LOCHS OF THE FORSS BASIN.

THE Lake Survey staff sounded the two principal lochs within this basin, viz. Lochs Calder and Shurrery. The few smaller lochs—of which the most important are Loch Olginey flowing into Loch Calder, and Loch Chaluim flowing into Loch Shurrery—could not be surveyed for lack of boats. The headwaters of the basin take their rise on the flanks of Beinn nam Bad Mhor and Cnoc an Fhuarain Bhain, flowing by the Cnocglass or Torran water into Loch Shurrery, from which issues the Forss water, which on its way to the sea is joined by the Alltan Ghuinne, bearing the overflow from Loch Calder. Like most of the Caithness lochs, Loch Shurrery is shallow, while Loch Calder is important both on account of its depth, and because it is the source of the water-supply to the town of Thurso. The fishing in both lochs is good, though preserved; salmon and trout being got in Loch Shurrery, and trout and char in Loch Calder.

Loch Shurrery (see Plate VII.).—Loch Shurrery lies about 8 miles from Thurso and 7 miles from Reay, on the north coast of Caithness. The loch trends in a north and south direction, and is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, the maximum width being less than half a mile. Its waters cover an area of about 228 acres, or over one-third of a square mile, and it drains an area of 29 square miles. The maximum depth of 7 feet was observed in two places—near the middle of the loch towards the eastern shore, and near the foot of the loch towards the western shore. The volume of water is estimated at 43 million cubic feet, and the mean depth at $4\frac{1}{3}$ feet. The loch was surveyed on October 6, 1902, when the elevation of the lake-surface was found to be 321·45 feet above the sea; when levelled by the Ordnance Survey officers on June 4, 1870, the elevation was 321·1 feet above sea-level. Loch Shurrery is a shallow, flat-bottomed basin, the majority of the soundings having been taken in depths of 5 and 6 feet, while three soundings were taken at the maximum depth of 7 feet—two near the centre and one near the northern end, as already indicated. The area of the lake-floor covered by more than 5 feet of water is about 121 acres, or 53 per cent. of the total area of the loch. The temperature of the surface water towards the southern end was 50°·0 Fahr., while towards the northern end readings at the surface and at a depth of 3 feet gave 49°·5, and a reading at 5 feet gave 49°·2.