

flanking ridges. Blathbheinn on the east, and Druim an Eidhne, Sgùrr an Eidhne, and Sgùrr na Stri on the west.

Among Scottish rock-basins, perhaps the most convincing examples of the relation of differential ice-erosion to topography are those that radiate from what may be described as ice-cauldrons. The first group to which attention may be directed occurs in the mountainous district of Galloway, where a cauldron-like hollow representing a drainage area of sixty square miles is situated between the Kells and Merrick ranges of hills. The hollow is due to the differential weathering of the granite mass extending from Loch Doon to Loch Dee and its surrounding aureole of altered Silurian sediments which have been indurated by contact metamorphism with the granite. The lofty hill ranges bounding the central granite mass are composed of these altered sediments, and these are breached by the rivers Doon, Dee, Girvan, and the Trool, a tributary of the river Cree.

The Doon, an obsequent stream in a through consequent valley still partly drained by the consequent Dee, has base-levelled a large part of the interior granite mass, and has formed a watershed with the Dee in a deep valley, upon a low flat col studded with lochans. The Trool though breaching the barrier at a lower level than the other streams, has not been able to remove so much of the interior granite, and hence drains a higher part of the plateau. The river Girvan enters the cauldron on a higher level than the Doon, and has therefore been beheaded by tributaries of the latter stream. Hence by the action of these streams the granitic detritus has been removed at a quicker rate than the debris of the altered Silurian sediments. Loch Doon, the chief outlet, drains nearly two-thirds of the central plateau, while the remainder of the catchment basin is about equally shared by the Dee and the Trool, the part drained by the Girvan being extremely small.

In the description of the glaciation of the Southern Uplands we pointed out that this mass of high ground formed an axis of dispersion during both periods of ice extension, when a large reservoir of ice must have accumulated in the central cauldron, which discharged deep streams by the respective gaps.

Loch Doon, occupying the floor of the largest gap, has been described as a typical rock-basin showing clear traces of glaciation round its shores, on its rocky islets, and at its outlet, where well-striated *roches moutonnées* appear. The deepest sounding (100 feet) occurs where the valley is constricted by the northern range of altered Silurian sediments abutting against the loch east of the Wee Hill of Craigmullach. Below this point the lake widens, and its floor there forms a shallower basin, where it emerges from the higher hills on to