

LOCHS OF THE DEE (KIRKCUDBRIGHT) BASIN.

THE river Dee and its tributaries drain an extensive area in Kirkcudbrightshire, including many lochs of greater or less importance, of which a dozen were sounded by the Lake Survey, viz. Lochs Dee, Grennoch, Skerrow, Lochenbreck, Woodhall, Dungeon, Harrow, Lochinvar, Ken, the expansions of the river Dee below Loch Ken, Carlingwark, and Whinyeon. The five first-mentioned lochs drain into the Blackwater of Dee branch, while Lochs Dungeon, Harrow, Lochinvar, and Ken drain by the Water of Ken branch, Loch Carlingwark at Castle Douglas drains into the river Dee proper, and Loch Whinyeon into the Tarff Water branch, which joins the Dee near its outfall at the head of Kirkcudbright bay. Five of the lochs exceed a mile in length, Loch Ken, the largest, being $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length. The lochs are not very deep, Loch Dungeon, the deepest, having a depth of 94 feet, Loch Grennoch 68 feet, Loch Ken 62 feet, and Woodhall Loch 49 feet.

Loch Dee (see Plate XLIV.).—Loch Dee lies about 2 miles east of Loch Trool in the Cree basin, and about 10 miles west of New Galloway, amid high hills. The loch trends from south-west to north-east, and is over a mile in length, with a maximum breadth across the south-western end of about three-quarters of a mile, the mean breadth being one-third of a mile. The superficial area is about 253 acres, and the drainage area $5\frac{1}{4}$ square miles. The maximum depth of 36 feet was found near the south-western end, the mean depth being estimated at over 14 feet, and the volume of water at 157 million cubic feet. It is an irregular loch, a large peninsula extending into it from the south-eastern shore, and dividing it into two portions, the north-eastern portion being shallow, not exceeding 8 feet in depth, while the south-western portion forms a simple deep basin. More than one-half of the lake-floor is covered by less than 10 feet of water. The shores are mostly rock, but with mounds of sand and gravel and many boulders, the river at the outflow has rock on the north side. The loch was surveyed on July 30, 1903, when the elevation was 739.2 feet above the sea; the water rises about 4 feet, and falls about a foot, from that level. The Ordnance Survey officers found the elevation to be 739.5 feet on October 25, 1893. The following temperatures taken in the deepest part of the loch show a practically uniform temperature from surface to bottom:—