

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1884.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather during November was quiet. Pressure was in excess of the average by about two-tenths of an inch. Temperature was at about its normal value, except over our eastern counties and along our south-western coasts—in both of which regions it was rather below the average. The winds were very variable, and, as a rule, moderate in force; gales were only occasionally reported, and were not severe. Rainfall was deficient, except at our western and northern stations. Bright sunshine, also, was very deficient.

At the close of the month the Northerly winds which had prevailed for many days had given way, and mild damp Southerly breezes were appearing in all parts of the kingdom.

November 1–9.—During this period the class of weather and pressure distribution over our Islands was partly cyclonic and partly anticyclonic, sometimes one and sometimes the other system being the more prevalent, but the type was Southerly and South-westerly. Temperature was above its normal value for the time of year, especially over the southern and eastern parts of the kingdom, and while the rainfall was in excess at our more northern and western stations, it was in defect in the south, where the amount of bright sunshine was considerable. During this period two large well-marked depressions passed over our area—one (No. LXI.*) travelling in a north-easterly direction, at a long distance outside our extreme west and north-west coasts, while the centre of the second (No. LXII.*) passed directly over Ireland and Scotland, its movement being about North-easterly. The first of these brought Southerly gales to the western parts of the kingdom, and a great deal of rain, while comparatively little rain fell over our southern and eastern counties; with the second the rainfall was much heavier (especially in the west and north), and in Ireland it was accompanied by strong Northerly winds. On the disappearance of the latter disturbance the weather cleared up in almost all places. There was one other occasion also on which a great deal of rain fell over the United Kingdom—especially at our western stations. At the close of October a large high pressure area lay over Germany and France, while decreasing gradients for South-westerly and Southerly winds prevailed over the United Kingdom. On November 1st a new (but smaller) high-pressure system advanced towards our south-western coasts and the Bay of Biscay, bringing a temporary spell of North-westerly winds to Ireland, while the southerly current still held over Great Britain and France. The distribution of pressure thus produced over the Bay of Biscay and the southern parts of our area was for a time complex (see the maps in the Daily and Weekly Weather Reports for this period), a shallow subsidiary depression appearing over Ireland on the evening of the 1st, and a long “trough” or band of low pressure over the Bay of Biscay and (subsequently) over the west of France. Fair mild weather was experienced with the Southerly wind, but heavy cold rain accompanied that from the northward, and spread eastward with the Northerly wind, but decreased greatly in amount by the time it reached the eastern parts of England, when the system broke up slowly. By the afternoon of the 3rd the weather had cleared everywhere, and the cyclonic system No. LXI.* began to approach our western coasts.

November 10–16.—During this period the distribution of pressure was anticyclonic, and the type variable. With its advent the winds fell light except at the western stations, where, owing to the proximity of some cyclonic system over the Atlantic they blew strongly from

* See Section II., and Map 2, Plate XXIII. for the history and tracks of depressions.

South on the 11th. Temperature decreased over England and the weather cleared at all but our extreme western stations. On November 12th (pressure being then highest to the eastward of the North Sea, and lowest off our north-west coasts) a second high pressure system appeared off the west of Ireland; a "col" was thus formed over England, and subsequently moved northward to the southern parts of Scotland and the Irish Sea (see Daily and Weekly Reports for 12th and 13th). Temperature now fell very generally, especially over Ireland and Scotland, and while variable South-westerly and Westerly breezes set in at the northern stations, light Easterly and North-easterly winds were felt in the south, while a zone of calms and variable airs separated the two currents. The weather was dry, and much fog prevailed over England. The fall of temperature within the limits of this "col" on the night of the 13th was singularly well defined, the minima reported being as low as 24° at Parsonstown, 27° or 28° at Nairn, Aberdeen, and Leith, 33° at Ardrossan, and 34° at Valencia. To the northward (where the wind was Westerly or South-westerly) the values were 41° in the west of Norway, and 42° at Sumburgh Head, and to the southward (where the wind was Easterly) they were 40° in London, 45° at Loughborough, 44° at Holyhead, 45° at Hurst Castle and Pembroke, 46° at Prawle, and 49° at Scilly. On the 14th the western anticyclone had disappeared, but that in the east extended across the North Sea and our Islands, causing a continuance of light to moderate Easterly winds over France, England, and Ireland, while South-westerly breezes prevailed in the north of Scotland and west of Norway; the weather was quiet, cold, dry, and foggy. On November 16th pressure began to give way over the Baltic, while it increased in the north of our Islands.

November 17-26.—The area of highest pressure was thus transferred from Germany and the Baltic to the north-westward of our Islands, and throughout nearly the whole of this period anticyclonic conditions continued to prevail over the United Kingdom, the type of distribution being Northerly to North-easterly. To the eastward of the North Sea, however, the conditions were cyclonic, and these occasionally spread in a modified degree to the eastern parts of our Islands. Temperature was low everywhere, the air was dry and somewhat keen, and a good deal of cloud and haze prevailed over our Islands generally. On November 20-21 a temporary interruption of the quiet dry weather was caused by the advance of a well-marked, but not deep, depression (No. LXIII.*), to the west of Norway. This apparently came from the north-westward early on the 20th, and on reaching Norway altered its course somewhat decidedly and passed rapidly in a southerly direction down the eastern shores of the North Sea to Holstein, where its centre lay at about 6 p.m. It then moved south-westwards slowly, reaching Belgium on the following morning, and finally passed southwards towards northern Italy, where it dispersed. The effect of this disturbance was to produce strong North-westerly to North-easterly winds and gales on almost all our coasts, accompanied by showers of snow, sleet, and cold rain, and in some places by thunder and lightning. On its disappearance, however, the barometer rose, and the anticyclone again spread eastwards over the British Islands with fair cold weather.

November 27-30.—The high pressure area in the west now moved southwards and south-eastwards. The type of weather became North-westerly, and cyclonic conditions were established in the east and north, and spread gradually to the other parts of the kingdom. Two depressions appeared over our area, almost simultaneously, on the 27th. One of them (No. LXIV.*) advanced towards our northern coasts from the west-north-westward, while the other (No. LXIV.*) came over the northern parts of Scandinavia from the north-north-westward. The latter was shallow and moved comparatively slowly, reaching central Sweden by the morning of the 28th, and Stockholm by 8 a.m. on the 29th, while the former travelled more quickly, and reaching Holstein by 8 a.m. 28th, moved eastwards over North Germany to the neighbourhood of Königsberg. Another (small) disturbance was developed near the Helder early on the 29th, and moving eastwards reached the southern shores of the Baltic next day, where it formed part of a large low-pressure system, having two minima. Gradients for South-westerly winds then became general over the United Kingdom, and on the 30th a series of cyclonic disturbances began to appear over our Islands, the consideration of which belongs properly to the report for December.

* See Section II., and Map 2, Plate XXIII. for the history and tracks of depressions.