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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE YALE NORTH INDIA EXPEDITION

By Dr. H. DE TERRA

YALE UNIVERSITY

SCOPE OF THE EXPEDITION PLAN

THE idea that geological and biological sciences may support each other in research on related problems may at first appear strange, especially if they are supposed to cooperate in a task of exploration in a region so little known as the Himalayas. However, for me, who had explored formerly as a geologist in western Central Asia and northern India, it seemed quite obvious that a study of fresh-water life in these highly elevated mountain ranges would help to throw new light on the geographical conditions of the Himalayas during the Pleistocene and postglacial periods. For it was in comparatively young geological times that the Tibetan plateaus and the adjoining highlands were uplifted to form the "Roof of the World," and it was to be expected to find a peculiar faunal character with endemic forms which would reveal faunal relations to Central Asia or to India.

The geological work was to be focused on the study of those diastrophic events which resulted in the earth's highest mountain structure, north of peninsular India. Investigation of such a wide scope which was to be carried out on difficult territory required careful selection of particularly promising mountain sectors. These were to be found in Kashmir proper, where a thick Pleistocene sequence of strata in a structural basin could furnish evidence on Pleistocene orogeny. On the other hand, the eastern Karakoram, north of the Himalayas, seemed to be most profitable for an investigation of the structural outlines of this northern neighbor of the Himalayas. Geomorphological observations were to support the structural studies. A topographical survey was to facilitate this work. Finally, there was a good chance for collecting vertebrate fossils in the richly fossiliferous Siwalik formations south of the Himalayas.

Owing to the great interest which this plan of mine found at Yale, and thanks to the kind support it received by its President, of Professor Ch. W. Warren, dean of Sheffield Scientific School, of Pro-