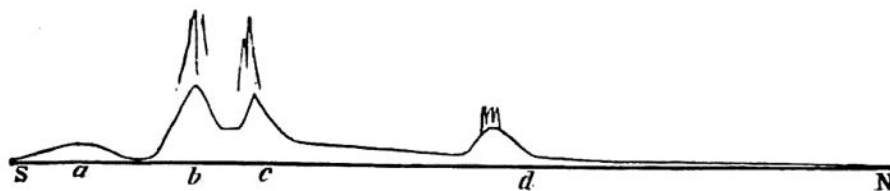


On the side of the North Atlantic there are the mountains of Scandinavia and the British Isles, the former having a mean height of 4000 feet and a maximum, in Galdhöpig, of 8400 feet; and farther south, the Alps and other mountains of eastern Europe, the higher portions covering but small areas. On the side of the larger Pacific there are loftier mountains in long ranges — the Shan-a-lin range of Manchuria, having peaks of 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and the high Khingan range of 15,000 feet, facing China. Off the coast there is still another series of ranges, now partly submerged, — viz. those of Japan and other linear groups of islands; these stand in front of the interior chain, very much as the Cascade range and Sierra Nevada of the Pacific border of America are in advance of the summit ridges of the Rocky Mountains, and both are alike in being partly volcanic, with cones of great altitude.

Thus viewing Eurasia across its whole breadth from west to east, there is an *interior basin* of immense extent, which includes some of the lowest land of the globe. The plains of eastern Europe, north of the Carpathians, comprise three fifths of all Europe, and are situated, with reference to the mountain-border of Europe, like the Mississippi basin with reference to the Appalachians. Farther east there is the low land of the Caspian-Aral basin of western Asia, a million of square miles in area, over a fourth of it lying below the sea level.

Facing the large and open Indian Ocean, and looking southward, stand the Himalayas, — the loftiest of mountains, in which peaks of 20,000 feet and over are very numerous, and few passes are under 16,000 feet, — called the Himalayas as far as Kashmir, and from there, where a new sweep in the curve begins, the Hindu-Kush, — the whole over 2000 miles in length: not so long, it is true, as the Andes, but continued as far as the ocean in front continues. The Kuen-Lun Mountains, to the north of the Himalayas, make another crest to the great chain. Farther north lies the great interior arid plateau, the Desert of Gobi; and then rise other mountain chains, the Thian-Shan to the northwest having peaks of 14,000 to 15,000 feet, the Yablonoi to the northeast, and farther north, the Altai facing Siberia. Beyond these stretches Siberia, an alluvial area, 1000 miles wide.

18.



The diagram (Fig. 18) represents the general features of a section from north to south through the Himalayas. At *a*, there is the elevated land of India; between *a* and *b*, the low river-plain at the base of the Himalayas; at *b*, the Himalayas; *b* to *c*, Plains of Tibet; *c*, the Kuen-Lun ridge; *c* to *d*, Plains of Mongolia and Desert of Gobi; at *d*, the Altai; *d* to *N*, the Siberian plains.