

LOCHS OF THE BORGIE BASIN.

THE three lochs to be dealt with here form a connected series, the overflow from Loch Cùil na Síthe being carried into Loch Laoghal by the Lòn Achadh na h-Aibhne, while Lochs Laoghal and Creagach are almost continuous, the connecting stream being only about 200 yards in length. Of the total area of the basin (about 62 square miles), about 35 square miles, or 56 per cent., drain into these three lochs.

Loch Cùil na Síthe (see Plate LXXIV.).—Loch Cùil na Síthe (or Coulside) is a small narrow loch lying over a mile to the west of the head of Loch Laoghal, and about 5 miles to the north of Altnaharra, at the head of Loch Naver. It trends east-north-east and west-south-west, and is very nearly a mile in length, varying little in width, the maximum breadth being about 250 yards. Its waters cover an area of about 58 acres, and it receives the drainage from a comparatively large tract of country, the drainage area being about 9 square miles—an area a hundred times greater than that of the loch. The maximum depth of 14 feet was observed in two places near the middle of the loch. The volume of water is estimated at 19 million cubic feet, and the mean depth at $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The loch was surveyed on September 29, 1902, but the elevation of the lake-surface above the sea could not be determined; a drift-mark was observed over 6 feet above the water, which might fall to the extent of a foot, giving a range in level exceeding 7 feet.

Loch Cùil na Síthe is extremely simple in conformation, and comparatively uniform in depth. The upper portion is being silted up, and is occupied by weeds, and the lower portion is full of stones. The 10-foot contour coincides approximately with the outline of the loch, and encloses an area of about 20 acres, or 35 per cent. of the total area of the loch. The temperature of the surface water on the date of the survey was $56^{\circ}\cdot 2$ Fahr., and a reading at a depth of 11 feet gave $53^{\circ}\cdot 9$.

Loch Laoghal (see Plate LXXV.).—Loch Laoghal (or Loyal) is distant about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tongue and about 6 miles from Altnaharra, the road between these two places running alongside the western shore of the loch throughout its whole length. To the west rises Ben Loyal,