

and the Etsin-gol basin is divided. The chief physical features of these regions have been indicated above in section vi of Chapter II, and brief reference to their extent and character will suffice here.

The mountain region in the south clearly shows the wide trough-like uplands at the headwaters of the Su-lo-ho and the Su-chou and Kan-chou rivers, as well as the tortuous narrow gorges in which these rivers have cut their way through the two northern ranges of the Nan-shan. The increased moisture of the climate eastwards is demonstrated by the forest growth which the map shows at elevations from about 8,000 to 10,000 feet in the valleys approaching the watershed of the Pacific drainage, as marked by the Ta-t'ung river (C, D. 4).

In the same direction the change in the character of the Richthofen Range, from a steep mountain rampart into a system of broad spurs with easier slopes at their top, becomes noticeable. This change in the lateral expansion of the Richthofen Range determines the width of the second region, that of the plateau-like belt stretching along its northern foot. Owing to the line of oases comprised in it this belt has formed an important 'land of passage' all through historical times.

At the north-western end of the belt we have the large oasis of Su-chou, occupying the

*Astronomically observed latitudes.*

1906-08. Chia-yü-kuan, Camp 200 (near springs, south of eastern gate of fort, A. 1) ... ..	39° 48' 16"
Su-chou, Camp 201 (at Chiu-ch'üan temple, outside eastern gate of city; B. 1) ... ..	39° 45' 6"
Chin-fo-ssu, Camp 203 (garden, circ. 1 mile to south of eastern gate; B. 2) ... ..	39° 25' 27"
Ta-pên-kou, Camp 207 (gold miners' camp; B. 3) ... ..	38° 59' 54"
Camp 211 (at spring near bed of southern tributary of Pei-ta-ho; A. 3) ... ..	38° 54' 54"
Camp 214 (above bed of rising Su-lo-ho; A. 4) ... ..	38° 29' 28"
Camp 223 (on right river bank, north of Fêng-ta-fan; D. 3) ... ..	38° 38' 31"
Chien-ch'üan-tzu, Camp 231 (D. 2) ... ..	39° 20' 3"
1913-15. Su-chou, Camp 133 (at Chiu-ch'üan temple, outside eastern city gate; B. 1) ... ..	39° 44' 51"
Lo-t'o-ch'êng, Camp 165 (within ruined town; D. 2) ... ..	39° 20' 59"

NOTES ON SHEETS Nos. 44,45 (ETSINGOL, ETSIN-GOL DELTA)

These two sheets may conveniently be commented upon together as they combine to show the course of the Etsin-gol from below Mao-mei right down to its terminal lake

broad alluvial fans of the Pei-ta-ho and of the smaller rivers which to the east of it descend from the Richthofen Range. Further east the width of the plateau at the foot of the range is still great. But the lesser volume of water carried by the streams here draining it restricts the cultivated area to a string of minor oases along their alluvial fans, from Chin-fo-ssu (B. 2) to Nanch'üan (D. 2). The rest of the belt consists here mainly of scrubby steppe, affording ample winter grazing, with interspersed areas of drift-sand (C, D. 1, 2). Beyond the lower course of the Hsi-ta-ho (D. 2) a projecting outer spur of the range, bare and much eroded, confines the plateau-like belt to its narrowest limits near the town of Kao-t'ai.

The northern edge of the second region is formed throughout by a low and utterly barren hill-range (A-D. 1), representing a western extension of the Ala-shan. This hill-range with its slopes of bare gravel or sand shares throughout the character of the Etsin-gol basin described in the Notes on Sheets Nos. 44, 45. Cultivation stops above the points where the rivers of Kan-chou and Su-chou break through the desert range (B. 1, D. 1) to unite further down near the isolated oasis of Mao-mei (Sheet No. 42. D. 4).

basins. The route in the extreme south-west (45.A.4) was fitted upon the position adopted for Kan-chou (46. B. 3), and the rest of the traverses in these sheets compiled on the