

*December 30th.* The clothing of the Yögurs consists of a sheepskin coat, short in itself and made still shorter by a scarf tied round the waist, so that the bagginess thus produced serves as a pocket. At the neck is a low collar, faced with a piece of red or blue cloth which is often continued as an edging round the coat. The wealthier people cover their furs with dark blue cloth. To the home-woven scarf, which is wound round the waist a couple of times with the ends pulled through, so that they hang down at the back, they fasten a metal sheath with a knife and chopsticks and often a flint and other small objects, secured by a clasp. They do not wear shirts, but often a summer garment, the collar of which, cut and faced in the same way, protrudes from the open coat collar. Their dress, identical for both sexes, is completed by a pair of loosely-fitting trousers of blue Chinese cotton or leather, over which they often wear a pair of Chinese »hood-trousers» of the same material as the under ones, and Chinese top-boots, the legs of which are often lengthened with a piece of cloth and tied with a cord. The women are distinguished by their headdress and their way of doing their hair. The former, made of some kind of stiff canvas covered on the outside with white and below the brim with red cotton cloth, is in the shape of a slightly curved cylinder with a very low, narrow crown and wide, straight brim. It is tied loosely under the chin and is worn coquettishly very much on one side. Their hair is done in three plaits without any hair of »kutas» oxen being added. One plait hangs down the back and has a white bone button attached at the nape of the neck. The other two plaits are worn hanging over the breasts and are threaded through numbers of silver rings ornamented with enamel and stone, of Chinese manufacture. To the ends they fasten flattened copper rings and brooches with engraved designs, threaded on to two wide straps, the whole being finished off with enamel button-shaped ornaments sewn on to broad pieces of leather which reach nearly to the ground. The men wear Mongolian felt caps or fur caps of Chinese or Mongolian shape.

All the household articles and tools I saw were Chinese except the looms which were the same that are used by the Kalmuks and Kirghiz. There is no home industry except weaving and the making of coarse blankets of inferior quality. The cloth and scarves are coarse, but very good. In the monastery I also saw quite good, though very simple joinery work done with Chinese axes, planes and other tools. The knitting of stockings and basket-work are unknown. Weapons, knives and other metal objects are bought at Sining.

Their food is the same as that eaten by other nomadic tribes. It consists chiefly of tea with salt, butter, milk and cream, when obtainable, and roasted flour. On great occasions an animal is killed and soup is boiled. The meat is taken out and distributed and fine slices of beef and lapsha are then added to the soup. They use Chinese chopsticks; if none are available, they break a couple of chips from a log of wood. On the whole they eat decently, though they lick their cups carefully after emptying them. They do not distil Kalmuk milk brandy, but »dziun» is thought a great deal of and is consumed on great occasions by both men and women. The chief meal of the day is eaten in the evening, when the work of looking after the cattle is done. After the meal they sit in a ring round the fire in the middle of the tent and murmur prayers for quite half-an-hour in low tones. It is a very curious sight to watch them sitting in the semi-darkness, the women with their rakish hats