

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

SEPTEMBER 1887.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of September was mostly showery and unsettled, with thunderstorms in many places both at the commencement and the close of the month. Pressure was a little above the average in the western parts of the kingdom, but a little below it in the east; temperature was low in all districts, excepting the south-east of Scotland; the wind was variable in direction, and mostly light or moderate in force, the only gale of any importance being a rather severe one from the westward which prevailed over the Channel on the 2nd. Rainfall was less than the average generally, but considerably more in the east of Scotland, the north of England, and some parts of our north-eastern counties; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in the western districts, but rather deficient in the east.

September 1-6.—Barometrical pressure was at this time highest over southern and central Europe. Several cyclonic systems travelled eastwards and north-eastwards across the United Kingdom, the most important being :—(1.) A deep disturbance (minimum readings 28·9 inches and less), No. XXVI.,* which crossed Ireland and England between the 1st and 2nd, and subsequently moved away to the northward of Scotland; (2.) a well-defined, though shallower, disturbance (No. XXVII.*) which appeared over the north of Ireland on the 5th, and which afterwards dispersed over the west of Scotland. The progress of the former system was attended by strong South-westerly to Westerly gales on our western and southern coasts, and by very heavy rain in Ireland and Scotland. On the 3rd and 4th some shallow systems passed across our western and northern districts and the weather of the entire period was therefore unsettled and rainy, with somewhat low temperatures for the time of year.

September 7 and 8.—A well-defined, though somewhat small, anticyclone now advanced eastwards from the Atlantic to France and Germany, and fair weather set in over the southern parts of the United Kingdom. In the north, however, clouds, showers, and Westerly winds were experienced, owing to the passage of some large depressions across Scandinavia.

September 9-12.—The anticyclone of the previous two days now dispersed over Germany, but a new system had appeared over Spain and the Bay of Biscay, and the general distribution of pressure became very similar to that observed during the first few days of the month. The centres of the advancing depressions, however, passed, as a rule, by the northern parts of our Islands, and the prevailing winds were therefore Westerly. Very changeable showery weather continued to prevail over the northern parts of our area, and at times, when shallow secondary disturbances advanced eastwards over the kingdom, these unsettled conditions became general.

September 13-16.—Barometrical pressure was at this time high, both over northern Europe and to the westward of the British Islands, while shallow depressions were observed

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

over the North Sea, Norway, and the British Islands. On the 13th and 14th two well-defined systems were developed off the south of Norway, the centre of one (No. XXVIII.)* ultimately travelling in a west-south-westerly direction to the north of England, where it dispersed, while the other (No. XXIX.)* moved in a west-north-westerly direction to the north of Scotland and passed away to the westward of the Hebrides. On the 15th, when both systems lay over the United Kingdom, variable winds and cloudy rainy weather were experienced generally.

September 17-24.—With the disappearance of the two last-mentioned disturbances the barometer rose generally, and on the 17th an anticyclone began to spread over our Islands from the north-westward. The high-pressure system soon embraced the greater part of western Europe, and for a few days light winds and fair dry weather were experienced generally. A good deal of cloud or fog was, however, reported locally, and temperature was therefore somewhat low, especially at night time, when ground frosts were experienced in many parts of the United Kingdom.

September 25-30.—The anticyclone now moved southwards, while low-pressure systems began to appear off our northern coasts. The motion of these disturbances was at first easterly, but on the 27th a large depression (No. XXX.)* began to advance southwards, and in the course of the ensuing 48 hours its centre travelled directly across the eastern parts of Scotland and the central parts of England to France, where it ultimately dispersed. In the front of the system varying Westerly breezes were experienced with mild weather, but in its rear the wind shifted to the north-eastward, and temperature fell rapidly; sharp ground frosts occurred at night. Thunderstorms were reported in nearly all districts, and, owing to the formation of shallow secondary disturbances in the rear of the main system, no material improvement in the weather took place until quite the close of the month, when there were indications of the approach of another anticyclone from the westward and north-westward.

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