

A level meadow occupies its bottom, and the 'heath-clad ridges' which close it on the south are successive moraines—huge piles of rubbish, cumbered with massive angular blocks of greywacke. The meadow was evidently at no very remote date a lake, ponded back by the moraine heaps which have been cut through by the outflow of the water, until the lake has been drained.

The other recess is that of Loch Skene, which is held in on the north and west sides by steep and, in part, precipitous slopes of craggy rock, on the east and south by moraine mounds. I shall not soon forget the surprise with which,



FIG. 70.—Sectional view of Loch Skene, Dumfriesshire. The valley to the left is that of the Midlaw Burn.

after climbing with my old friend and colleague in the Geological Survey, Professor John Young, the ravine of the Grey Mare's Tail, and wandering through the heaps of glacier rubbish that lie along the valley above the linns, I saw from the last moraine mound the blue waters of Loch Skene asleep in the shadow of the crags. Everything around told of the old glaciers;—mound after mound stretching in crescent-shape across the valley, and coming down in irregular piles from the Midlaw corry on the left; huge masses of rock still poised on the summits of the ridges where they had been tumbled by the ice that bore them from the dark cliffs