scattered, as it were, broadcast over the districts in which they occur. They are by far the most abundant of all the lakes of the country. Dispersed over all parts of the Highlands, they are most numerous in the north-west, especially in the Outer Hebrides and in the west of Ross-shire and Sutherland. The surface of the Archæan gneiss is so thickly sprinkled with them that many tracts consist almost as much of water as of land (Fig. 52). They almost invariably lie on strongly ice-worn platforms of rock. Their sides, and the rocky islets which diversify their surface, have been powerfully glaciated. They cannot be due directly to either fracture or subsidence, but are obviously hollows produced by erosion. They have accordingly, with much

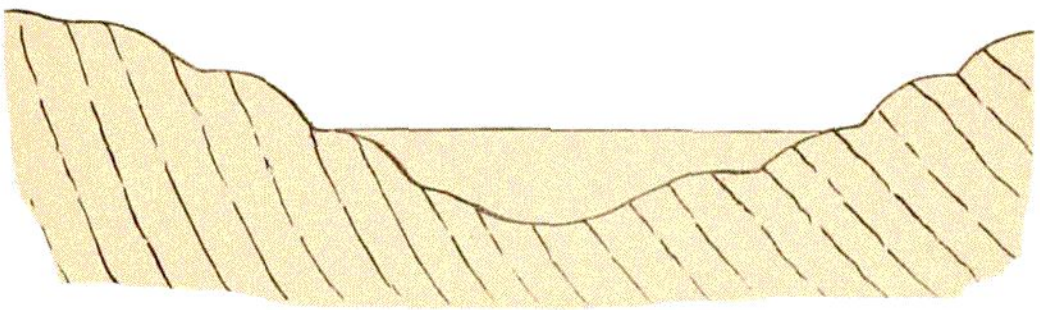

FIG. 51.—Section showing the structure of a Rock-Tarn.

probability, been assigned to the gouging action of the sheets of land-ice by which the general glaciation of the country was effected.

The most striking example of this class of lakes in the Highlands is undoubtedly Coruisk, in the Isle of Skye. Lying only a few hundred yards from the end of the Atlantic inlet, Loch Scavaig, and not many feet above the level of the sea, it is almost surrounded by an array of the blackest and most jagged precipices in Britain. The rock (gabbro) of which they consist is of volcanic origin, and is endowed with singular toughness and durability. Along the crests and upper parts of the cliffs, it has been split by