

LOCHS OF THE NESS BASIN.

THE basin of the river Ness is one of the most important of Scottish river-basins, not so much on account of the area drained, which is small when compared with the areas drained by the Tay, Tweed, Clyde, and Spey, for instance, but because it includes within its boundaries the largest body of fresh water in Scotland (Loch Ness), as well as several other large lochs and numerous small ones. The basin extends from the mouth of the river Ness, at the junction of the inner Moray firth with the Beauly firth, in lat. $57^{\circ} 30' N.$ to lat. $57^{\circ} N.$, south of Loch Quoich, and from long. $5^{\circ} 30' W.$, west of Loch Quoich, to long. $4^{\circ} 10' W.$, south-east of Inverness. The total area, as measured with the planimeter on the 1-inch Ordnance Survey maps, is about 722 square miles, and of this by far the larger portion drains into Loch Ness, for the area draining into the river Ness, and into Loch Ashie which flows directly into the river Ness, is only about 36 square miles. With the exception of Loch Ashie, the superfluent waters from all the lochs within the basin find their way into Loch Ness, so that the total area draining into Loch Ness is about 686 square miles. The area drained by the tributary lochs, excluding Loch Ness, is about 354 square miles, leaving about 332 square miles draining directly into Loch Ness, independent of the other lochs.

The principal river-systems within the basin lie to the west of Loch Ness, viz. the Enrick, which flows through Glen Urquhart into Loch Ness at Urquhart bay, where it is joined by the shorter river Coiltie; the Moriston, with its tributaries the Clunie and the Loyne, which flows through Glen Moriston into Loch Ness at Invermoriston; the Garry, with its tributaries the Quoich and the Kingie, which flows through Glen Garry into Loch Oich at Invergarry, and thence by the Oich into the head of Loch Ness at Fort Augustus. To the south of Loch Ness lies the Tarff, also entering Loch Ness near Fort Augustus; and to the east lies the Foyers, with its tributaries the Breinag and the Fechlin, which flows into Loch Ness at Foyers, and the Farigaig, which enters Loch Ness at Inverfarigaig. Finally, to the north-east of Loch Ness lies the Allt Mor (or Big Burn), draining Loch Ashie, which flows into the river Ness 2 or 3 miles below Inverness, while the river Ness, after issuing from Loch Dochfour, at the northern end of Loch Ness,