

and offer us a brace of newly killed gazelles, showing that they are more expert hunters than my Cossacks, and that they live partly on the chase. We can buy straw and cottonseed. While I am sitting drawing a panorama of the Nigu hill an old man comes limping up and says that he has been ill for fourteen years and asks if I can help him. On this journey also I have, of course, a medicine-chest, a present from Burroughs and Wellcome of London, but it is very doubtful whether it could be of much use in such a chronic complaint. The old man receives a few kran instead of medicine, and is evidently much better immediately.

Chupunun obtains its irrigation water from a kanat, its subterranean course from the south-east being indicated by a series of heaps of earth; the water is conducted to a dam, and thence is distributed by surface channels over the fields. In the night, when the noise and talking have ceased in the camp, the water is heard tumbling over small sills and falls, an unusual and pleasant sound in this dried-up land.

We had travelled 16 miles and 20 the day before, so it was but fair that the camels should rest over January 25 at Chupunun. This day, too, the weather was fine after a temperature of 22.5° in the night, and only a few light clouds floated in the sky. First I inspected the camels, which during days of rest receive particular attention. They are cleaned and brushed every day, but now are relieved entirely of their pack-saddles and are covered only with felt cloths, their humps protruding through two holes. If there is any tendency to galls on the back the sore places are well looked after and covered with plaster, and a hollow is made in the corresponding part of the pack-saddle so that there may be no more friction.

Then I took a walk, with my sketch-book under my arm, to the open square of the village, where I took up my position and invited one after another to sit as models. The men are not hard to persuade; they usually sit quiet and silent, overawed by the solemnity of the occasion, and thoroughly convinced that something highly important is going on. The women are more difficult to manage; they