

Lake Van lies in Eastern Anatolia, in Asiatic Turkey, on one of Anatolia. the elevated plains separated by mountain ranges, in the volcanic district of Van, at a height of about 5200 feet above sea-level, and has an area of 2000 square miles. It is 80 miles long and 30 miles broad, and over 80 feet deep. The lake is said to be connected with the Euphrates through the little lake of Nazik, which lies on the watershed between Lake Van and the river, and sends emissaries to both—a rare phenomenon.

Lake of Gyoljuk, 12 miles long by 2 or 3 miles wide, lies 3 degrees west of Lake Van, at an elevation of 4000 feet among the Taurus Mountains, between the head-waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Under present climatic conditions the lake is on the dividing line between a so-called “normal” fresh-water lake with a permanent outlet and a salt lake with no outlet. In years of large rainfall it overflows and forms one of the most remote sources of the Tigris, but in drier years the lake has no outflow during the long rainless summer. Its waters contain borax, but the amount is not so great as to render the water undrinkable. In former times, judging by the evidence furnished by historical accounts and local traditions, Lake Gyoljuk appears to have fluctuated in size in the same manner and at the same periods as the Caspian Sea, and Ellsworth Huntington¹ considers that this gives good ground for believing that Turkey has undergone changes in climatic conditions similar to those which have affected Central Asia.

The inland drainage areas of Arabia and Asia Minor (see fig. 64) cover an area of about 782,000 square miles.

Arabia may be roughly divided as to its surface extent into one Arabia. third of coast ring and mountains—part barren, part either cultivated or capable of cultivation,—another third of central plateau also tolerably fertile, and a third of desert intervening between the first and second except in the region of Mecca. Surface streams are almost wanting even in the more fertile districts, because of the excessive evaporation and light and porous quality of the soil. Water is obtained for the most part from wells, sometimes 20 or 30 feet deep; but though in the Kaseem valley in the interior it abounds at a depth of only a few feet below the ground, and occasionally collects on the surface in perennial pools, none of these are large enough to deserve the name of lakes.

In the central and southern portions of the plateau of Asia Minor Western Asia Minor. the streams either flow into salt lakes, where their waters pass off by evaporation, or into fresh-water lakes which have no visible outlet. In the latter cases the waters find their way by subterranean channels beneath the cretaceous limestones of Mount Taurus, and reappear as

¹ *The Pulse of Asia*, p. 356, London, 1907.