

through a pass among the hills into the valley of the Gala at Galashiels. Its course is rather oblique to the strike of the rocks, but the successive bands of hard greywacke or grit and more decomposing shale show themselves in the strips of craggy and smoother hillside. The alluvial terraces of the river are well marked. Opposite Innerleithen the road turns off, by which an excursion may be made to **Yarrow** and **Moffatdale**, and this is probably the most generally convenient route to follow. Quitting the valley of the Tweed, where the river winds across broad flats of its own alluvium, the road follows for about a mile the narrower defile of the Traquair Water, along the base of the high uplands that culminate in Minchmoor (1856 feet); and then turns southward up the Newhall Burn, where some interesting evidence may be seen of the pre-glacial course of the stream, now filled with boulder-clay. The **Gordon Arms**, on the Yarrow, is a convenient centre from which to see the Vales of Yarrow and Ettrick [293, 308, 316]. **St. Mary's Loch** is the largest natural sheet of water in the eastern half of the Southern Uplands [296]. How far it is a rock-basin or is due to the irregular accumulation of drift in the valley has not been ascertained. It receives from the north side the waters of the Megget, which rise in the moraine ground above referred to. It probably at one time extended southward to the upper end of the Loch of the Lowes as one continuous sheet of water, but the latter lake has been separated by the delta thrown across by the Whit-hope Burn and the Ox Cleugh Burn, which descend from opposite sides. On the low narrow strip of ground thus formed the little inn of St. Mary's (Tibbie Shiels's) has been built. The Vale of Yarrow continues for about three miles farther, when the watershed of the country is reached, which the road crosses at a height of 1080 feet. The little resting-place or 'shepherd's sheelin' of Birkhill, unless in the height of the tourist season, may afford sleeping accommodation if the traveller would visit the old glacier ground of Whitecoomb and Loch Skene [316]. To reach that somewhat inaccessible tract he may either strike over the moors in front of Birkhill or descend the main valley of the Moffat until opposite the Grey Mare's Tail, and then climb the steep hill by the side of that ravine until he finds himself among the moraines [317].

In descending **Moffatdale** the most prominent features