

the lower ground. The barrier at its outlet consists of massive gritty greywackes belonging to the Silurian system.

Loch Dee is situated near the south-eastern gap, and partakes of the character of a plateau basin and of a valley rock-basin; for there must have been a considerable escape of ice by the col at the head of the Black Laggan valley, though the drainage of that stream is northward towards the cauldron. The long narrow peat-moss traversed by the Cooran Lane to the north of Loch Dee probably conceals a silted-up valley rock-basin.

Loch Trool, occupying the south-western gap, is a typical rock-basin excavated along the strike of the altered Silurian strata. The deepest sounding (55 feet) occurs near the head of the lake, where the valley is most constricted; and the basin gradually shallows where it enters the low ground of Wigtownshire. As in the case of Loch Doon, there is here clear evidence of differential ice-erosion on the shores and rocky islets of the lake.

Loch Girvan Eye, at the head of the river Girvan, is a small rocky tarn evidently due to ice-erosion. Several plateau rock-basins occur on the floor of the central cauldron, as for instance Lochs Macaterick, Lochricawr, and Enoch, which drain into the Doon, and Lochs Neldricken and Valley, which discharge into the Trool. The last of these is ponded by moraines, but the granite is exposed not far below the outlet.

Rannoch Moor, embracing an area of about 180 square miles, also appears to have acted as an ice-cauldron, radiating ice through gaps in the surrounding high ground. It now forms a plateau with a general height of about 1000 feet, composed mainly of granite, with encircling mountains rising to a height of over 3000 feet, consisting chiefly of crystalline schists of sedimentary origin. Several lines of fault or shatter belts traverse the granite and surrounding schists in a north-east and south-west direction. Situated about the middle of the Central Block, it is drained by streams that have breached the mountain barriers and have base-levelled large areas of the Moor. The river Tummel—a tributary of the Tay—has accomplished more work in this direction than any of the other streams. The geological history of the Rannoch plateau closely resembles that of the Galloway cauldron just described. From its situation also it served as a reservoir for the accumulation of ice during both glaciations.

It is a remarkable fact that rock-basins are situated in many of these gaps, where the volume of ice issuing from the central cauldron would be greatest and its erosive power, subject to local conditions, would be increased. Loch Rannoch, situated in the widest gap, is a fine example of a rock-basin; for though at the lower end the river Tummel on issuing from the lake flows along an alluvial flat for a