

have added that the greater the distance from the foot of the hills the more insignificant becomes the fall. Thus I found on the stretch of road from Teheran to Veramin, 34 miles, a fall of only 705 feet; and from Jandak to the edge of the Kevir 787 feet in 20 miles. From Turut to the edge of the Kevir the fall was 358 feet in 9 miles, but from the Kevir to Sadfe 715 feet in about 6 miles.

The fall in the border zone outside the great Kevir is, then, exceedingly trifling. But yet it is everywhere clearly marked, and observations of altitude show that the stable ground round a kevir basin always falls towards its edge. The fine silt deposits which are called kevir are always situated in the lowest depression of a basin. Tietze appeals to the sunken basin form as evidence against Blanford's theory that lakes formerly existed in these basins. But is it so absolutely certain that the slope in the marginal region, of which Blanford speaks, extends right across the whole basin, that is to say, that the fall is the same (2000 feet in 10 miles) down to the deepest part, and that a similar rise then begins at once?

The following determinations of heights give a clear notion of the relief along a line from south to north, from Jandak to Sadfe :—

Jandak . . . . .	3274 feet.
Hauz-i-Haji-Ramazan . . . . .	2556 "
Kevir, February 3, 7 A.M. . . . .	2487 "
"    "    3, 1 P.M. . . . .	2369 "
"    "    3, 9 " . . . . .	2247 "
"    "    4, 3 " . . . . .	2326 "
"    "    4, 9 " . . . . .	2356 "
Sadfe . . . . .	3071 "

We therefore find, both on the south and north, a more rapid fall to the edge of the Kevir, but as soon as we come out on to the Kevir the ground becomes practically level, and the small differences in the barometer readings may very well be caused by atmospheric disturbances. The Kevir has a breadth of 68 miles, and the greatest difference of height observable in this distance is 240 feet.

On the eastern line, where the crossing was accomplished