

The floor of Gorm Loch Mòr is most irregular, islands and banks and deep soundings being found here and there in close proximity, while in other places deep water approaches close to the shore. The contour-lines are of the most sinuous description, with isolated deep and shallow patches. The deepest part of the loch runs along the western shore, off which the slope is uniformly rather steep, and occurs towards the north-western end, as will be seen in the longitudinal section A-B on the map. The areas between the contour-lines, and the percentages to the total area of the loch, are as follows:—

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|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0 to 25 feet | 126 acres | 68 per cent. |
| 25 „ 50 „ | 35 „ | 19 „ |
| 50 „ 75 „ | 16 „ | 8 „ |
| Over 75 „ | 8 „ | 5 „ |
| | <hr/> 185 „ <hr/> | <hr/> 100 „ <hr/> |

Temperature Observations.—A surface reading at 10 a.m. on October 22, 1902, when commencing the survey, gave 44° Fahr., but at 2 p.m. in the deepest part of the loch a series of temperatures gave identical readings, viz. 46°·2, at the surface and at 10, 25, 50, and 75 feet.

Loch Ailsh (see Plate LXIX.).—Loch Ailsh lies about 10 miles to the west of Loch Shin, with the heights of Ben More Assynt and Coniveall rising to the north. It is a moderate-sized but rather shallow loch, containing trout and an occasional salmon or grilse. It is irregular in outline, slightly under a mile in length from north to south, with a maximum width in the northern portion exceeding half a mile. Its waters cover an area of about 245 acres, and it drains an area 44 times greater—an area of nearly 17 square miles. The maximum depth of 24 feet was observed in the north-eastern part of the loch, less than a quarter of a mile from the alluvial cone laid down at the mouth of the river Oyckell on the northern shore. The volume of water is estimated at 88 million cubic feet, and the mean depth at 8½ feet. The loch was surveyed on September 6, 1902, when the elevation of the lake-surface above the sea was found to be 498·5 feet, almost identical with that observed by the Ordnance Survey officers on August 29, 1871, viz 498·4 feet. The highest drift-mark observed was 4 feet above the level of the water on the date of the survey. The southern and western portions of Loch Ailsh are covered by less than 10 feet of water, the deeper part lying along the eastern shore and towards the north-eastern angle of the loch. The area of the lake-floor covered by less than 10 feet of water is about 173 acres, or 71 per cent. of the entire area, while that covered by more than 20 feet of water is only about 12 acres, or 5 per cent. The temperature of the surface water at 2 p.m. on the date of the survey was 55°·3 Fahr., and a reading at a depth of 20 feet gave 54°.