

LOCHS OF THE EACHAIG BASIN.

THE only loch within this basin (see Index Map, Fig. 9) is Loch Eck, which drains by the river Eachaig into the Holy loch, an arm of the Clyde estuary, and is one of the best-known in the western Highlands, the coach-road from Dunoon to Strachur running along its eastern shore, and carrying numerous tourists during the season. The head of the loch is distant about 4 miles from the shores of Loch Fyne at Strachur, while the foot of the loch is distant about 3 miles from the head of the Holy loch. The scenery of the district is very fine, most of the hills on both sides of the loch exceeding 1000 feet, and some of them exceeding 2000 feet, in height, culminating in Beinn Bheula (2527 feet) at the north end of the loch, and Beinn Mhor (2433 feet) to the west of the lower portion of the loch. The fishing in the loch includes salmon and sea-trout, as well as loch-trout.

Loch Eck (see Plate XXXIII).—Loch Eck partakes of the elongate character of many Highland lochs, trending nearly north and south on the whole, but with a curve in the outline towards the upper end, which causes the extreme northern portion to trend in a north-west direction. It is 6 miles in length, with a maximum breadth of over one-third of a mile, the mean breadth being about a quarter of a mile. The superficial area is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ square miles, while the area draining into the loch is nearly 40 square miles. The shore-line is sinuous, while numerous streams have cut their way into the sides of the mountains, and empty themselves into the loch on both sides. The principal inflowing stream is the river Cur, which enters at the upper end, draining with its tributaries the mountain-slopes at the head of the basin. The loch is fairly deep, the maximum depth observed being 139 feet, while the mean depth exceeds 50 feet, the volume of water being estimated at 2381 millions of cubic feet. The 25-foot contour is continuous from end to end of the loch, but the 50-foot basin is divided into two portions by a slight shoaling just south of the narrows at Coirantee, the deepest sounding on the shoaling being 46 feet. The 75 feet contour is cut up into four portions. the largest and deepest is nearly 2 miles in length, and is distant little more than half a mile from the upper extremity; the others are of small extent, one close to the northern end, based on a sounding in 79 feet; a second about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the southern end, based on soundings in 75 and 81 feet; and a third