

LOCHS OF THE DOON BASIN.

THE river Doon, rising among the highest mountains of the south of Scotland, drains a considerable mountain mass in the counties of Ayr and Kirkcudbright. The elevated southern portion of the valley of the Doon includes a number of lochs of moderate size, and Loch Doon, the greatest lake of the south of Scotland. There are some small lochs in the lowland part of the valley. Six of the lochs in the basin were surveyed. Lochs Regar and Macaterick, the largest in the basin after Loch Doon, Loch Enoch, a beautiful loch lying at a great elevation on the east side of the Merrick, and a number of smaller lochs, could not be surveyed. The superficial areas of the six lochs surveyed added together give a total area of 2.6 square miles; their combined volumes amount to 1648 millions of cubic feet, and together they drain nearly 60 square miles of country.

After leaving the mountains near Dalmellington, the river Doon flows for some 15 miles through fertile lowlands, and enters the Firth of Clyde 2 miles to the south of the town of Ayr (see Index Map, Fig. 10).

Loch Doon (see Plate XXXIV.).—This large and beautiful loch is situated on the borders of the counties of Ayr and Kirkcudbright, about 15 miles south-east of the town of Ayr. It lies amid hills, which increase in height towards the head of the loch till an elevation of 2000 feet is reached on the east side; while to the south the Galloway highlands rise, peak above peak, culminating in the Merrick (2764 feet) and Corserine (2668 feet). The hills of the upper part of the glen are rugged and dark; the lower end is wooded. Here the river, immediately on issuing from the loch, rushes as a torrent through Ness Glen, a glen of unrivalled beauty. There is much smooth, polished rock exposed on the shores, and in the form of whale-backed islands.

The valley occupied by the loch runs north and south, but the axis of the loch is strongly curved. In form, Loch Doon is narrow and elongate, like the majority of the highland lochs. It measures 5 miles in length, in a straight line between the ends, nearly 6 miles following the central line. The greatest breadth, at the Ford of Moak, about 2 miles from the lower end, is over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the mean breadth is one-third of a mile. The maximum depth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the head of the loch, is 100 feet, and the mean depth 27 feet. The superficial area is 2 square miles, and the volume of water 1517 millions of cubic feet. The area drained amounts