

This view was fully confirmed by investigation with the spade; and having established the fact of the slow growth of the hill, the stage of culture development of the builders remained to be determined chiefly through the character of the pottery. It therefore appeared desirable to open all the layers of the hill with the spade.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The excavations began March 24, 1904, with the cleaning out of the Komorof trench and the deepening of its ends, which were somewhat higher than the middle. Starting from the bottom of the trench, two "galleries" were driven a short distance into each wall, opening to this extent the heart of the hill. In the eastern half of the northern wall the east galleries, 5 and 6 feet wide, were opened and in the western half of the southern wall the west galleries, 5 and 8 feet wide. In this way the middle layers of the hill could be examined between +18 and +8 feet.*

At the same time the upper layers on the north half of the hill were attacked by two trenches running nearly parallel to each other. The larger one of these extended from the summit northward down the northern declivity of the hill and was divided into three sections by leaving narrow partitions, portions of the original earth, standing between them (terrace Ia, b, terrace II, and terrace III). This division was important, both because it facilitated the excavation in horizontal layers and because the observations could be sharply defined for each terrace. These terraces have a width of 7.5 to 11 feet and are sunk in the heart of the hill to +22, +18.1, and +15 feet, respectively. The other and much shorter trench was dug with a width of 6 to 7.5 feet on the western declivity of the northern half of the hill (west digging) and opened the middle layers from +25 and +20 to +8.6 feet. In this way a certain relation was established through the west digging between the terraces and the galleries. The separate observations made at each locality would tend to supplement and corroborate each other.

For the purpose of studying the deeper layers, two pits were dug in the bottom of the Komorof trench, immediately adjoining the galleries, these pits having a width of 6 feet and a length of 15 and 16 feet respectively (trench, eastern and western pits). Work was stopped on them, however, as soon as it was discovered that they were being sunk in the débris which General Komorof had dumped into his trench; and instead, two shafts were sunk in the "galleries." In both these shafts the culture-strata were opened to a depth of -21.5 feet (fig. 22 and plate 7).

The finds which were made in the above-mentioned localities gained in importance through the simultaneous discovery of burials (*cf.* special report of Warner). On March 26, several skeletons were exposed in terrace Ia, to the south of a wall of unburnt bricks. They were, however, destroyed by the picks of the workmen. During the following days more skeletons came to light in all three of the terraces. Their significance in connection with the finds that were being made became clear after the discovery that a skeleton grave found on March 30 in terrace I was that of a child buried in contracted position (*Liegender Hocker*),

*The datum is the level of the plain on the west side of the kurgan.—R. P.