

The area of the bottom of the loch between the shore and the 50-foot line is estimated at about 880 acres (or 19 per cent. of the total area of the loch), that between the 50-foot and 100-foot contours is estimated at 695 acres (or 15 per cent.); that between the 100- and 200-foot contours is estimated at about 1160 acres (or 25 per cent.); that between the 200- and 300-foot contours at about 875 acres (or 19 per cent.); that between 300 and 400 feet at 476 acres (or over 10 per cent.); that between 400 and 500 feet at about 474 acres (or over 10 per cent.); and that over 500 feet at 58 acres (or $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.).

It will thus be seen that Loch Ericht is of very simple conformation. The deeper parts are divided into two basins, by the constriction in the outline of the loch in the vicinity of Loch Ericht Lodge, where, in one place, it is less than a quarter of a mile in width, but even here the depth in the centre exceeds 100 feet.

Deposits.—The deposits from Loch Ericht are interesting because of the evidence of layers of different colours. At a depth of 50 feet a red sandy mud was obtained; at 112 feet the mud was white beneath and brown on top; at 124 feet it was all brown; at 153 feet all brown; at 182 feet sandy and white; at 184 feet white and brown; at 245 feet the deposit was a light-coloured mud, with a thin brown layer one inch in thickness on the top; at 270 feet it was white below, black-brown above; at 366 feet the mud was all dark brown; at 385 feet there was a white clay or mud with a dark layer on the top; at 456 feet the mud was all black; at 497 feet a section of black mud 5 inches in thickness was obtained; and at 510 feet the same black mud was found, without any trace of the lighter-coloured mud.

The sand from 50 feet consisted largely of mineral particles (probably 70 per cent. of the whole deposit) with a mean diameter of about 0.6 mm., one or two rock fragments attaining a diameter of 7 mm. The remainder of the deposit consisted of clayey and vegetable matter, with minute mineral particles less than 0.05 mm. in diameter, Diatoms, Sponge spicules, and Entomostracous skeletal remains. The light-brown mud from 150 feet contained about 30 per cent. of mineral particles, with a mean diameter of 0.5 mm., the largest being 5 mm. in diameter, with clayey and vegetable matter, and organic remains as previously mentioned. The dark-brown mud from 366 feet contained only about 10 per cent. of mineral particles (quartz, black and white mica, &c) exceeding 0.05 mm. in diameter, the mean diameter being about 0.2 mm. Samples of the two different-coloured layers of mud from a depth of 385 feet were submitted to analysis, with the following results:—

	Bottom layer.	Top layer
Organic matter . . .	10 00 per cent	26 8 per cent.
Insoluble residue . . .	73.70 ,,	57.6 ,,
Iron oxide	13.64 ,,	17.2 ,,
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