MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

AUGUST 1887.

SECTION I.

General Summary for the Month.

The fine dry weather which characterised the summer of 1887 continued until the middle of August, when a decided change took place, the remainder of the season being cold, showery, and thundery. The mean pressure for the month was in excess of the average; temperature was at about its normal height, excepting in the north of Scotland, where there was a slight deficiency; the winds were variable; and rainfall was for the most part less than the average, notable exceptions being shown, however, in localities visited by the heavy thunderstorms of the 16th and 17th. The amount of bright sunshine was again large, especially over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England, where the per-centage of the possible duration exceeded 50.

August 1–4.—During the first four days of the month a large anticyclone moved steadily to the eastward, across western Europe. On the 1st and 2nd, when the central portion of the system lay off our south-west coasts, light breezes from the North-westward prevailed generally, but as the highest pressure moved away, the wind shifted to South-east and South. The weather was fine in nearly all places, and the change of wind was accompanied by a gradual rise in temperature.

August 5–9.—The weather of this period was affected to a large extent by the passage of depression No. XXIII.* As the system approached from the Atlantic, freshening Southerly winds and showery weather were experienced in all our more western and northern districts, while in the rear of the disturbance the wind shifted to West or North-west, and blew strongly on many parts of our northern coasts. In the eastern and southern parts of the kingdom the weather was not materially affected, and the steady rise of temperature which took place over England resulted in some very high readings, the maxima of the 6th being as high as 89° at Cambridge, 88° at Strathfield Turgiss, and 87° in London and at Hillington.

August 10–14.—During the 8th and 9th a large anticyclone appeared over the south-west of our Islands, and for three days from the 10th the central portion of this system lay off our extreme western coasts. A large depression now moved south-eastwards across Scandinavia, and in its rear several small secondary disturbances travelled in a similar direction across the United Kingdom, occasioning showery weather in most places. The shift of wind to the Northward, which occurred on the 10th, was followed by a decided reduction in temperature, and at the close of the period the daily maxima were below 70° generally, and below 60° at most of the northern stations.

August 15–19.—The distribution of pressure now became very complex. On the 15th a small and shallow depression advanced north-eastwards across the Bay of Biscay and France

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

its centre ultimately passing away to the Netherlands. The system was not of sufficient importance for its details to be tabulated in Section II., but its progress was attended by thunderstorms, and heavy rain at some of the French stations as well as in the extreme south-east of England. In the meantime a new and large disturbance (No. XXIV.*) began to show itself off the west of Ireland, and on the 17th, when this moved steadily eastwards across England, thunderstorms and heavy rain were experienced very generally. The storm which visited London on the evening of the 17th was of exceptional severity, and was accompanied by exceedingly heavy rain; at Brixton Hill the fall amounted to 2·02 ins., at Camden Town to 1·42 ins., and at Clapham to 0·97 in. In the front of the system the winds were light and variable, but in its rear a decided North-westerly current set in, with cool weather and an occasional renewal of thunderstorms in many parts of England. On the night of the 19th another small depression advanced across the Bay of Biscay in a similar direction to that of the 15th, and occasioned rain and lightning at some of the southern stations. This disturbance was, however, very shallow, and dispersed quickly on reaching the north of France.

August 20–23.—During the 20th the barometer rose generally, and on the 21st and 22nd the central portion of a large anticyclone moved eastwards over France and our southern districts. The weather therefore underwent a marked improvement, and temperature showed a decided inclination to rise, the maximum readings of the 22nd and 23rd being above 75° at some of the English stations. The winds, which were at first light and variable, ultimately shifted to the South-eastward or Southward, and on the 22nd they blew strongly in the west of Ireland.

August 24–28.—During this period the highest pressures were found over central and northern Europe, while a series of cyclonic disturbances travelled along the west coasts of our Islands in the direction shown by the arrow A in Chart 2, Plate XVI. Southerly winds were therefore experienced very generally, and in Ireland and the west of Scotland they were frequently strong in force. Over England and the east of Scotland the weather was not materially affected by the western depressions, and temperature therefore continued to rise, the maximum readings of the thermometer on the 25th being above 80° in many of the central, southern, and eastern districts. After this date, however, shallow secondary disturbances began to appear more directly over the United Kingdom, and the showery weather, which had previously been confined to our western stations, became general, with some decrease in temperature over England.

August 29–31.—On the 27th and 28th the high-pressure system over northern and central Europe gradually dispersed, while a new anticyclone appeared over Spain and the Bay of Biscay. The weather now became increasingly unsettled, with fresh to strong South-westerly winds, showers, and local thunderstorms in most districts. On the 31st, when the centre of a large depression (No. XXV.)* passed across Scotland, the wind rose to the force of a moderate gale on several parts of our western and southern coasts, and thunder occurred at many of the English and French stations.

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