A third, and more important branch of the industry of the Vilajet is tanning and leather working, which has its location in Aleppo, Marasch, Antiab, Urfa, Mardin, Diarbekir, Sert, Dschenguesch and Antioch. It is the only branch of industry that is advancing and has been busy in the last few years. Tanners are forming a union which is visibly gaining in strength and will better the product.

One works buffalo hides which come from Egypt, (?) (Singapore) and China (Shanghai), along with sheep and goat skins, as well as domestic cow and calf hides. Aleppo has around 60-65 masters of which ten work buffalo hides, the remainder work sheep skins. Some also work goat skins. Generally they have four workers, and many of these are young boys. Tanneries are all located in a joined building on the Duek. Buffalo and sheep skins are worked in all cities. Aleppo alone works around 1/4 of all imported buffalo hides. Marasch and Aintab finish the sheep and goat skins which were pre-treated in Aleppo and other cities. They are finished into (?) Maroquin leather.

Next the buffalo leather is placed in cold water, where it remains depending on the temperature, in the summer around 10 and in the winter around 20 days. After this bath, the hair is removed and they get a fluid (Bulgurmehl-bath*) it remains in the so called bad bath** (end of page 424) for 10 to 20 days. It is placed in layers in a pit or ditch and a thick paste of the unused Bulgairmehl is placed between two skins. In this "good" bath the skins will remain for 10 to
20 days. Only after this five-and-a-half-to-six months process do the skins go to the actual tanning bath which are then renewed every one and one-half to two months. Tanning is done with the so-called (?), one of the many nut type growths of the oak trees. After tanning, the leather is salted. It is covered with salt and Rosamahl (?) and placed into the air for drying, but it is not completely dried out. After this it is ready to be sold.

A buffalo skin before tanning weighs 16 to 35 Oka, generally 16 to 25 Oka. Tanned it weighs twice as much. The Oka dried, untanned buffalo hides cost in early November of 1900 around 12 P, the Oka tanned was sold for 10 P. The total production in Aleppo of tanned buffalo hides is estimated around 3000 to 4000 pieces annually.

Sheep skins are washed several times in the rivers; where the Roth (?) and Schaben (?) is removed. This is done by placing the insides of two skins together and placing lime between the, this is done to (?) the wool. This is how it remains for 2 to 3 days. Then the wool is removed with a knife that has a semi-circle shape, the skins are hung on a

* Bulgar is fodder, dried in the air and then (?) broken wheat. In Aleppo it is prepared like rice and eaten.

** It is called the "bad bath" because it always uses the Bulgarmehl, used in the first bath for tanning a second time.
rounded, sloping board leaning against the wall. After this the skin receives a lime bath, where it remains for five to ten days or more depending on the temperature of the water. Now it is ready for tanning. Tanning is done with Sumakblattern (?) in two hot baths, the first lasting two to three days. After this washing, the second bath is done. This, however, lasts only one day. Afterwards the skin is washed again, then dried, and is now ready for (?). A portion of the skins are dyed red, a large portion is dyed yellow or yellow-brown.

The finished skin cost, depending on size 8 to 12 P. The dyed ones are only around 15 Para*. When business is slow, 500 pieces are prepared daily in Aleppo. When business is good, 1000 pieces daily are prepared. An average yearly production is around (?) pieces.

With goat skins the process is much the same.

A domestic tannery in Aleppo also produces, for two years now, using domestic cows and calf skins sole leather according to European examples. Generally buffalo leather is used for the thick soles for domestic foot wear, sheep leather is generally used for the lining, died sheep and goat leather for top leather and the fine Maroquin leather for only shoe and leather wears.