

LOCHS OF THE CONON BASIN.

FOURTEEN lochs draining into the Cromarty firth were surveyed by the staff of the Lake Survey, viz., Lochs Crann, a' Chroisg, Gown, Achanalt, a' Chuilinn, Fannich, Luichart, Beannachan, Achilty, Garve, Kinellan, Ussie, Glass, and Morie. The majority of these lochs drain by the river Conon into the head of the Cromarty firth, while Lochs Glass and Morie drain by independent streams, which fall into the Cromarty firth on its north-western shore. It has been found convenient, also, to include in this place a description of Loch Eye, situated between Cromarty firth and Dornoch firth. The drainage area under consideration is indicated in the index map of the district (Fig. 44), by reference to which the relations between the various lochs will be readily understood, and extends from the mouth of the Cromarty firth on the east to the heights of Carn Breac and An Groban on the west, Carn Chuinneag on the north, and Sgorr a' Choir-Ghlais on the south. The total area, as measured by the planimeter on the 1-inch Ordnance Survey maps, is over 770 square miles, and of this total 336 square miles (or one-half) drain into the lochs now to be dealt with, as will be seen from the summary table.

The headwaters of the basin take their rise on the flanks of Carn Breac, flowing by various streams into Loch na Moine Moire and Loch an t-Sior (which were not sounded), thence into Loch Crann and Loch a' Chroisg, the outflow from which is carried by the river Bran into Loch Achanalt and Loch a' Chuilinn, and thence into Loch Luichart. Shortly after leaving Loch a' Chroisg the river Bran receives the outflow from Loch Gown, which is fed by the Allt Gharagain, taking its rise on the flanks of Moruisg (3026 feet), and shortly before entering Loch Luichart the river Bran is joined by the river Fannich bearing the outflow from Loch Fannich, which is fed by various streams draining the flanks of a grand series of mountains exceeding 3000 feet in height. After the junction of the Bran and the Fannich the river receives the name of Conon, and shortly after leaving Loch Luichart it is joined by the river Meig, bearing the outflow from Loch Beannachan, taking its rise among lofty mountains culminating in Sgurr a' Chaoruinn (3452 feet). Still further on the river Conon is joined by the Black Water, bearing the outflow from Lochs Garve and Achilty, and taking its rise