

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT,

NOVEMBER 1887.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of this month was exceedingly changeable and unsettled, with frequent falls of rain and snow over the more northern parts of the kingdom, and occasional thick fogs in the south. Pressure was below the average, especially in the southern districts, and temperature was low for the time of year. The number of rainy days was somewhat large, but the total amount of rainfall was less than the normal in nearly all places, the only district with any decided excess being the south of England. Bright sunshine was very deficient in Scotland and also in some parts of central England, but on our south-west coasts the proportion of sunny weather was rather above the average.

November 1-4.—Barometric pressure was at this time highest over Spain, and less high over northern Europe, while a series of large and deep cyclonic disturbances travelled northwards and north-eastwards outside or immediately over our extreme western coasts. The winds were therefore Southerly, and the weather everywhere squally, rainy, and unsettled. The most important depressions were those observed respectively on the 1st and on the night of the 2nd. In the former case (No. XXXV.*) the centre of the primary disturbance was situated some distance to the westward of our Islands, but a deep secondary system appeared over the St. George's Channel, and moved northwards, its progress being attended by strong to "whole" gales from the South-eastward in all parts of the kingdom, with heavy rain in the west. In the latter case the depression, which was of a primary order and of considerable depth, advanced with great rapidity from the south-westward and travelled along far outside our extreme western and north-western coasts. Its passage was accompanied by a renewal of strong gales from the South-eastward or Southward, with thunder and lightning in the south of England. A rapid and general fall of the barometer took place during the progress of these two depressions, and resulted in some very low readings, the mercury being below 29·0 ins. in all parts of the United Kingdom on the 3rd, and below 28·5 ins. in the north-western districts. During the afternoon and morning of the 3rd a shallow secondary disturbance travelled north-eastwards across England, and occasioned heavy rain in many places, with thunder and lightning at night.

November 6-10.—The type of weather prevailing during these few days was exceedingly complex. On the morning of the 5th a new depression (No. XXXVI.*) appeared over our extreme western coasts, and later in the day was joined by another disturbance formed over the St. George's Channel. Fresh gales from the South-westward or Westward, and heavy rain consequently set in on all our western and southern coasts. On the 6th the two disturbances, which had by this time united, travelled south-eastwards across our south-west coasts, the wind over our Islands shifting to the Eastward and North-eastward, with a decided fall of temperature. The subsequent history of this system was very peculiar, for on reaching the north of France it recurved, and on the night of the 8th its centre travelled away in a westerly direction over the Atlantic. Over England, however, the weather was kept in a very unsettled condition, owing to the advance from North Germany of another shallow disturbance which moved slowly along our southern coasts, and which occasioned rain and fog over all our eastern, midland, and southern counties.

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

November 11-17.—During this period two anticyclonic systems travelled across our Islands. The first appeared over Scotland on the 11th, and afterwards moved slowly southwards, light varying winds and cloudy, misty weather being experienced in nearly all parts of the kingdom, with frost over central Scotland and the north of Ireland. On the 13th, however, the high-pressure system was attacked by two depressions, one off our north-east coasts, and the other over Spain and the Bay of Biscay, the result being that the anticyclones after reaching Ireland rapidly dispersed. The disturbances over Spain (No. XXXVIII.*) eventually travelled north-eastwards across France to central Europe, a movement which was accompanied by a considerable freshening of the North-easterly wind in the east and south of England, with cold showers in many places. The second anticyclone, which made its appearance over our extreme northern districts on the 14th, travelled first of all in a southerly direction, and afterwards passed away eastwards to Germany and eastern Europe. During its brief stay in our neighbourhood some very low temperatures were registered over Great Britain, the sheltered thermometer falling to 20° or less in many places. At Rothamsted the minimum was as low as 17° , and at Llandovery 16° . In London the thermometer on the 16th did not rise above 29° all day.

November 18-21.—As the last-mentioned anticyclone travelled away the weather over our Islands came under the influence of two low-pressure systems, one lying to the northward of the United Kingdom and the other over Spain. For a brief interval the two systems neutralised each other, and no important change in the atmospherical conditions was observed, but on the 17th the Spanish depression moved north-eastwards, to the south coast of England, occasioning rain and snow in the south-eastern districts. Towards night the system dispersed, but on the evening of the 18th a very complex system, having three minima, was shown over our Islands and the Irish Sea. The first of these minima ultimately travelled southwards from Ireland to the west of France, its passage being attended by heavy rain at several of our western stations, and thunder and lightning in the south-west of England, while the two remaining systems gradually dispersed. Scarcely had they disappeared, however, before a new depression (No. XXXIX.*) advanced over Ireland, occasioning strong South-easterly winds and heavy rain on our western coasts; on the night of the 21st it moved south-eastwards across the south-west of England, and by the following day, when it had travelled away towards Spain, Easterly and North-easterly winds had become general over the United Kingdom.

November 22-23.—A long band of high readings now moved slowly southwards across the United Kingdom, its passage being marked by variable airs or calms, and by dense fogs in many places. The system was, however, not sufficiently well defined to be classed as an anticyclone in the table relating to such areas in Section II.

November 24-30.—As the high-pressure band just mentioned passed southwards a series of large depressions began to move along our extreme northern coasts, and for the remainder of the month a strong Westerly current was experienced over the kingdom, with unsettled, showery weather and a high temperature. The centres of the northern disturbances were at first too far away for their effects to be felt with any great severity on our coasts, although gales from the South-westward were frequent in Scandinavia. On the 26th and 27th, however, when the depressions came somewhat nearer, strong gales from South-west and West were experienced on our western and extreme northern coasts. By the 28th the depression series in the north had apparently come to an end, but in the course of the following night a small shallow depression (No. XXIX.*) advanced north-eastwards along the English Channel, producing heavy rains in the south of England, with strong winds and gales from varying directions on our south-east coasts. At the close of the month this system was travelling away across the Baltic, and an anticyclone was spreading from the south-westward over the Bay of Biscay and our extreme south-west coasts.

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