

THE LOCHS OF BUTE.

THE principal lochs on the island of Bute (see Index Map, Fig. 8) are situated close together in the southern half of the island, close to the county town of Rothesay. They are all narrow and elongate, with their axes running parallel from south-south-west to north-north-east. Owing to lack of boats only Loch Fad and the Kirk Dam were surveyed. Loch Ascog, a mile in length, and half a mile east of Loch Fad, is used as the water supply of Rothesay.

Loch Fad (see Plate XXXII.).—Loch Fad lies immediately south of the town of Rothesay, from which it is about a mile distant. It lies between dense woods on the west and cultivated land on the east. The greater part of the west shore is formed by a range of low crags, but the north end is gravelly. The east shore is also gravelly in the northern part, but from the rocky wooded knoll of Bardarroch wood southward rock is exposed at many places.

The length is nearly 2 miles, and the greatest breadth, at the south end, a quarter of a mile. It is a simple basin of very uniform contour and of very moderate depth, with steep sides, nearly flat bottom, and the central depth varying but little from end to end. The loch is greatly narrowed in the middle, but is not reduced in depth there. The maximum depth of 38 feet is a little south of the narrows. There is a terrace laid down by the Barnauld burn. The mean depth is 17 feet, the area rather more than a quarter of a square mile, or about 176 acres, and the volume 232 millions of cubic feet.

The drainage area exceeds 2 square miles. The only important inflowing stream is the Barnauld burn. The outflow is by the channel, in length merely the width of the road, leading to the Kirk Dam. When surveyed on August 21, 1906, the surface was 34·5 feet above sea-level, nearly identical with the elevation determined by the Ordnance Survey on June 10, 1896, viz. 34·3 feet.

The temperature varied only 0°·2 Fahr. between the surface (60°·5) and a depth of 26 feet (60°·3).

Kirk Dam (see Plate XXXII.).—The Kirk Dam is the northern portion of Loch Fad, and lies close to the town of Rothesay. It is separated from Loch Fad by an embankment, but communicates freely