

loch, and is of the same order as those stories invented to explain why the fox has a bushy tail and why the serpent crawls on his belly.

NOTES ON THE BIOLOGY OF THE LOCHS IN THE LOCHY DISTRICT.

By JAMES MURRAY.

There is little peculiarity in the biology of the large lakes in the basin, except in that of Loch Lochy. They contain the ordinary fauna of great lakes of low temperature. Most of them were surveyed so early in the season that the water was little above the minimum winter temperature, and the summer crustacea (*Holopedium*, *Leptodora*, &c.) had not arrived. The smaller lochs were warmer, and some of those crustacea were present.

Loch Arkay.—The plankton is almost exactly that typical of large lakes, with hardly any local peculiarity. The larva of *Leptodora*, which we have rarely found, was present. A few examples of the somewhat rare *Latona setifera* were found. A few species of plankton-desmids, chiefly of the genus *Staurastrum*, occurred, but they were less conspicuous than in the lochs farther west.

Loch Lochy.—Though the situation of Loch Lochy is so similar to that of Loch Ness, and though the depth in the two lochs is comparable, the plankton of Loch Lochy offers a remarkable contrast to that of Loch Ness. In two different years when the lochs were examined, the plankton in Loch Lochy was found to be much richer. The quantity was many times greater, the species more numerous, but the special feature was the quantity and variety of the phytoplankton. Diatoms were very abundant *Tabellaria fenestrata*, var. *asterionelloides*, was of more luxuriant growth than had been observed elsewhere, the colonies often making more than two complete turns of the spiral. The rare crustacean *Ophryoxus gracilis* (discovered in Britain in Loch Ness by Mr. D. J. Scourfield) was present. The heliozoon *Clathrulina*, of frequent occurrence in our larger lakes, but usually as skeletons merely, was here abundant and alive, the majority of the examples having the pseudopodia fully extended.

Lochan na h-Earba.—The fauna calls for little comment. *Latona setifera* was found in the west loch. Of the summer crustacea, *Holopedium* was in both lochs, *Leptodora* only in the east loch, and *Diaphanosoma brachyurum* only in the west loch. Desmids were conspicuous in both lochs, and included some species which we have not often found.

Loch Laggan.—The plankton is quite ordinary, except that it is the only loch of the basin where we observed two species of *Diaptomus*.