

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

JULY 1887.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of July was mostly fine, warm, and dry over England, but less settled in Ireland and Scotland, where conditions were frequently influenced by depressions travelling north-eastwards outside our western and northern coasts. Pressure was a little below the average in the north, but above it in the south; temperature was considerably in excess of the normal over the central parts of Great Britain, but a trifle below it in the extreme north; the wind was chiefly South-westerly or Westerly in the west and north, but variable or North-easterly in the south; rainfall was considerably less than the average in all but our most northern and north-western districts; and the amount of bright sunshine was again large, especially in the east and south of England.

July 1-3.—The anticyclone which was in existence during the greater portion of June continued to prevail until the 3rd of the month, but the system underwent a gradual reduction in height, and moved southwards, owing to the appearance of some large depressions in the far north. The wind was light or moderate from the westward in all the more northern parts of the United Kingdom, but variable in the south. Fine warm weather was prevalent on all but our extreme northern and north-western coasts, the daily maxima being above 85° in many parts of England and France. At Cambridge, Bawtry, and Southampton the thermometer on the 3rd rose to 89° .

July 4-5.—Some small depressions, secondaries to the larger system in the far north, now travelled south-eastward across the United Kingdom, and the anticyclone receded to the south-westward. The wind therefore shifted to the North-westward or Northward in nearly all parts of the United Kingdom, and temperature fell quickly, the maximum readings over England on the 5th being nearly 20 degrees lower than those of the 3rd or 4th. The weather became showery in all but our south-western districts, and slight thunderstorms occurred in many places.

July 6-14.—During this period the highest pressures were found over Spain, France or Germany, while a series of large cyclonic disturbances travelled north-eastwards from the Atlantic, past our extreme north-western and northern coasts, to the west of Norway. The prevailing winds were therefore South-westerly, and on the 10th, when a secondary depression appeared over Scotland, they blew freshly or strongly over Ireland, England, and France. In the eastern, central, and southern parts of our Islands the weather was for the most part unaffected by the depressions in the west and north, and temperature again rose to a high level, maxima exceeding 80° being registered in many places on the 7th and 8th, and again on the 12th and 13th. During the latter part of the 13th, however, some small shallow disturbances advanced over our eastern districts, and thunderstorms (which had previously been felt on more than one occasion in Ireland and Scotland) became general over the greater part of England.

July 15-21.—A new anticyclone now appeared to the south-westward of our Islands, and extended slowly along our western coasts. The wind therefore veered to the Northward, and the weather showed a decided improvement in all but the south-eastern parts of the kingdom, where heavy thunderstorms were produced by an exceedingly small and shallow depression which formed in that neighbourhood between the 15th and 16th. During a severe storm which prevailed at Ingatestone on the latter date 1·80 ins. of rain fell in the space of about two hours. After the 17th the anticyclone in the west spread eastward over nearly the whole of western Europe, and fine weather became general, with light Westerly winds in the far north, and North-easterly or Easterly breezes in the south. Temperature, which was at first rather low, again rose to a high level, maxima exceeding 80° being recorded in many parts of England on the 20th and 21st.

July 22-29.—The anticyclone now moved slowly southwards and gradually dispersed, while a new series of depressions approached our extreme north-western and northern coasts from the Atlantic. The wind therefore shifted, first to the Westward and afterwards to the South-westward, and on the 26th and 27th, when a rather deep disturbance skirted the Irish and Scotch coasts, the South-westerly breeze increased considerably, and blew a gale in the west of Ireland. A slight Southerly gale was also experienced in the same locality on the 28th. The weather of the period was mostly changeable and showery, but very little rain fell in the more eastern parts of the kingdom. Temperature was scarcely as high as it had been during the prevalence of the anticyclonic conditions, but maximum readings exceeding 75° were of common occurrence over England. On the 22nd the thermometer rose to 80° at Cambridge and to 81° at Hillington.

July 30-31.—The series of depressions which had been passing along our extreme northern coasts now came to an end, and a new anticyclone began to spread over our Islands from the south-westward. Westerly winds, veering to North-west, set in generally, with improving weather in the west and north. Over France and the south-east of England, however, where local irregularities in pressure were observed for a time, the weather became very unsettled, and smart thunderstorms occurred in places. At the close of the month the anticyclone continued to extend eastwards, and fine warm weather was again becoming general.