

horse »tabuns» and these were not large. Many of the horses, even among the young ones, are amblers. They are taller in general than the horses in the Surgan summun and among the Kazai Khazaks, but less deep-chested, though their legs are better developed. They have sloping backs, their heads lack distinction, they are broad and powerful, but rather stiff-shouldered. We dismounted and drank some airan in a yurt which was inhabited by a widow with two children. The airan has a large admixture of water. The Kalmuks use it for making brandy, mixing one part of milk with two parts of water. When her husband died, the widow gave 30 of her 46 sheep and 10 of her 15 horses and cows to the lamas. She slaughters three sheep and one horse or cow every year. The rest of her food consists of watered airan and dried milk products. We passed some yurts decorated with small flags. Among the Torguts this does not indicate a death, as among the Kirghiz, but that the inhabitants of the yurt are willing to be vaccinated. The serum is bought in Russia and the vaccination is done by lamas for a fee, but only with the consent of the Khan. The local population is vaccinated every three years, but complains of the expense.

The road led us across several insignificant streams that carry water to the Ikhe Yulduz from the mountains in the N. About ten miles from the lama camp we crossed a stony river bed, Khaptkha Ulgin su, dry at present, its three arms (145° — 140 , 45 and 160 yards wide) running southward not far from each other. $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles further east the Baintal usun flows in a bed that is 15 feet wide and 0.2 m deep. After a ride of another six hours we again crossed the dry bed of a river. At the entrance to the hills, between it and another dry river bed about 20 minutes from it, there were 30—40 small cairns of boulders close to the road on the right, like those at Dshirgalan. Some of them are constructed with a certain regularity in straight lines that seem to form a right angle, one arm of which extends to the road. They are much smaller than those at Dshirgalan, but probably served as foundations for tents or yurts to judge from their round shape. The water flows later in the summer in these dry river beds, when the snow in the mountains melts. After seven hours' riding the road took us over the Zagan (sägin) usun, 25 feet wide, the water coming halfway up the horses' knees. An hour later we encamped on the Jambe usun, as the Ikhe Yulduz is called in its highest reaches. The men's first anxiety was to collect dry droppings, for here, again, there is no sign of any other fuel. From where the hills begin the grass was good here. Two sumuns of the Torguts spend a part of the autumn here on their way to the higher reaches of the Kok-su, where they spend the winter.

Owing to our starting late yesterday, I had to postpone the remaining 10 miles to Qaragai Tash, our destination on the present trip, until to-day. For half-an-hour the road goes along the Jambe usun which we crossed at a place, where it flows in three arms of a width of 21, 140 and 42 feet respectively, while the water comes halfway up to the horses' knees. We then proceeded along a dry river bed to the SW for half-an-hour, whereupon the road again went in a W direction and took us up an easy slope, the top of which we reached in $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours. On the way we crossed a couple of dry river beds going in a N—S direction. The sharply sloping banks of the Jambe usun and the other slopes and hills that we crossed, are all rather marshy. We crossed several morasses with red-brown soil

*June 20th.
Camp at
Yavur Khar-
gan usun.*