

LOCHS OF THE LAXFORD BASIN.

WITHIN this basin (see Index Map, Fig. 2) five lochs were sounded by the staff of the Lake Survey, viz., Lochs More, na h-Ealaidh, Stack, na Claise Feàrna, and nam Breac. The most important of these are Lochs More and Stack, which drain by the river Laxford into the head of Loch Laxford—a sea-loch on the west coast of Sutherland. Loch na h-Ealaidh is directly continuous with Loch More and at the same level, while Lochs na Claise Feàrna and nam Breac drain by independent streams falling into Loch Laxford on its southern shore. The area draining into these lochs is about 44 square miles. Lochs More and Stack are situated in a wild, mountainous district, many of the surrounding peaks exceeding 2000 feet in height, and are famed for their fishing, which is preserved; Loch More contains splendid trout, while Loch Stack contains also sea-trout, *Salmo ferax*, salmon, and char.

Loch More (see Plate.VIII.).—Loch More (see Fig. 29) lies about 6 miles from Laxford Bridge, and about 10 miles from Scourie, and approaches to within 2 miles of the head of Loch Merkland, in the Shin basin. The loch trends in a north-west and south-east direction, and exceeds 4 miles in length; the width of the loch is extremely uniform, so that the mean breadth of the entire loch is very little less than the maximum breadth, which is under half a mile. The superficial area is about 940 acres, or nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, and the area draining into the loch is only about 12 square miles. The maximum depth of 316 feet was observed approximately near the centre of the loch. The volume of water contained in the loch is estimated at nearly 5000 millions of cubic feet, and the mean depth at 126 feet. The loch was surveyed on September 2 to 6, 1902; the elevation of the lake-surface above the sea on commencing the survey was determined by levelling from bench-mark as being 127·65 feet, but between September 4 and 5 the water rose about 3 inches. When levelled by the officers of the Ordnance Survey on July 1, 1856, the elevation was 127·3 feet above sea-level.

Loch More is quite simple in conformation, the bottom sloping down on all sides towards the deepest part of the loch without any pronounced irregularity. There is a small basin exceeding 300 feet in depth in the middle of the loch, based on a single sounding in 316 feet. The 200-foot