

CONTENTS

xxxiii

PAGE

dentistry—Start into desert—Camping in wintry desert—Arctic clothing—Turdi guides through sand-dunes—Arrival at Dandan-Uiliq—First survey of ruins—Fuel from ancient orchards . 270-280

CHAPTER XVIII

EXCAVATION OF BUDDHIST SHRINES

Stucco-relievos of ruined shrine—Excavation of temple-cellas—Construction of walls—Decoration of cellas—Buddhist frescoes—Sculptures in chapel—Painted panels—Ancient brooms—Interesting relievos—Scenes represented in frescoes—Legend of Naga lady—Picture of Buddhist scholars 281-294

CHAPTER XIX

FIRST FINDS OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Excavation of monastic dwelling—First leaf unearthed—Sanskrit manuscript finds—Discovery of Sanskrit 'Pothi'—Buddhist canonical text—Cook-room of monastic dwelling—Return of Ram Singh—Rendezvous in desert—Accuracy of surveys—"The Aksakal of the Taklamakan"—Turdi's old pony—A failed speculation—An antique fodder store—End of ill-fated animal . 295-306

CHAPTER XX

DISCOVERY OF DATED DOCUMENTS

Finds in ruined monastery—Picture of rat-king—Documents in unknown language—Probable contents—Finds of Chinese records—An ancient petition—Ancient name of Dandan-Uiliq—Christmas Day in desert—Lost among dunes—'Yolchi Beg,' fox-terrier—The Hu-kuo monastery—Its Chinese documents—Date of its abandonment—More painted panels—Ancient "horse-millinery"—Persian art influence—Buddhist pictorial art—Traces of old cultivation—Abandonment of settlement—Probable cause of abandonment 307-324