

the south shore of Loch Eport, between the Oban nam Fiadh basin and Loch Obisary. It is nearly one-third of a mile long and one-eighth of a mile in greatest breadth. It is one of the highest lochs surveyed, being 27·95 feet above sea-level on June 7, 1904. It is very shallow, the maximum depth being 9 feet. It drains north into Loch Eport by a short burn.

*The Oban nam Fiadh Basin.*—This comprises seven lochs, of which the lowest, Oban nam Fiadh, is purely tidal; while Loch Caravat, the largest loch of this basin, is very slightly brackish. Two chains of lochs connect with Loch Oban nam Fiadh. On the east Loch na Coinnich, communicating with Loch na Ceithir-Eileana, and on the south Loch Caravat. West from Loch Caravat lies Loch an Iasgaich; east from it Loch 'ic Colla, connected with which is Loch an t-Seasgain.

*Loch Oban nam Fiadh* (see Plate LXXV.).—This loch is of unusual form among the lochs of North Uist. It is elongate and narrow, over a mile long by a quarter of a mile in greatest breadth, and with a mean breadth of one-eighth of a mile, covering an area of about 92 acres. It is divided into three portions by narrows. The main part is of oblong form, its axis, east and west, two-thirds of a mile long. There are several small islands, one in the centre of the loch. The bottom is uniform, 5 or 6 feet in depth, but with two depressions of 10 feet. The middle and upper portions are small, and 4 to 5 feet in depth. They are separated by a low island, and the whole channel here is grown up with reeds. The stream from Loch Caravat enters the upper basin. The shores are of rock.

The loch is interesting from the transition it shows from salt to fresh water, and the corresponding difference in the fauna and flora of the upper and lower basins. The lower part is purely tidal. If not filled by all ordinary tides, it is, at any rate, so frequently filled as to enable sea-weeds to grow and marine animals to live. Yet fresh-water plants also grow in this part, and mussels are found adhering to these. The very narrow channel and the dense growth of *Phragmites* prevent the tides from having much effect on the upper portion in summer. Here the water tastes almost fresh, and such fresh-water crustacea as *Holopedium* are found. Yet high tides must raise this part considerably, as Loch Caravat, at the time of our visit 2 feet higher, is filled through it. The temperature at the surface was 68°·0 Fahr., and at 6 feet 66°·8, on June 7, 1904.

*Loch Caravat* (see Plate LXXV.).—Loch Caravat is the second deepest among the larger lochs of the island, though the little Loch a' Ghlinne-Dorcha is somewhat deeper. In general form it resembles the letter H, there being two narrow portions running east and west, connected by a narrow channel running north and south. In these circumstances it is difficult to define length and breadth; a line drawn from the west end of