over a couple of warps instead of a single one, thus composing a band of three-strand twined work. There is a similar band round the bottom. On the inside of the basket this texture looks like a plain twined weaving.

There is still a third component of the basketwork. It is a minute round string (diam. 0.2 mm.) of a dicotyledonous root, almost certainly from an Artemisia plant. This little strand is not used everywhere, but only occasionally, especially for the strengthening here and there of the three-strand twined work. It may be added that this extra little strand has in any case not slipped out of a main weft one, but has been handled fully individually by the basket-weaver. Sometimes it has been wrapped on a warp strand, and there is no other wrapping anywhere in the weaving (-fragment).

It was difficult to find out what material the old basket-maker had used in her weft-strands. It was possible, finally, to establish that a good part of the material best corresponds to the "tsaghan deris" or "white grass" of the Mongols or *Lasiagrostis splendens* of the Botanical Museum. The stems of this grass have been split to form two or more strings to be used together with dicotyledonous root strings for weft strands — also in the three-strand twine. Indeed, as a matter of fact, the clever basket-weaver has used both of these heterogeneous materials together in every one of the weft strands. A whole series of cuts through the outsides of neighbouring weft strands have been made, and one is surprised to see (through the microscope) how grass and dicot. fibres alternate in a highly irregular manner. As a matter of fact a gleaming and glossy grass surface may be seen in many parts of the plain weaving, and dull root surfaces in the three-strand weaving. The wall has a net-pattern made of glossy grass applied on top of the main weft element and showing a marked contrast in colour to this. The result is thus a proof of the simple but good basketry of the primitive Lou-lan people.

In these microscopic examinations Professor G. Edman of the Pharmaceutic Institution has given me splendid assistance and sacrificed much time, for which I give him my sincerest thanks.

NO 38: 13. SCRAPINGS FROM A WOODEN TROUGH.

The principal matter is a non-granular, most shapeless mass of a light brown-grey colour.

If a small quantity of the substance is heated in a test tube in a Bunsen flame it gives off water, brownish tar, and an intense smell of burnt milk. What remains is a structureless black carbon.

The presence of lactic acid in the mass has been proved by the common iodoform reaction and the special Uffelmann test (carbolic acid with dissolved ferric chlor-