

situated two miles east of Cowdenbeath, and close to the village of Lochgelly. The loch is surrounded by low hills, except on the west side, where the country is quite open as far as Cowdenbeath. The district around is of the agricultural type, with a few acres of rough, boggy pasture at the west end of the loch, which was probably a portion of its bottom at a former period. The margins of this shallow loch are so gently inclined that only in a few places can a boat be brought within 20 feet of the shore. The surrounding land at the north and east slopes gently towards the water, and is covered with a fine, close grass sward, about which there are a few large deciduous trees. This meadow-land gives place near the water's edge to a narrow shore of dirty sand or gravel, with a few larger stones; but except for a few sparse patches of *Littorella lacustris*, etc., there is no vegetation on these shores. The west shore consists chiefly of a *Phragmites* swamp, behind which there is a considerable area of boggy pasture, as previously mentioned. At the north-west corner, however, the bog is occupied by species of *Carex*, etc. The south shore has a zone of marsh throughout its length, immediately behind which there is a narrow plantation of conifers, mixed here and there, on the damper spots, with alders, poplars, willows, etc. For several years this loch was used as the common receptacle for the sewage of the populous mining district around. The inflowing burn at the west end was then an evil-smelling open sewer 6 or 8 feet wide; consequently the water of the loch was extremely foul. The local sanitary authorities, however, became enlightened regarding the danger of this mode of sewage disposal, and forthwith adopted a more modern method. Meanwhile certain colliery owners found in the affluent a convenient means of disposing of their mine water, as well as the waste from coal-washing machinery, so that now the burn resembles a stream of ink, and the loch is being silted up with a deposit of coal dust. The influence of such filthy additions is seen over the whole of the loch, particularly at the west end, where the deep, black mud has an insufferable odour. When the loch received the sewage, the water had a turbid, unwholesome appearance, and was everywhere crowded with plankton organisms, besides which all objects about the shores were covered with filamentous Algæ, chiefly *Cladophora fracta*, whilst there were innumerable floating masses of *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Cladophora flavescens*. Now the water is black and dead-looking, and the Algæ have considerably diminished, especially the *Cladophoræ*, whilst everything is covered with black filth. The marginal vegetation previously mentioned is luxuriant, although somewhat restricted in variety, but the submersed plants are scarce, which is not surprising when one considers the vicissitudes through which the loch has passed.