

Arkaig) is 12 miles in length; five of them exceed 100 feet in depth, and three exceed 300 feet in depth, while one of them (Loch Lochy) exceeds 500 feet in depth. It has been found convenient to include also two small lochs which drain directly into Loch Linnhe, viz., Lochan Lùnn dà-Bhrà on the east and Loch nan Gabhar on the west. Loch nan Gabhar is in Argyllshire, while all the remaining lochs are situated in Inverness-shire. The relative positions of the lochs and rivers within the area under discussion are shown in the little index map (Fig. 51), from which it will be seen that Loch Arkaig drains into Loch Lochy by the short river Arkaig, while the other lochs within the basin drain into the river Spean, which joins the river Lochy shortly after its exit from Loch Lochy, the junction of the two rivers being marked by the pretty falls of Mucomir.

The Lochy basin, only a small portion of which has been mapped by the Geological Survey, lies wholly within the region of the crystalline schists of the Central Highlands. It is intersected by the powerful north-east and south-west fault that traverses the Great Glen from Inverness to the shores of Loch Linnhe. In the area west of this dislocation the rocks, so far as known, consist of quartz-biotite granulites and muscovite-biotite schists, which are believed to represent altered sediments. These are traversed by acid and basic intrusions and numerous veins of granite and pegmatite.

East of the Great Glen several of the metamorphic groups of the Eastern Highlands are represented, including the Perthshire quartzite, black schist, limestone, Ardrishaig phyllites, and the associated quartzite, the beds striking generally in a north-east and south-west direction. The schists are pierced by various masses of igneous rock, of which the most important is the large intrusion of granite forming the lower part of Ben Nevis. It is capped by andesitic lavas, breccias, and tuffs, presumably of Lower Old Red Sandstone age.

*Loch Lochy* (see Plate LXXXIII.) —Loch Lochy is the southernmost of the chain of lochs occupying the Great Glen which were utilized in forming the Caledonian Canal. Its southern end is about 8 miles north of Fort William. It is a straight loch, running nearly north-east to south-west. In form Loch Lochy is a narrow triangle, with the apex at the north end, gradually widening southward to near Bunarkaig, where the greatest breadth is found, after which it rapidly narrows for the remaining 2 miles to the outflow at Gairlochy. A good road runs along the eastern shore, a rough cart-road on the western side, and several stations of the Invergarry and Fort-Augustus railway now give easy access to the loch on the east side. The surroundings are wild, gloomy, and solitary (see Fig. 52). No village is found on its shores, an occasional house being passed on the east side, while the west side is uninhabited, save for one or two distant cots.