthropological measurements are anything but appetising. The cleanliness of the Kirghiz leaves a good deal to be desired, but he seems almost aristocratic in comparison with the Kalmuk, whose filth exceeds the wildest dreams of the imagination. It really looks as if they did not wash any part of their bodies from birth except possibly their faces and perhaps their hands, and as if the colour of their skins grew darker and darker in the course of time under these layers of dirt until it acquired the hue of an old meerschaum pipe.

To-day I continued my anthropological measurements. I reached the respectable figure of 34 Kalmuks from the Surgan summun. No one, except the rich, raised any objection to my demand that they should wash before they were measured, It was not exactly a lovely sight to behold about a dozen of these half-naked, ill-developed individuals decorating the bank of the little river that flows past our camp. They found it comical to have to wash off one of the accumulated layers of dirt and as a matter of fact their ablutions were useless, for, to be of any use at all, they should have been performed with soap, hot water and a scrubbing brush. A couple of them — one a youth of twenty — owned large herds of horses, and they obviously wanted to have nothing to do with the cold water. They were waited on by the other Kalmuks, who pulled off their boots and spread a rug on the spot they were to stand on barefoot. Otherwise there seems to be a patriarchal equality among them and outward forms play a comparatively small part.

*May 30th
Kirghiz
camp at
Qarasu.*

In the afternoon one of Nasumbatoff's officers and most of the men left my camp and returned to Shata, where an inspecting officer, who is sent annually from Khui-yu-an-tchen, is expected shortly. The 1500 yurts of the Surgan summun are divided into five judicial districts. In time of peace each district has to provide 24 mounted soldiers between the ages