



## LANCHOW

*Lanchow* lies in the valley of the Hwang-ho, closely hemmed in between hills and mountains. In the N mountains come up to it, dipping steeply into the bed of the river opposite the town. A suburb, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile long, has been built on their lowest slope, the houses standing in two rows on either side of the road from Ping fan. At its E end, at the foot of the mountains which are lower here and much less steep, there is a smaller suburb surrounded by a clay wall of insignificant dimensions. In the W, however, the suburb is bounded by a spur of the mountains falling almost perpendicularly into the river. A gate as wide as an arbah has been cut in it — the only ingress into Lanchow from the W on this side of the river. Further E the mountains withdraw from the river, the flat, sandy bank of which forms an open space of  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile in width here. A narrow cleft with steep mountain sides divides the suburb in two. In the E a tilled, flat valley extends, 1—2 miles wide. Close to its NE corner there is a group of impanjes, surrounded by crenellated clay walls. A few single houses, usually surrounded by a few trees, stand further off. The whole of the SE part of the valley is occupied by a cemetery, several miles in length and extending to the foot of the mountains in the S. In the S there are scattered houses on the ground between the town and the mountains from the height of the military school and further W they are built closer and closer to each other until they completely fill the narrow strip of land between the wall and the spur of rock in the SW. Four square towers of brick have been built on the nearest hill. Their size is about 8 fathoms in width and length, 10 fathoms in height, and they are provided with a crenellated parapet and a gun embrasure on each