

LOCHS OF THE MORAR BASIN.

THREE lochs lying in the basin of the river Morar were surveyed—viz., Loch Morar, Loch Beoraid, and Loch an Nostarie. There are a number of other small lochs in this catchment-basin, but as there were no boats on them they could not be surveyed. Loch Morar is the principal loch in the basin, and it gives great interest to the whole area from the fact that it is not only the deepest lake in Scotland, but in the British Islands; indeed, the bottom of this loch forms the deepest hole in the continental plateau on which our islands are situated.

From the accompanying sketch-map (Fig. 32), it will be seen that Lochs Morar and Beoraid are parallel to each other, and run in an east-and-west direction. The overflow from Loch Beoraid, which lies about 3 miles to the south of Loch Morar, enters Loch Morar about its centre by the river Meoble, while the overflow from Loch an Nostarie, which lies to the north, enters Loch Morar at its western end by the river Loin.

The west end of Loch Morar is only about 500 or 600 yards from the sea, and its outflow is by the river Morar, which in its course falls over a rocky barrier, at the foot of which is a famous salmon pool.

The total drainage area of the Morar basin is calculated at 42,000 acres, or over $65\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. The whole region is rocky and mountainous. The district has not yet been mapped by the Geological Survey, but it is believed that the whole basin lies entirely in the crystalline schists of the Moine series of the Geological Survey, the main strike being north-north-east to south-south-west. The rocks seen at the barrier at the mouth of the loch are composed of hard quartzose flagstones or siliceous Moine schists. The direction of the hills at the belt which separates Loch Morar from the sea agrees generally with the strike of the rocks. Lochs Morar and Beoraid occupy true rock-basins, but it seems almost certain that the outlet of Loch Morar was at one time to the south-west, because the col there does not rise more than 100 feet above the sea, and there is a narrow belt of comparatively flat ground running southwards towards the source of the burn called Allt Cam Carach. It will be observed,