

(3696 feet) on the confines of Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, two instances occur in a double corrie at a height of 2250 feet. They lie on a well-glaciated floor of hornblendic gneiss with prominent cliffs of muscovite-biotite gneiss rising behind them.

Mr Harker has noted the occurrence of the following corrie rock-basins in the Cuillins :—Coir' a' Bhasteir at an altitude of 2250 feet; Coir' a' Ghrunnda, 2220 feet; Coir' an Lochain, 1815 feet; Coire Labain, 1805 feet, which he ascribes to excessive ice-erosion in the head portions of the valleys.

ROCK-BASINS ALONG SHATTER BELTS

Reference has already been made to many rock-basins lying along lines of fault or shatter belts. The soundings of the Lake Survey show that, as a rule, they form simple basins with comparatively flat floors, and U-shaped in cross-section. Like the valley rock-basins free from shatter belts, they are an integral portion of the valley system in which they occur. The members of this group are of most common occurrence in the highly dissected plateaux where the normal valley and plateau basins are most abundant. In all those regions where valley rock-basins are absent the shatter belts are hollowed out relatively to the trunk streams which cross them.

Loch Ness is perhaps one of the best examples of this group, for it lies along the line of fault traversing the Great Glen. It is ponded partly by glacial deposits and fluvio-glacial gravels, and partly by raised beaches; but as it is deeper than any part of the bed of the North Sea between Scotland and the Norwegian Deep, there can be little doubt that it is a rock-basin. The soundings show that it possesses the typical form of a rock-basin. Like other depressions, it received great accessions of ice from either side, and was subjected to extreme erosion by the ice moving north-eastward towards the Moray Firth.

In brief, a careful consideration of all the available evidence has led us to the conclusion that the distribution and form of Scottish rock-basins bear a direct relation to the geological structure, topography, and glaciation of the particular regions in which they occur, and that such basins merely represent a phase of the differential erosion of the whole country by the action of land ice.

In the preparation of this paper and of the notes descriptive of the geological features of the rock-basins, we have freely availed ourselves of the information embodied in the maps and memoirs of the Geological Survey of Scotland. We desire further to acknowledge our obligations to the officers of the Geological Survey for valuable assistance rendered during the progress of the Scottish Lake Research investigations.

In addition to the publications of the Geological Survey of Scotland, the more important works which have been consulted in the preparation of this paper are given in the subjoined list.