

long and 17 miles broad, and lies 837 feet above sea-level. A smaller lake to the west, separated from the larger by a marsh, is also known as Ala-kul.

Issik-kul lies to the south of Lake Balkash, at an altitude of 5165 feet, and is 100 miles long by 30 or 40 miles wide, covering an area of about 2300 square miles. In the deepest portion of the lake, 33 miles from the southern shore, its depth is 1400 feet; in the middle portion a uniform depth of 840 feet prevails. The River Chu, after having approached very near the lake and discharged some of its waters into it by the short river Kutamaldi, suddenly turns northward and pierces a lofty mountain range. Davis¹ is of opinion that the low salinity of the lake waters is an indication that the Chu served once both as an inlet and an outlet to the lake.

Kyzyl-lak, in Akmolinsk, is 10 miles long by 8 miles broad, and is very salt. Ignatof,² who examined the salt lakes of Akmolinsk in 1898, found that the temperature varied from 70° to 84° Fahr. (21°·1 to 28°·9 C.), and at the bottom it was nearly 12° higher than at the surface. According to the natives of the region, the Kirghiz, it never freezes in winter. The colour of the water appears bright red, owing, Ignatof believes, to the large number of crustacea it contains.

In the neighbourhood are several fresh-water lakes, some of them several miles in diameter. How they came to be fresh is a mystery, unless, as Ignatof suggests, the shore-reeds have extracted all the salt from the water; but the explanation given by Berg for Lake Balkash seems more applicable.

Lake Selety-denghis is 40 miles long by 16½ broad, and is slightly salt. The temperature conditions are similar to those of Kyzyl-lak. The bottom is covered with decaying organic remains, and sulphuretted hydrogen is given off. The fauna consists of crustacea.

Lake Teke is 73 miles long by 10 broad, and is saturated with salt, and yet it contains several species of crustacea; no signs of drying up are perceptible as in the case of the other lakes, especially Kyzyl-lak.

Lob-Nor (or Lop-Nor), a lake of Central Asia, in the Gobi Desert, Gobi Desert. between the ranges of Altyn-Tagh on the south and of Kurruk-Tagh on the north, lies at an altitude of about 2200 feet above sea-level, and is fed by the River Tarim, which has its source in the Thian Shan Mountains. A chain of numberless lakes accompanies the right bank of the Tarim throughout its course, lying in depressions in the sand, called by the natives "bajir." The prevailing winds blow from the east, and heap up the sand in ridges like gigantic waves, or pile it up in

¹ *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, vol. xxxvi. p. 225, 1904.

² *Globus*, Bd. lxxv. p. 66, 1898.