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The Trans-Himalayan Range

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waters, took this opportunity of making some investigations in Japan, where he stayed about six months, and whence he brought home some collections for the society.

After a period of work in connection with the society, he was selected to occupy the post of its general secretary, a very responsible and arduous position, which he occupied during twenty years, with great honour to himself and great profit to the society. During this period a great many large and important expeditions were equipped by the society for investigation in Central Asia, which was in a great part revealed to the world by the work of Russians. The first international Polar expedition also took place during this time, and the two Russian stations at Novaya Zemlya and the mouth of the Lena were organized by the society. All the work of preparation for these expeditions, to which their greater or less success is often due, was made under his supervision.

During the twenty years of his secretaryship, M. Grigorief was continually at his post, and all who wished to do something for the advancement of geographical science in Russia, were sure to get assistance and a warm welcome from the secretary of the society. Many young voyagers and geographers owe their first success to his good advice. He was not a great traveller, not a great theorist, but his wide scientific education and his encyclopædic knowledge, especially about Asia, gave him great authority, which was placed freely at the disposal of his colleagues and much facilitated their work in the advancement of geographical science. In this sense he may be said to have taken part in all the important geographical work done by the members of the society during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. His genial character made him easy of approach for all who had need of his help, and his death is alike a serious loss to all true devotees of science and a great grief to the large circle of his friends.

J. DE SCHOKALSKY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Trans-Himalayan Range.

IN several magazine articles published during the autumn Dr. Sven Hedin lays claim to the *discovery* of a new mountain range or system to the north of the Brahmaputra. He names it the Trans-Himalaya. This is repeated in a modified form in his communication in the November number of the *Geographical Journal*.^{*} In reference to the Trans-Himalaya he writes, "one-third of the range, or rather system . . . is absolutely new."

Reference to Table XXVII. in Colonel Burrard and Mr. Hayden's 'Sketch of the Geography and Geology of the Himalaya Mountains and Tibet' (Calcutta, 1907) will reveal a group of ten peaks, ranging from 20,000 to over 23,000 feet in height, lying between 84° and 87° E. These peaks were triangulated in 1904 by Captain Wood in the course of Captain Rawling's Gartok expedition. They are included by Colonel Burrard in his "Kailas Range." This is obviously the Trans-Himalayan system under discussion, and Colonel Burrard says of it (p. 95) "trigonometrical observations show that it joins with a range of Tibet, known as the Ninchinhangla, in longitude 88°," a point which Dr. Sven Hedin himself fully confirms. Colonel Burrard's Frontispiece Chart leaves no room for doubt on this point either. The "absolutely new" section of this range cannot, therefore, be taken as more than the distance between W. 135 (N. 29° 55' 16", E. 84° 33' 33") and the

^{*} Vol. 32, p. 527.

easterly extremity of the Kailas group in the vicinity of Mariam La, a distance of about 100 miles.

But the existence and general continuity of this great mountain system has been fully recognized for more than half a century, leaving aside all question of mediæval Italian information. Thus Brian Hodgson* shows it on his map as the "Nyenchen Thangla Chain," with the added legend "separating southern from northern Tibet." The extent and nomenclature of this range was again discussed in the *Geographical Magazine* † for 1877 by Sir Clements Markham and Mr. Trelawney Saunders, and it is shown on the latter's well-known map as the "Gangsi Mountains." The delineation of the range in the map issued (1882) with vol. 1 of Atkinson's 'Himalayan Districts,' is practically identical with that shown in Dr. Sven Hedin's sketch-maps which have appeared in various magazines and newspapers.

During the discussion on Mr. St. George Littledale's paper ‡ in 1896, Sir Clements Markham, recognizing the general continuity of the range, dwelt on the fact that it had not been crossed between the Khalamba pass and the neighbourhood of the Mariam La. It is this great feat which Dr. Sven Hedin has now accomplished, crossing the range not once only, but on some ten different occasions; but it seems hardly consistent, under the circumstances, to speak of the *discovery* of a new range.

I must not omit to record that some of these points have been already raised in Germany by Herr H. Habenicht of Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt.

Discussion of the question as to the discovery of the sources of the Brahmaputra, Satlej, and Indus would unduly lengthen this letter.

T. G. LONGSTAFF.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1908-1909.

Third Meeting, November 30, 1908.—Major LEONARD DARWIN, President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS:—Percy Herbert Ashmead; Edward J. M. Chaplin, M.A.; William Henry Foxall; Walter Edney Madkins, B.A.; J. S. H. Matson; Joseph Wilson.

The paper read was:—

"The Panama Canal in 1908." By Dr. Vaughan Cornish.

Fourth Meeting, December 7, 1908.—Major LEONARD DARWIN, President, in the Chair.

The paper read was:—

"The Danish North-East Greenland Expedition." By Lieut. A. Trolle, R.D.N.

Fifth Meeting, December 14, 1908.—Major LEONARD DARWIN, President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS:—William Edmund Calver; Ronald Egerton Critchley-Salmonson (Royal Fusiliers); Dr. John Downie Falconer, M.A.; Laurence Harris; Follett

* Brian Hodgson, 'Selections from the Records of the Government of Bengal,' p. 88, etc. Calcutta: 1857.

† Vol. 4, pp. 114 and 176 *et seq.*

‡ *Geographical Journal*, 1896, vol. 7, p. 482.