

## LOCHS OF THE GAIRLOCH BASIN.

EIGHT of the lochs within this basin (see Index Map, Fig. 4) were sounded by the Lake Survey, viz. Lochs an Eilein, na h-Oidche, Dubh, Bad an Sgalaig, a' Bhealaich, a' Ghobhainn, Braigh Horrisdale, and Bad a' Chròtha. An attempt was made to sound Loch Clair, but after taking one line of soundings in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction, on which a depth of 50 feet was attained, the work had to be abandoned on account of the leaking of the boat and the strong wind. Loch an Eilein drains by a stream entering Loch Gairloch at its north-eastern angle, while Lochs na h-Oidche, Dubh, and Bad an Sgalaig form a connected series draining by the river Kerry into the south-eastern angle of Loch Gairloch, and Lochs a' Bhealaich, a' Ghobhainn, Braigh Horrisdale, and Bad a' Chròtha form another connected series draining by a stream entering Loch Gairloch on its southern shore. Yellow trout occur in most of the lochs, and Loch Bad a' Chròtha contains also salmon and sea-trout, while Loch Bad an Sgalaig contains pike.

*Loch an Eilein* (see Plate XVIII.).—Loch an Eilein (or Badh a' Chream) is situated between Loch Ewe and Loch Gairloch, being distant from the former rather more than a mile, and from the latter over 2 miles. The loch is irregular in outline, with a maximum diameter in a north and south direction of two-thirds of a mile, while from east to west the greatest width is nearly half a mile, its waters covering an area of about 92 acres. The maximum depth of 34 feet was observed off the central portion of the south-western shore, where the outflowing stream leaves the loch. The volume of water is estimated at 58 million cubic feet, and the mean depth at nearly  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The loch was surveyed on August 9, 1902, but the elevation of the lake-surface above the sea could not be determined.

The floor of Loch an Eilein is uneven; the 10-foot contour-line coincides approximately with the outline of the loch, but within this contour the bottom rises in the southern portion of the loch to form two small islands, and sinks in four places below the 20-foot level. The principal deep basin lies towards the middle of the south-western shore at the outflow, where soundings in 28, 30, and 34 feet were taken; a depth of 27 feet was found near the southern end, and a depth of 24 feet towards the northern end, while a sounding in 23 feet was recorded