of Tomnadashan and Beinn Bhreac. The soundings show that the deepest part of the basin, which is bounded by the 400-feet contour-line, lies along the course of this fault. Under these circumstances, Loch Tay cannot be regarded as a typical example of a rock basin.

The other rock basins, however, seem to us to furnish strong evidence in support of the theory that they have been eroded by ice-action.

Biology of the Lochs of the Tay Basin.

By James Murray.

While it was not compatible with the bathymetrical work of the Lake Survey to study in detail the biology of the lochs, it has been customary to make collections of the plankton of each loch, a coarse and a fine net being used in each case. It is thus possible to compare only the biology of the open water of the different lochs. The number of species living in the open water is not very great, and does not vary in different lochs so much as might have been expected. The fauna of the shallower lochs is usually much richer than that of the deeper ones, owing to the occurrence in them of many species which in larger lochs would be confined to the shore region. Even thus limited, it is found that the lochs differ sufficiently from one another to render a comparative review of them of much interest. Each loch has a distinct character, which, notwithstanding a considerable amount of seasonal variation, is pretty constant.

A small number of animals and plants occur so constantly in the open water of all our lakes, large or small, that they mainly determine the character of the plankton of this pelagic region. They are so generally present that the absence of any one of them is occasion for remark. The most important of them are—*Diaptomus gracilis*, *Cyclops strenuus*, *Daphnia lacustris*, *Bosmina obtusirostris*, the Rotifers *Conochilus* (two species), *Anuræa cochleare*, and *Notholca longispina*, and the Diatom *Asterionella gracillima*. These are found at all seasons. In the summer, *Holopedium*, *Leptodora*, *Bythotrephes*, and *Polyphemus* are as generally distributed.

Only less common are *Asplanchna priodonta*, *Polyarthra platyptera*, *Peridinium tabulatum*, *Ceratium hirundinella*, *Mallomonas*. Some Desmids, mostly of the genus *Staurastrum*, but including also species of *Micrasterias*, *Xanthidium*, and *Closterium*, are generally present. The Rotifers *Floscularia pelagica* and *Notops pygmæus* are of frequent occurrence. Although all of those species may be present in most of the lochs, the varying proportions in which they occur in the plankton give rise to great differences of character in the lochs. Other species of