

The geology of this district is described by Drs. Peach and Horne, their important contribution being illustrated by a special geological map.

Loch Maree (see Plates XLVI. and XLVII.).—The loch derives its name from Saint Maelrubha, who in 671 A.D. left Bangor, and after founding one church at Applecross, founded another on Isle Maree. It is the largest sheet of fresh water in Scotland north of Loch Ness, and trends in a north-west and south-east direction.

On the north-east side of the loch, and parallel to it, runs a grand series of mountains—Beinn Airidh Charr, Meall Mheannidh, Beinn Lair, Slioch, Sgurr an Tuill Bhain, and Beinn a Mhuinidh; the slope for the first 1000 feet all along this north-eastern shore is very steep, in many places exceeding 45° . To the south-west rise Beinn Eighe, Beinn a Chearcaill, and Beinn an Eoin; the sharp ridge of the former, composed of white quartzite, forms an especially fine object from the loch to the north of the Gruididh. But the two most striking features of Loch Maree are Slioch and Isle Maree; the huge sugar-loaf form of Slioch is conspicuous from almost every part of the loch, and, though one of the smaller islands, Isle Maree, owing to the large number of trees growing upon it, stands out against the dark background of the heather-covered islands and the cliffs of the north-eastern shore.

The great feature of Loch Maree is the large number and great area of its islands. Prof. Penck, in his work on the Lake of Constance, lays great stress on the "insulosity," *i.e.*, "the proportion of the area of the islands to that of the water surface;" this in Loch Maree is 0.09, or three times as great as that of the Lake of Cheim (0.03), and nine times as great as that of the Lake of Constance (0.01). Its insulosity is also greater than that of any other large lake in Great Britain, that of Loch Lomond being 0.08, though it is surpassed in this respect by one of the small lochs in the Assynt district (Loch Cròcach, whose insulosity is 0.091).

Many of the islands were joined together when the Lake Survey visited the loch, owing to the low level of the water. A few small rocks and reefs occur out in the channel to the north of the main group of islands and removed some considerable distance from the rest. Large numbers of the Lesser Black-Backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) breed on the larger islands, and two pairs and young of the Greater Black-Backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) were observed on two of the smaller islets. Isle Maree, Eilean Ghruididh, Eilean Subhainn, and Eilean Ruairid Bheag have been used at one time as fortresses or habitations.

The level of Loch Maree was found by the Ordnance Surveyors to be 32.1 feet above sea-level on September 15, 1870, on July 16, 1902, the surface of the water was 29.5 feet above sea-level. The loch was surveyed on July 16 to 24, 1902, and the water remained at very nearly