

as well as of *Heleocharis palustris* and *Equisetum limosum*, that enter the water here and there; otherwise there are no plants of the semi-aquatic type in the water of the loch. The water is fairly clear, and not appreciably peaty. The bottom of the loch, from the shore to a depth of about 15 feet, consists largely of firm sand, which is, however, frequently dirty and mixed with mud. Where the bottom is of this nature it is usually carpeted with *Chara aspera*, or its var. *subinermis*, to a depth of 14 or 15 feet. The growth of these plants at a depth of from 4 to 8 feet is prodigious, but they thin out towards the shallower water on the one hand, and towards the deeper water on the other. *Nitella opaca* occupies considerable areas, also where the bottom is sandy, and at similar depths to the *Chara*, but it has a tendency to be most abundant in slightly deeper water than that in which the maximum growth of the *Chara* occurs. On the few areas where the bottom, from near the margin to a depth of 15 feet, is of mud—for example, at the west side of the loch and in the bay at the east end of St Serf's Island—*Anacharis Alsinastrum* grows with such extraordinary vigour that in the summer, when these plants are near the surface, it is very difficult to row a boat through them. At greater depths than about 16 feet no living vegetation of the higher type occurs, and mud covers the bottom nearly everywhere. This mud, which is usually blackish with a somewhat offensive odour, was in August crowded with worm-like larvæ at many parts of the loch. Among a number of other plants which grow in the water the most abundant is probably *Potamogeton perfoliatus*. The boat-keeper at the loch informed me that, previous to the extensive development of the *Anacharis*, this *Potamogeton* was extremely abundant, and that it had been partially exterminated by the former plant. A considerable number of plants grow at this loch, amongst which the following are not of frequent occurrence in Area VII. :—*Carex aquatilis*, *C. hirta*, which grows on the sandy shores like *C. arenaria* on the sea-shore, *Alisma ranunculoides*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, and *Ranunculus reptans*. A few Bryophytes occur in marshy places, but are not abundant, excepting on parts of the south shore.

The Isle of May is situated at the entrance to the Firth of Forth, and I was induced to visit this isolated spot in order to investigate a small loch which is there, thinking it might afford something of interest because of the numerous water-birds that visit the island during their migrations. The loch, which is quite small, is situated in a ravine that divides the island obliquely in the direction S.E. by E. and N.W. by W. From the rocky and precipitous nature of the ravine one might imagine the pool to be a little lochan high on the mountains. The extensive engine-house at the east end, and the cement dams at both the east and west ends, however, quickly dispel