

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

SEPTEMBER 1885.

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## SECTION I.

### GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE type of weather changed suddenly at the beginning of this month from a dry (but cool) Summer to that of a cold, wet, and gusty Autumn. Pressure was below its average value everywhere, temperature was low—and on one occasion unusually so for the time of year. The winds were strong, and chiefly South-westerly to Westerly in direction; depressions were very numerous, but none were very large or deep; gales were of frequent occurrence; and the rainfall was (except over the north-eastern counties of Great Britain) considerably above its average amount. Bright sunshine was in defect. At the close of the month there appeared to be no sign of any important change.

September 1.—The distribution of pressure at 8 a.m. was anticyclonic, the central area of the system lying over the northern, midland, and eastern parts of Great Britain, while slight gradients for Southerly and South-easterly winds prevailed in the west. Temperature at 8 a.m. varied from 60° at Valencia to 46° at Shields and Aberdeen; and while light North-easterly breezes prevailed over our south-eastern counties, moderate to fresh breezes from South-east were reported in the west, and calms on our north-eastern coasts. The weather was fine and bright in the east, dull and misty in most other places, and somewhat showery in the west and south. During the next 24 hours heavy rain fell over Ireland, and South-easterly and Southerly winds spread gradually to the western coasts of Great Britain, as a well-marked depression (No. XLVII.\*) approached Ireland and moved northwards along our extreme west and north-west coasts.

September 2-7.—The dominant system of pressure distribution during this period was cyclonic, the type complex and variable. Barometric readings were highest over northern and southern Europe, lowest over our Islands and the North Sea, and while some depressions (Nos. XLVII.\* and XLVIII.\*) appeared off our western coasts and moved northwards, another (No. XLVIII.A.\*) was formed over Denmark early on the 5th, and travelling northwards passed out to sea off the west of Norway during the 6th. A fourth (No. XLIXA.\*) was developed over the Irish Sea early on the 7th, and this moved very slowly. At first it appeared to be an independent system, but afterwards proved to be subsidiary to No. XLIX.,\* the centre of which did not arrive within our area until the morning of the 8th. The main characteristics of the weather during this period were,—rather low temperatures, thunderstorms, and showers (especially over the southern half of the kingdom), with occasional bright intervals, fresh to strong breezes, mainly from between South and West, and unsteady pressure.

September 8-16.—The dominant systems of pressure distribution were still cyclonic, but the persistent type was south-westerly. The winds consequently varied in direction between

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



west and south, except on one or two occasions, when some local disturbance (such as that of the 10th) produced a temporary burst of Northerly or North-easterly winds over a limited part of the country. Temperature, though slightly below its average value rose on one occasion to between  $70^{\circ}$  and  $78^{\circ}$  over England; gales were of frequent occurrence, and some of them were severe, while the rainfall was largely in excess of the average—especially over the southern and south-western parts of the kingdom. Two cyclonic systems which appeared during this interval require special notice. One (No. L.\*) was developed on the 10th within a few miles of the Scilly Islands. At 8 a.m. on that day pressure was highest over France and the south of our Islands, where its distribution was anticyclonic. The depression No. XLIX.\* was passing away in the far north, the barometer was still rising in the north and east, and the weather was apparently improving. At the western stations, however, the mercury had fallen a little in the night, and at Valencia and Scilly the sky had become overcast. The wind, however, was West-south-westerly in most places, and was light to moderate in force, while the general appearance of the sky was quiet. At 10 a.m., the barometer began to fall quickly at Scilly, and at 2 p.m. there was a small well-formed (but shallow) depression a little to the westward of that station. This grew with great rapidity without changing its position, and at 6 p.m. had become a deep, but not large, system, causing Southerly gales at the mouth of the Channel, at the same time that moderate Northerly breezes were blowing in the south of Ireland. The system then advanced quickly to the eastward, producing the gales and rains referred to in Section II., p. 97, and in 24 hours had passed out of our area, and was filling up over Germany. No sooner had it disappeared than the south-westerly type of pressure-distribution was restored, and large cyclonic systems continued to pass in a north-easterly direction outside our extreme north-western and northern coasts. The other system worthy of special mention was a very shallow one which appeared over the west of France early on the 16th. On this occasion also anticyclonic conditions prevailed over France and cyclonic conditions to the northward of our Islands—the intervening gradients being moderate for South-westerly winds. The disturbance was small, but elongated and very shallow; at 8 a.m. it lay along the west coast of France, causing severe thunderstorms over Brittany and a complete cyclonic circulation of light winds between Lorient and Rochefort as appears from the Bulletin International. The system moved slowly to the north-eastwards, and, together with a second one, which appeared over Belgium later on, brought heavy rains, thunder, and lightning to all our southern counties, the Channel, and the Netherlands, and established over the south of England a North-easterly current of wind which, though light at first, subsequently blew strongly in the Straits of Dover.

September 17-18.—A large anticyclonic ridge was now formed over the United Kingdom and the Bay of Biscay, while the shallow depressions referred to above lay over North Germany and the north-east of France. The weather consequently improved over our Islands and the wind lulled, while temperature fell slightly. Of the small disturbances in the south-east, one took a northerly course, and at 8 a.m. on the 18th had reached the Skager Rack, whence it travelled eastwards to the south of Sweden and the Baltic; the other apparently dispersed near Metz.

September 19-24.—A new and large depression (No. LIII.\*) now arrived off our north-western coasts, and spreading quickly over the kingdom brought about a return of strong Southerly to Westerly winds, gales, and rain. At 8 a.m. on the 19th the centre of the depression lay about 100 miles to the north-westward of Cape Wrath, while an anticyclonic area lay over the Peninsula and France. The gradients were steep, and while Southerly to South-westerly gales prevailed on the western and northern coasts of Great Britain, the gale had already veered to West-north-west in the west of Ireland, and the weather had begun to clear. Before night the wind had become Westerly all over the kingdom, but was decreasing

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



in strength. Other cyclonic systems followed quickly, and as the wind veered and backed the alternations of temperature were well marked, though not very large, and the weather remained showery and unsettled. On the disappearance of the cyclonic system No. LIV.,\* however, pressure gave way in the east while it increased in the west, and Northerly winds became prevalent.

September 25-26.—The type of pressure-distribution during these two days was northerly, the dominant systems being mainly cyclonic in the east and anticyclonic in the west, and the gradients slight. Cold Northerly breezes were felt very generally—strong at first, and accompanied by cold showers, but afterwards lulling, with brighter weather.

September 27-29.—Pressure now gave way quickly in the north-west and north, and, while an anticyclonic "ridge" moved south-eastwards over our western and southern districts to France, a well-marked, but not very important, depression advanced north-eastwards past our northern coasts, producing mild South-westerly breezes and some showers in the west and north, while cold Northerly airs and misty drizzle were felt in the south and south-east. Gradually, however, the South-westerly and Westerly wind current encroached, and sometimes veered to North-west for a while. The month closed with pressure varying from a little above 30·1 inches over the south-west of France to something below 28·7 inches to the north-westward of the Hebrides, in which region lay the centre of a large and deep depression (No. LVI.\*) which was moving north-eastwards towards Scandinavia. Southerly to South-westerly winds, strong to a gale in force, were blowing over Great Britain, accompanied by rain and South-westerly to Westerly winds in Ireland. The barometer, however, had already begun to rise again in the west and sky was clearing.

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