

2. Moraine-Tarns are small sheets of water ponded back by some of the last moraines shed by the retreating glaciers. They may be counted by hundreds in the Highlands, generally at the heads of glens or at the mouths of corries (Fig. 50; see also Fig. 37). Probably the most southerly in the Highland region are those in the western part of the granite hills of Arran, of which the most picturesque is one which lies at the foot of the corry on the seaward face of the northern end of Beinn Bhreac (spotted hill). The granite corries of Aberdeenshire furnish still more striking examples, such as those around the Ben Macdhui, Braeriach, Cairn Gorm, Ben Aven, Ben a' Bhuid, and Lochnagar.

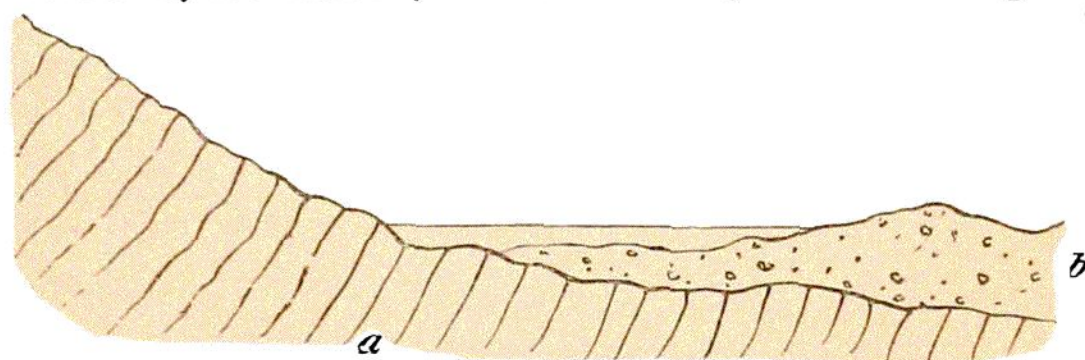


FIG. 50.—Section showing the structure of a Moraine Lake, where the water is ponded back by moraine mounds in a valley. *a*, Rock of the district. *b*, Moraine mounds.

As a rule, lakes of this class are only to be seen among the high grounds. But in the north and west, where the glaciers came down to the sea, moraine-tarns are to be found at much lower levels. Loch Brora, for example, in the east of Sutherland, to which further allusion will be made in the next chapter, is only separated from the North Sea by a series of moraine mounds and the raised beach which has been levelled out of them.

3. Rock-Tarns are small lakes lying in rock-basins on the sides of mountains or the summits of ridges, and on rocky plateaux or plains. They have no necessary dependence upon lines of valley. On the contrary, they are