

## LOCHS OF THE THURSO BASIN.

TOWARDS the headwaters of the river Thurso there are several small lochs, the most important being Loch More, which was the only one sounded by the Lake Survey. This loch, which must not be confounded with the larger Loch More in Sutherlandshire, is famous for its salmon and trout fishing; the large area of country draining into it is a striking characteristic.

*Loch More* (see Plate VI).—Loch More lies about 13 miles to the south of Thurso, the overflow from the loch being carried by the river Thurso, after a long and devious course, into Thurso bay. The loch is irregularly subcircular in outline, with a maximum diameter in a north and south direction of less than a mile, the mean breadth being one-third of a mile. The superficial area is about 177 acres, or a quarter of a square mile, and the area draining into it is about  $67\frac{1}{2}$  square miles—an area 240 times greater than that of the loch. The maximum depth of 7 feet was observed near the eastern shore, off the mouth of the outflowing river. The volume of water is estimated at 32 million cubic feet, and the mean depth at 4 feet. The loch was surveyed on October 9, 1902, when the elevation of the lake-surface above the sea was found by levelling from bench-mark to be 381·4 feet; when levelled by the officers of the Ordnance Survey in July, 1870, the elevation was 381·0 feet above sea-level.

Like most of the Caithness lochs, Loch More is a shallow, flat-bottomed basin. Most of the soundings were taken in depths of 5 and 6 feet; the deepest cast in 7 feet was taken about 100 yards from the eastern shore where the river Thurso flows out, while along the southern and northern shores the bottom is being silted up by the deposition of material laid down by the Strathmore water and the Sleach water. The area of the lake-floor covered by less than 5 feet of water is about 92 acres, or 52 per cent. of the total area of the loch. On the date of the survey, temperature observations gave  $46^{\circ}0$  Fahr. at the surface and at a depth of 3 feet, while a reading at 6 feet gave  $45^{\circ}8$ .