sidence would involve a complex series of subterranean disturbances, for which some further evidence than the mere existence of the basins is required. I do not think we are in a position to dogmatise on this subject, but to my own mind the view that these lakes have been mainly eroded by land-ice seems most in accord with the evidence, and to involve the smallest number of difficulties and contradictions.

The idea that glacial erosion has been concerned in the excavation of basins in the solid rock was first propounded by my friend and former colleague, Sir Andrew C. Ramsay. He contended that as these basins lie not in hollows of drift, but in naked rock, so they are not due to rents, or corrugations, or depressions of the earth's crust, but have been actually scooped out of the rocks; that, in short, they are true hollows of erosion, just as much as the river-valleys. Running water certainly could not have dug them out, nor the waves of the sea, nor rains, springs, nor frosts. A glacier, however, as was pointed out in Chapter IV., is a powerful erosive agent, and in its operations is not bound by the same restraints as those which determine the action of running water. When a glacier is choked, as it were, by the narrowing of its valley, the ice actually rises. In such places, there is necessarily an enormous amount of pressure, the ice is broken into yawning crevasses, and the solid rocks suffer a proportionate abrasion. The increased thickness of the mass of ice at these points must augment the vertical pressure, and give rise to a greater scooping of the bed of the glacier. If this state of things last, a hollow or basin will be here ground out of the rock, and such a hollow once formed, there will always be a tendency to preserve it during the general glacial erosion of the bottom of the valley. On the retreat of the ice, this hollow, unless previously choked