

## LOCHS OF THE SHIN BASIN.

THE lochs visited by the Lake Survey draining by the river Shin and river Oyckell into the Dornoch firth are Lochs Shin, Merkland, a' Ghriama, Fiodhaig, Gorm Loch Mòr, Ailsh, Craggie, an Daimh, Migdale, and an Lagain, and it has been found convenient to include also Loch Buidhe, flowing by the river Fleet into Loch Fleet, lying to the north of the Dornoch firth. The drainage area to be dealt with is indicated on the index map (Fig. 48), and extends from Tarbat Ness on the east to Cnoc a' Choilich (little more than 3 miles from the shores of Loch Broom) on the west, and to Ben Hee and Carn Dearg on the north, the total area being about 860 square miles, of which about 770 square miles drain into the Dornoch firth and about 90 square miles into Loch Fleet. Of this total about 240 square miles drain into the lochs under consideration, as will be seen from the summary table on page 305. The principal loch is Loch Shin, one of the largest of Scottish lochs, the others being comparatively small, Loch Merkland being the only one exceeding 2 miles in length. Loch Shin receives the outflow from Lochs Merkland and a' Ghriama at its northern end, and the outflow from Loch Fiodhaig about 5 miles down on its eastern shore. Gorm Loch Mòr lies at the headwaters of the river Cassley, a tributary of the river Oyckell, and Loch an Daimh flows by the river Einig into the river Oyckell, which also receives the outflow from Lochs Ailsh and Craggie. The river Shin, bearing the outflow from Loch Shin, joins the river Oyckell to form the Kyle of Sutherland at the head of the Dornoch firth. Loch Migdale flows by a short stream into the Dornoch firth on its northern side, and Loch an Lagain flows by a longer stream (the river Evelix) also into the Dornoch firth on its northern side. Loch Buidhe flows by the river Torboll into the river Fleet at the head of Loch Fleet. The boundary-line between Ross-shire and Sutherlandshire follows the course of the river Oyckell from the head of the Dornoch firth to Breabag Tarsuinn, passing up the middle of Loch Ailsh, which thus lies partly in Ross and partly in Sutherland, while Lochs Craggie and an Daimh are located in Ross-shire and the remaining lochs under consideration in Sutherlandshire.

*Loch Shin* (See Plates LXV. and LXVI.).—Loch Shin is the largest loch in Scotland to the north of Loch Ness, and, as regards length, it