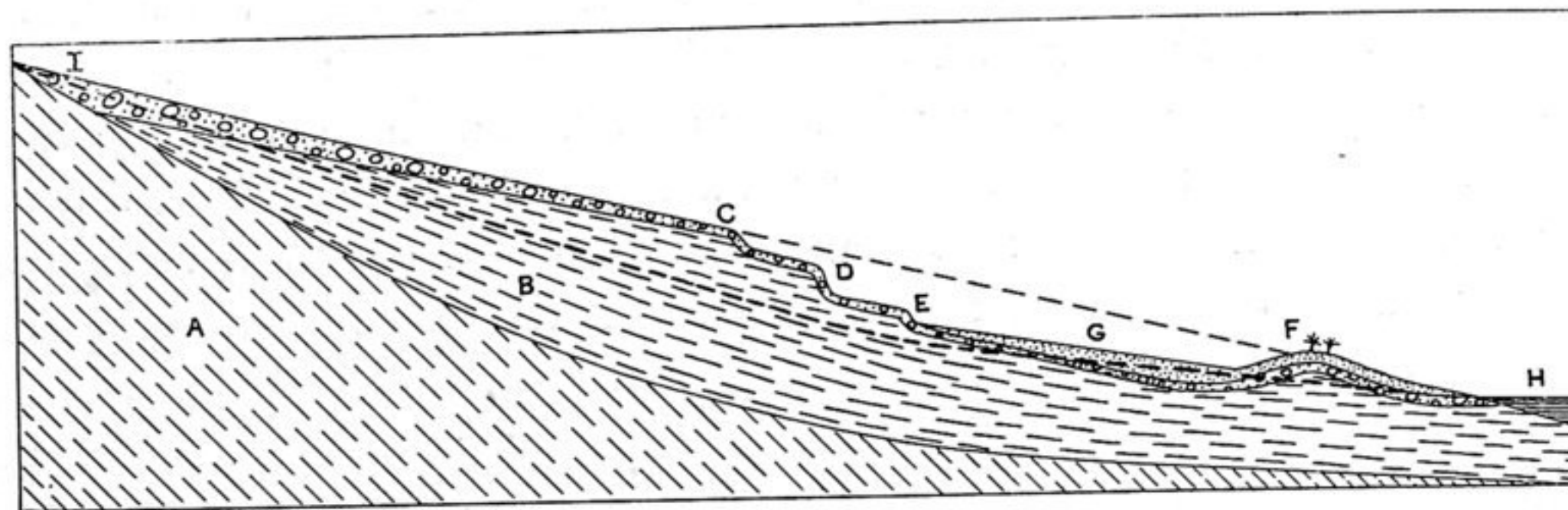


thickness toward the mountains. The gravel extends down the slopes of the terraces (fig. 146), but at the bottom it is abruptly covered by another deposit of lacustrine silt. On the latter there is nowhere any gravel except in places where it is now creeping down from the terraces, or where a stream comes out from the mountains and is now covering its broad flood-plain with a thin coating of pebbles.



A=bed-rock. B=lake silt of 350-foot level. C=first terrace and layer of gravel covering silt. D=second terrace. E=third terrace. F=hill with springs. G=lake silt of 100-foot level. H=lake. I=edge of mountains.

Fig. 146.—North and south section of the plain of Shor Kul from the lake to the mountains at Dungsugot.

In the valleys the lower terraces are not cut in silt, as is the case on the fronts of the spurs toward the lake, but in gravel deposited in the valley after it had been cut below its present depth (fig. 147). The reader will at once perceive that fig. 147 is almost identical with the cross-section of the Ispairan Valley (fig. 144), and will doubtless infer, as the writer does, that both are the effect of a similar series of climatic changes.

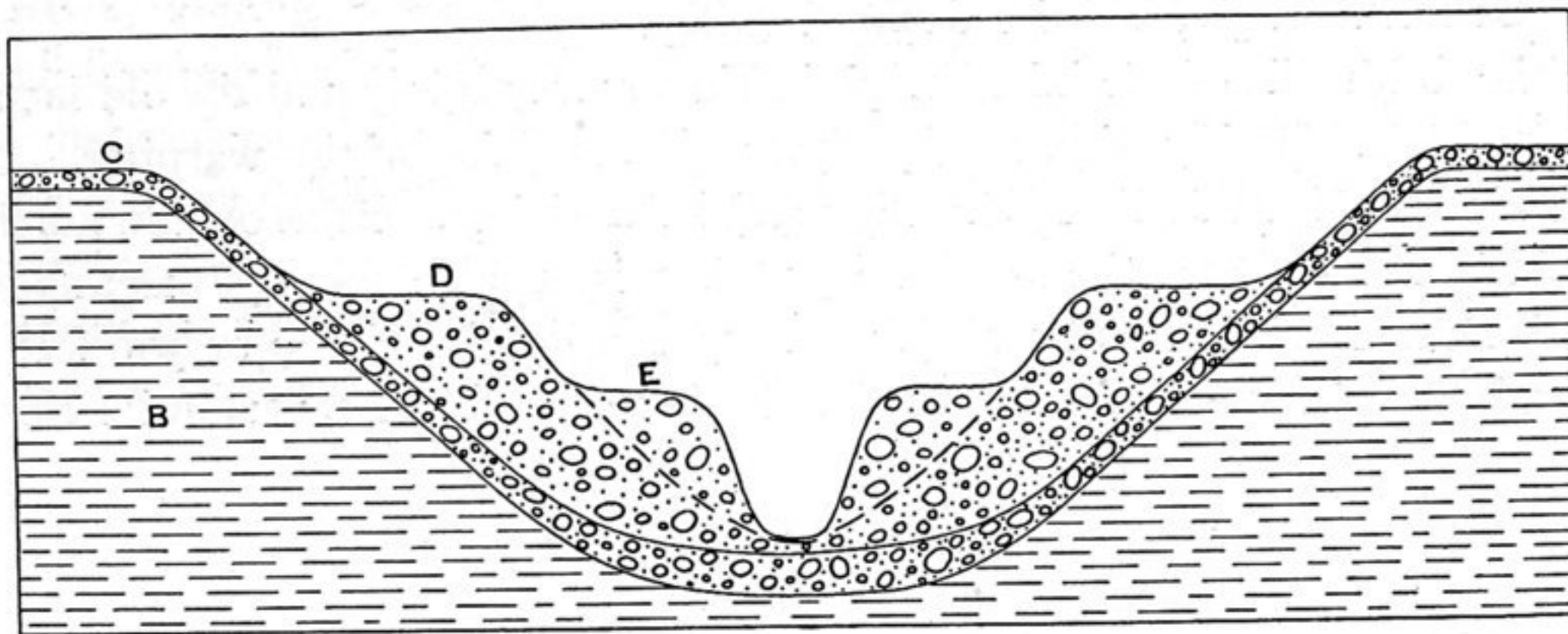


Fig. 147.—Cross-section of a Valley cut in the silt at Dungsugot. For explanation see fig. 146.

¶ All the phenomena of Shor Kul are satisfactorily accounted for by the same theory which explains the old moraines and the terraces. The earliest record of the lake was at the stage of greatest expansion; the silts of the 350-foot level were then laid down. Later the climatic conditions changed, so that the lake shrunk almost, if not quite, to its present size. Gravel at once began to creep forward over the silt, and, as the surface was very smooth, the streams wandered widely and covered the whole lacustrine plain with a layer of pebbles. In time, however, the amount of waste from the mountains grew less under the influence of the changed