

layers, which must tend to prevent convection currents and therefore to greatly prolong the cooling of the intermediate layer. Salt water is admitted intermittently from the neighbouring fjord, and forms the bottom layer, the thin surface layer being formed by fresh water from a small stream flowing in at one end and overflowing at the other, and being thus constantly renewed; the intermediate layer is apparently formed by very slow mixing of the bottom and surface layers. This little lake was used as an oyster nursery with great success, the high temperature developing the spat with remarkable rapidity, and with a degree of regularity from year to year surpassing anything attained in the fjord waters outside (see p. 587).

That portion of Russia formerly covered by the ice-sheet is known as the Lake Region, and includes Finland and the Russian governments of Olonets, Novgorod, St Petersburg, and Pskov. So numerous are the lakes in this part that they form a labyrinth of sheets of water and marshes, communicating with each other by rivers interrupted by rapids, the land not covered by water consisting of isthmuses and peninsulas. The government of Novgorod alone contains 3200 separate lakes, and that of Olonets 2000. The Russian portion of the Lake Region includes 15,500 square miles of water-surface.

Northern  
Russia.

**Lake Enare.**—The large lake Enare, in Russian Lapland, has an area of about 550 square miles, and drains through the Pasvigelf into the Varanger Fjord. Its elevation is 394 feet above sea-level, and the maximum depth is 30 feet.

Of the total area of the rocky table-land of Finland, one-tenth is covered by water.

**Lake Saima.**—The largest lake in Finland is Lake Saima, with an area of 680 square miles. It lies at an altitude of 256 feet, and has a maximum depth of 187 feet. It is connected by the Saima Canal with the Gulf of Finland, and drains by the Vuokosen, which forms the Imatra Rapids—the grandest rapids in Europe,—to Lake Ladoga.

The River Neva (see fig. 70) flows into the Gulf of Finland, and carries off the drainage of the two largest lakes in Europe, Lakes Ladoga and Onega.

River Neva.

**Lake Ladoga** is the largest sheet of fresh water in Europe; it is three times the size of Lake Vener, and thirty times that of the Lake of Geneva. Its length is 128 miles, its maximum breadth about 80 miles, and its area, including the islands, is 7015 square miles. Its maximum depth is 732 feet, its mean depth 300 feet, and it is estimated to contain 43,228,000 million cubic feet of water. In former times it formed one basin with the Gulf of