

Only two lakes of any importance are associated with the River <sup>River Danube.</sup> Danube, viz. Lakes Balaton and Fertö in Hungary, on the right bank of the river.

**Lake Balaton** (or Platten See) is about 50 miles in length, by 5 miles in average breadth, and has an area of about 250 square miles, oscillating with the rainfall. According to Halbfass, the maximum depth is 36 feet, but its average depth is only 10 feet, and therefore the volume of water contained in it is relatively very small, viz. 69,700 million cubic feet. It lies 344 feet above sea-level, and in some places on the south its shores are low and swampy, so that it has frequently been proposed to drain it, and an attempt has been made to reclaim its banks to some extent for cultivation. In consequence of its slight depth, the annual range of temperature in the lake is very great, the extreme being from 32° to about 82° Fahr. (0° to 27°·8 C.). The water temperature follows the air temperature fairly closely, and sudden great changes in the latter, whether due to wind or the fall of rain, snow, etc., are immediately reflected in the former. The very marked narrowing of the lake at the peninsula of Tihany divides it into two separate basins, and uninodal seiches of each have been observed. The principal seiche of the whole loch is the uninodal, and the depth being very slight relatively to the length, the period of this is very great—from ten to twelve hours—but the amplitude is relatively small compared with other great lakes. According to Cholnoky,<sup>1</sup> mirages are produced when the lowest strata of air are warmer than the upper, a condition fulfilled on the Balaton Lake chiefly in late autumn, when mirages are of almost daily occurrence and are observed in the morning. In these mirages, objects appear to be lifted up and to float in the air above the surface of the lake; the images are duplicated by the reflection below. Its waters are slightly brackish, in consequence of the efflorescences of salt formed on the Tertiary strata in the neighbourhood of the lake, and also on account of evaporation being at times greater than precipitation: twice in the last fifty years, for a period of many months the lake has had no outflow. The outlet of the lake to the Danube is by the Sio and Sarviz Rivers. The longer axis of the lake is parallel to a line of local volcanic action, and Judd<sup>2</sup> concludes that it is a depression due to the settling down of surface rocks into a cavity emptied by the ejection of lava. On account of the shallowness of the lake, there is no pure plankton, the organisms which constitute the plankton in deeper lakes, though present, being mingled with

<sup>1</sup> *Resultate der wissenschaftlichen Erforschung des Plattensees*, herausgegeben von der Plattensee Commission der Ung. Geogr. Gesellsch., Wien, 1897–1906.

<sup>2</sup> *Geol. Mag.*, vol. iii. p. 6, 1876.