

Examined at different seasons, the colour was found to vary. In October, 1903, it was very red; in May, 1904, dull brown; in January, 1905, green. On all these occasions the phantom larva was about equally abundant, and none was seen in a more advanced stage of development. The changes of colour are doubtless correlated with the predominance of one or another organism. The *A. valga* is not always red; in May, 1903, it was dull grey in colour. When algæ are swarming, the colour will incline to green. The colour may be affected by the development of certain entomostraca—*Diaptomus gracilis*, for instance, was very abundant, but quite colourless, in May, 1903. Later in the year it becomes brown or red.

There are other ponds in close proximity to the Red Lochan, but none of these shares the turbidity and reddish-brown colour. The peculiarity is probably due to its being more closely shut in. The surrounding rim of gravel is 14 feet above the pond at its lowest part. There is, besides, a fringe of birch trees. The water is stagnant, which favours the growth of certain organisms, particularly *Anuræa valga*. The blood-red larva of *Chironomus*, though abundant, could have no part in causing the red colour, as it was not in the open water, but among the weeds and mud.

Mr. Robertson, the keeper at Fersit, to whom we are indebted for several collections and much information about the loch, states that it is later in freezing than the other ponds in the region. The more active decomposition in the stagnant water would account for this.

The temperature of the water in May is about 45°·0 Fahr. It is said that wildfowl never settle on this pond, and that the common frog cannot live in it.

The following legend was related to Sir John Murray concerning this Red loch:—

“Many centuries ago there lived in these parts a noted hunter named Donnuil. In return for some services rendered to the witch of Ben-a-Vreich, she offered to deprive the deer either of the sense of sight or of smell, so far as he was personally concerned. He chose to have the deer deprived of the sense of smell, ‘for,’ said he, ‘I can easily cheat their eye.’ The witch, however, told him that in the stomach of the last stag he would kill there would be found a ball of worsted thread. As time passed Donnuil became ill, and, while weak in bed, his daughter told him a fine stag was caught by the horns in some bushes near the house. He asked for his cross-bow, and, although in bed, he shot the stag through his bedroom window. Later on his daughter brought him a ball of worsted which had been found in the stomach of the stag. He knew his end was near; indeed, he died the same evening. On the following morning the Red Lochan had appeared at the place where the stag was killed.”

This story was evidently invented to explain the origin of the Red