

LOCHS OF THE NAN UAMH BASIN.

THE lochs to be dealt with here are Loch Dubh, between the head of Loch Ailort and the head of Loch nan Uamh, and Lochs Màmà and na Creige Duibhe lying to the north-east. Loch Doir' a' Gherrain in Ardnish could not be sounded, because there was no boat on it at the time of the visit of the Lake Survey.

Loch Dubh (see Plate LVI).—Loch Dubh is a small loch situated at the head of the peninsula of Ardnish, which separates Loch Ailort from Loch nan Uamh, the two branches of the sound of Arisaig. The Mallaig extension of the West Highland railway runs along its southern shore, and the outfall flows through the old bed of the little Lochan Deabhtha, which has been completely drained by the railway, leaving only a channel through it for the escape of the waters from Loch Dubh. After leaving Lochan Deabhtha the outfall joins the Schoolhouse burn, which has been deflected, thence into the Arnabol burn, falling into the head of Loch Beag, an inlet of Loch nan Uamh. It is surrounded, except on the western side, by low though steep hills, which impart a dark and sullen appearance to the loch, hence its name—the Black loch. Considering its superficial area, it is the deepest loch visited by the Lake Survey.* Its great depth, and the remarkable temperature conditions discovered in it, well repaid the trouble of carting a boat from Loch nan Uamh and carrying it down to the loch. Its catchment area is very small, and it would seem that the unpleasant taste of its water, resembling that of a stagnant pool, is due to the small amount of fresh water entering it. This unpleasantness is probably something more than mere taste, for attempts to stock the loch with trout have been unsuccessful, the fish rapidly dying, eels, however, abound in it.

Loch Dubh trends in a north-west and south-east direction, the broadest part being rather nearer the south-east end. Its length is

* The deepest lake in East Prussia is, according to Halbfass (*Globus*, Bd. 86, p 187, September 15, 1904), the Wuchsnigsee, which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and has a maximum depth of about 210 feet. Loch Dubh is less than half a mile in length, and its maximum depth is 153 feet.