

southern slopes of the Oberland, and the northern drainage of all the southern Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn, which looks down on the modern puny glacier of the Rhone. But where at its western end, near Geneva, the ice was thinner, there the pressure and grinding power were less, and the waste of the underlying rock was proportionately diminished. The result was, that a great hollow was scooped out, *at least* 984 feet deep as sounded by De la Beche, or about 1,000 feet as given by later measurements in the deepest part, without allowing for the moraine matter that, in later times, must have been left in the depths of the lake by the retreating glacier, or for the modern sediment that covers the bottom. At first it may be difficult to realise this theory and to appreciate the mode of action of the ice, but when we compare the depth with the length of the lake and the height and weight of the ice above, and reduce all to a true scale, as shown in fig. 92, it becomes evident that the depth of the rock-basin is comparatively quite insignificant.

I have elsewhere shown that the rock-bound lakes of Brienz and Thun had the same kind of origin. These were originally one lake, but are now separated by broad alluvial meadows. In like manner the Lakes of Lucerne, Zug, the Wallen See, Zurich, and Constance, all lie in rock-basins of erosion by glacier ice. The same is the case with many other Swiss lakes of minor note, and should anyone wish to see actual basins, visibly bordered by glaciated rocks, let him critically inspect the lakes of Sarnen and Lungern on the route from Lucerne across the Brunig. The deep hollows in which the great Italian lakes lie on the south side of the Alps had a similar origin.¹

¹ See Memoir by the Author, 'On the Glacial Origin of certain