

of 2 to 3 miles from Aptār a number of ruined *bands*, or embankments, with terraced ground above them. These afford clear proof that cultivation dependent on rain floods only, and without the help of *qanāts*, had been possible on this ground at a period perhaps not very distant. The ruins reported at Mistābād in a nook of the hills near the southernmost bed of the Kunāru Kaur proved to be those of small mud-brick structures clearly dating from Muhammadan times, as shown also by the pottery around them. Moving thence to the north-west for 2 miles across the scrub-covered plain and its torrent-beds we came upon a debris area bearing the name of Kalēra, which measured about 600 yards in length and about 200 yards across. Glazed relief-decorated pottery showed it to be a site occupied during the Muhammadan period.

SECTION III—THE BURIAL SITE OF KHURĀB

On March 10th Īrān-shahr was regained after a 14 miles' march across a sandy waste furrowed by innumerable stony flood beds, and on the following morning we started down for the examination of sites reported on the left bank of the Bampūr river. Its bed was crossed some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Īrān-shahr, above a roughly constructed barrage. This diverts the water from the shallow channel into canals to irrigate what cultivation there is along the right bank towards Bampūr. The bed of the river, where we crossed it, was fully 400 yards wide and was filled with luxuriant tamarisk scrub. But what water there was in the shallow little stream passing down it was gathered solely from springs rising in the bed a short distance higher up. This scanty supply of *siāb-āb*, 'black water', corresponding to the *kara-su* of the oases of the Tārīm basin, represents the whole of the water supply available for the central portion of the Bampūr basin down to where the river-bed terminates in the drainageless Hāmūn of Jāz Mūriān, some 110 miles farther. More water is carried by the river only during short intervals when, after heavy rain, floods descend from the mountains. The question as to whether any change since prehistoric times in the volume of this water supply might be deduced from archaeological evidence was bound to invest this far from attractive ground with special interest for me.

The track followed through luxuriant riverine jungle of *kabūr* (*Prosopis spicigera*) and tamarisk trees brought us after another 6 miles' march to where the stretch of scrubby grazing known as Khurāb begins. Judging from traces of an abandoned *qanāt*, cultivation appears to have been carried on at one time over some parts of the ground. Patches of scanty pottery debris, some of early type, some of later, marked approach to the place where, according to information received at Bampūr, ancient pottery vessels had been dug up in numbers