

The volume of water contained in Loch Ness is estimated at 263,000 millions of cubic feet, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ cubic miles. In no other Scottish loch does the bulk of water amount to a cubic mile, in fact Loch Ness contains about three times as much water as the two lochs which most nearly approach it in this respect, viz. Loch Lomond with 92,800 million cubic feet, and Loch Morar with 81,500 million cubic feet. The largest volume of water recorded by Dr. Mill among the lakes of the Cumberland district is only 12,250 million cubic feet. As far as we are aware, the volume of water contained in the large lakes of Ireland has not yet been carefully worked out, but, taking Loch Neagh, for instance, which is said to cover an area of 153 square miles (or seven times greater than the area of Loch Ness), and to have a maximum depth of only 48 feet, a rough calculation will show that the bulk of water in Loch Neagh must be less than that in Loch Ness. It seems quite possible, therefore, that Loch Ness may be the largest body of fresh water, not only in Great Britain, but in the United Kingdom.

Correlated with the enormous volume of water in Loch Ness is the high value of the mean depth, which works out at 433 feet for the entire loch. This far exceeds that of Loch Morar, viz. 284 feet, which comes next in this respect. The mean depth of Loch Ness is equal to 57·4 per cent. of the maximum depth—a higher percentage than has been observed in any other large deep loch, the nearest approach to it being in the case of Loch Avich, with a maximum depth of 188 feet and a mean depth of 98 feet, the percentage being 52·4. It is true that in some shallow flat-bottomed basins the percentage of mean depth to maximum depth exceeds that in Loch Ness; as, for instance, Loch Watten in Caithness (70 per cent.), and Loch Bruadale in Lewis (74 per cent.), but the maximum depths are here only 12 feet and 6 feet respectively. Except for Lochs Ness and Avich, in all the deep Scottish lochs, *i. e.* those having depths exceeding 100 feet, the mean depth is less than one-half of the maximum depth, the percentage varying from 19·4 in Loch Shiel, and 19·5 in Loch Lomond, to 49·4 in Loch Lungard, and 49·6 in Loch Suainaval (Lewis).

It has been stated that the surface of Loch Ness stands about 52 feet above mean sea-level, so that by far the greater portion of its floor falls below the level of the sea.

An inspection of the bathymetrical map of Loch Ness shows—(1) the comparative simplicity of the basin, (2) the steep shore-slope throughout the greater part of the loch; and (3) the large area of the lake-floor covered by very deep water. The 100-feet, 200-feet, 300-feet, 400-feet, and 500-feet contours are continuous, and only the 600-feet and 700-feet contours are interrupted by a shoaling opposite the entrance of the river Foyers, probably due to the deposition of material brought down by that river. This shoaling is covered by 515 to 524 feet of water, and both to the north-east and south-west the bottom sinks to depths exceeding 700 feet.