

## LOCHS OF THE CLYDE BASIN.

WITHIN this basin (see Index Map, Fig. 27) seven lochs were sounded by the Lake Survey staff, including one of the largest and most important of Scottish fresh-water lochs (Loch Lomond), which is interesting as being one of the two Scottish inland bodies of water surveyed "in the interests of navigation" by officers of the British navy so long ago as 1861. The other loch surveyed at that time was Loch Awe in the Etive basin, to be dealt with later. With the object of determining what changes in conformation, if any, had taken place in the interval of over forty years, Loch Lomond and Loch Awe were sounded in 1903, and the results were carefully compared with those obtained in 1861, as shown in the Admiralty charts published in 1862 and 1863 respectively. Generally speaking, the depths recorded by the two surveys, both in Loch Lomond and in Loch Awe, agree very closely, and it was at first considered that it would be unnecessary to publish the soundings in these lochs, but ultimately the Directors decided, in order to render the account of the work of the Lake Survey complete, to issue the maps of these lochs in the same form as the other maps accompanying this volume.

To the north of the Firth of Clyde, besides Loch Lomond, two neighbouring small lochs (Geal and Sloy) were sounded, and to the south of the Firth of Clyde, four lochs were sounded, viz. Kilbirnie Loch, Castle Semple Loch, Loch Thom, and Gryfe reservoir, the two last mentioned being artificial, and connected with the supply of water to the town of Greenock.

*Loch Lomond* (see Plates CXXIV. and CXXV.)—Loch Lomond is so well known that there is no necessity to enter here into a detailed topographic description; the beauty of its surroundings, which is enhanced by the many large islands occupying the wide southern portion, has been referred to by many writers, and has earned for it the title of "Queen of Scottish lakes" (see Fig. 35). Briefly, it may be stated that the loch trends nearly north and south, and in a straight line is about 21 miles in length, but following the sinuous axis of maximum depth, the length is nearly 23 miles, Loch Lomond being exceeded in this respect only by Loch Awe and Loch Ness. The upper northern portion for a distance of 12 or 13 miles from the head of the loch is narrow, mostly less than a mile across, but to the south of Ross point the loch opens out, and attains