

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1885.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of November varied greatly. The greater part of it was dry and quiet, but gloomy, foggy, and rather cold, and the winds were variable. During the latter part of the month, however, the conditions became very rough and stormy; some of the gales (and especially those from South-east experienced in the north-east of Scotland on the 26th and 27th) were unusually severe. The winds were nearly all South-easterly to South-westerly in direction, but at the southern stations there was a large admixture of wind from East. Pressure was, on the whole, rather below its average height, especially in the south-west. Temperature was about its normal value, and although the rainfall was decidedly in excess over England, it was somewhat defective in Ireland, and very much in defect over Scotland. Bright sunshine was deficient everywhere, owing to the prevalence of clouds with the cyclonic, and of fogs with the anticyclonic systems.

November 1.—The distribution of pressure at the commencement of the month was somewhat complex. An anticyclone lay off our west and south-west coasts, and another over Lapland and the north of Scandinavia, the two being joined by a col which stretched across the North Sea and the southern parts of Norway. To the north-westward of this col lay a somewhat small depression (No. LXVI.*), causing South-westerly winds and some rain on our northern and north-western coasts, while over the north-east of France (*i.e.*, on the southern side of the col) lay another very small cyclonic system, to which reference has already been made in the October report, which dispersed during the day. The North-easterly winds on its northern side, though fresh, were lulling, and fine cold weather was felt over our southern counties generally.

November 2-7.—The whole of the high-pressure system referred to above now moved south-eastwards, and until the 7th covered France, Germany, and occasionally the southern parts of England. The South-westerly winds consequently spread over the British Islands and the North Sea, but at times veered to West and North-west, as some depressions passed north-eastwards by our northern coasts, and their subsidiary systems travelled across England. (See charts in the Daily and Weekly Weather Reports for these dates.) No less than four such systems were traced during the first week of the month, but none of them were very large or deep. Their winds were consequently not violent, but the weather continued in a very changeable, showery condition, especially in the west and north-west. The main features of the first three (Nos. LXVI. to LXVIII.*) have been tabulated in Section II., though their tracks cannot be inserted with any great degree of exactitude on Map 2 Plate XXII., owing to the distance of their centres from our extreme north-western coasts and the rapidity with which the systems succeeded one another. Temperature was high during the period,—sometimes very high,—the maxima recorded on the 3rd being 61° at Nairn, and 63° at Leith. The rainfall, however, was not heavy, except over the east and south-east of England, to which regions the subsidiary disturbances brought large quantities on the 4th and 5th.

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

November 8-12.—A change now ensued, owing to the development of an anticyclonic system over the eastern shores of the North Sea and its extension westwards to our Islands. The weather became cold, foggy, gloomy, and dark, but was dry, and the winds varied from about East at the southern stations to Southerly in the west and north. On the 12th the anticyclone began to move southwards, and the wind then veered to the South-westward on our extreme northern coasts.

November 13-14.—During this brief interval the distribution of pressure was, on the whole, of a south-westerly type, but the gradients were constantly changing, owing to the advance of a well-marked, but not deep, depression (No. LXIX.*) to Scandinavia from the south-westward, and the subsequent rapid recovery of pressure at our north-western stations. At 8 a.m. on the 13th the centre of the system lay off the north of Scotland, and the gradients over our Islands were then favourable for South-westerly winds, whereas at 8 a.m. on the 14th the centre had reached Lapland, and the gradients over our Islands were in favour of North-westerly and Northerly winds. Temperature, which rose as the disturbance advanced, fell fast again in its rear, and Northerly breezes set in all over the kingdom, accompanied by cold rain, hail, and sleet.

November 15-23.—Conditions now became anticyclonic again. A well-formed anticyclone (No. XXXVI., p. 125) advanced over the United Kingdom and the German Ocean from the north-westward, and as it did so the wind veered round gradually from North-east to East and South-east, the change being preceded by some showers of cold rain, hail, or sleet, accompanied in most places by cold, dry weather and some fog. By 6 p.m. on the 17th the centre of the anticyclone had reached North Germany, and a long band of high pressure extended thence in a north-westerly direction across the North Sea to our own northern districts, causing strong Easterly winds over the United Kingdom, while South-westerly and Westerly gales and strong breezes prevailed over Scandinavia. The latter were increased by a well-marked depression which moved from west to east over Lapland, but was at too great a distance from us for its characteristics to be tabulated. At the northern extremity of the high-pressure band a second anticyclonic system (No. XXXVII.) was developed on the 18th, and moving south-eastwards caused a continuance of the Easterly winds over our Islands. The strength of these was greatly increased by the formation of a large, but not deep, low-pressure area over the Bay of Biscay on the 22nd, and its subsequent movement in a northerly direction at a great distance from our extreme western coasts. At 8 a.m. 23rd a third, but remarkably small and imperfectly developed anticyclone (No. XXXVIII.) appeared between the Shetland Isles and west of Norway, and moving north-eastwards to the northern parts of Sweden, it changed into a very large system, which, at 8 a.m. on the 24th, extended south-westwards over the North Sea and the northern parts of our Islands. At this time the barometer began to fall decidedly in the south-west, and the wind increased considerably from South-east over our Islands with showery, unpleasant weather.

November 24-30.—A cyclonic period of great intensity now ensued. It commenced with the sudden deepening of the depression in the south-west, to which reference has just been made, and (as pressure was highest in the north-east) a consequent increase in the force of the South-easterly wind, accompanied by fog and rain at our south-western stations, and a threatening appearance of the sky elsewhere. As the day (25th) wore on the centre of the storm came nearer to our western coasts, but in the evening the barometer again rose slightly in the west and south-west, as though the incoming system had begun to fill up. The morning observations of the 26th, however, showed a renewed fall of the barometer in the west, and it was evident that the centre of a large deep depression was moving northwards outside the west of Ireland, and that the gradients were growing much steeper. The wind now increased to a fresh or strong gale from South-east in Scotland and

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

the north of Ireland, while it veered to South and moderated on our south-western coasts. Temperature began to rise, dull rainy weather was very prevalent, and the sea ran high, especially in the north-east and north. By 8 a.m. on the 27th the centre of the storm lay between Barra and Mull, so that while very severe South-easterly gales continued to blow in the north-east of Scotland, the wind in Ireland veered to West, and that over England remained South-westerly. At 6 p.m. the centre had advanced to the northward of Cape Wrath, and although a South-easterly gale still held at Sumburgh Head, the wind had veered to South-west in all parts of Scotland, and lulled rapidly, with a rising barometer and improved weather. At this very time, however, the mercury was again falling fast in the west, and a new depression (No. LXXI.*) was approaching us rapidly from the Atlantic (see chart for 6 p.m. 27th, in Weekly Weather Report, 1885, p. 190). In the course of the night the centre of a new system passed across Ireland, and at 8 a.m., 28th, lay in a very elongated form over the borders of England and Scotland. Strong South-westerly to North-westerly gales had set in over Ireland and England, accompanied by rainy, but much milder, weather, while calms, variable breezes, and colder weather were being experienced in Scotland. The centre, however, travelled so fast that by 6 p.m. it had reached the south of Norway, and moderate to fresh Westerly to North-westerly breezes prevailed throughout our Islands, with rapidly increasing pressure and improving weather. This was the second storm of the series, and although at 6 p.m. there was no indication of any new system, the chart for 8 a.m. 29th showed that a fresh one (No. LXXII.*) had already reached the west of Ireland, causing South-easterly to South-westerly gales there, with a renewal of the rainy, squally weather, and a rise of temperature. This system also travelled with great rapidity, but being smaller than its two predecessors, and taking a more northerly course, its gales were confined to our western and northern coast, though its effect in bringing in the warm South-westerly current of air again, was felt all over the kingdom. This was the last of the series, and as it passed off the barometer rose quickly, the wind veered to West, and the month closed with pressure as high as 30·3 inches over the southern shore of the Bay of Biscay, and as low as 29·0 inches over the south-west of Norway. The wind was generally Westerly, and though showers still fell in some places, the general condition was improving.

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