

WESTERN GROUP OF TEMPLES.

The western group of temples is situated on the west of the Bamitha-Rajnagar road and comprises seven imposing edifices arranged in two rows and dedicated to the Saivite and Vaishnavite cults.

CHAUSATH
YOGINI TEMPLE.

This temple stands on a low rocky eminence to the south^{west}-east of the Sibsagar lake. As stated above, it is the only temple at Khajuraho which is built entirely of granite and also the only one at that place which is oriented north-east and south-west instead of due north and south. It is a hypæthral building which stands upon a massively constructed platform and comprises an oblong courtyard 104 feet long by 60 wide, surrounded by sixty-five cells, of which only 35 have survived. The cell in the middle of the south-west wall, which faces the missing entrance in the middle of the north-east wall, is larger than the other cells and at the side of it is a narrow opening giving access to the passage which encircles the temple. The cells are roofed with small spires or *sikharas*, the lower part of which is adorned with triangular ornaments in imitation of *chaitya* windows. The entrances of the cells were once furnished with double doors of wood as evidenced by the mortice holes in the granite lintels. Excluding the larger cell, the cells around the courtyard number 64, corresponding to the number of the Yoginis, the female goblins or attendants of the blood-drinking goddess Kali, after whom the temple is named. No images are now left in any of the sixty-four smaller cells. But that the temple was originally dedicated to the Yoginis is evident from three images lying in the larger cell referred to. One of them represents the goddess Mahisha-mardini, killing the buffalo demon (Mahisha). The other two images, which appear to have been brought from two of the smaller cells, are of the Yoginis Mahesvari and the three-headed Brahmani. On the pedestal of the former the name Mahesvari is inscribed. The remaining 61 images must have been removed by the villagers. General