

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

JUNE 1885.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE distribution of pressure in June was mainly anticyclonic, and the type of gradient very often favourable for Northerly and North-easterly winds over England, the North Sea, and the Channel. Winds from these quarters were consequently very prevalent in the regions named, but Westerly breezes prevailed in the north. Temperature has consequently been low for the time of year, the air very dry, and the rainfall defective. There have been, however, four brief periods in which temperature has been somewhat high. The first of these culminated on the 4th, the second on the 12th or 13th, the third on the 24th, and the fourth on the 27th. In the intervals between these periods the thermometer was often very low for the time of year. Frost was of frequent occurrence on the grass in some of the inland districts, and was registered on one occasion (about the 25th) even by the sheltered thermometers, over the north of Ireland. The amount of bright sunshine has been considerable over our southern counties, but slight in the north.

June 1-4.—The month opened with anticyclonic conditions, in which the distribution of pressure changed slowly from a north-westerly to a south-westerly and southerly type, the gradients being very slight and the weather fine. These conditions were produced by the gradual advance eastwards of a well-formed anticyclone, the central area of which travelled over France and the southern counties of England. Temperature increased from day to day, the maxima observed over England rising from between 63° and 66° on the 1st, to between 80° and 85° on the 4th, after which time clouds increased, and a marked change of weather set in.

June 5-8.—The systems of pressure during this period were mainly cyclonic, but the distribution was very complex and variable. The winds, which at first were Southerly and Westerly, soon became very variable both in direction and force. Temperature fell rapidly, the maxima recorded over England on the 6th being from 15° to 20° lower than those on the 4th; the weather was showery, thundery, and variable, and the sea at times rough. By the 5th a long "trough" of low pressure lay from west to east over Ireland, England, and the north of France, and in this a local depression (No. XXXI.*) was developed, which travelled in a north-easterly direction, and grew much deeper by the time it reached the Gulf of Finland. Its distance from us at this time, however (10th), was too great for its influence to be felt much on our coasts, though its cold Northerly winds blew strongly for a time in the north-east of Scotland and on the eastern shores of the North Sea.

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

June 9-15.—The dominant weather system during this time was anticyclonic, and the type of gradient over our Islands northerly to westerly, while that over France was northerly to easterly. Temperature, though it had a great range diurnally, and the daily maxima were on one occasion, at least, as high as 80° to 84° over the central and south-eastern parts of England, was, on the whole, low for the time of year, the nights being especially cold. The daily minima in the screen were as low as 34° to 40° early on the 10th and 11th, and frost occurred on the grass at several inland stations. The wind was at first Northerly, and blew rather strongly on our northern and eastern coasts, but afterwards lulled and backed to West, and the thermometer rose again. No depression of importance came within our area during this time excepting No. XXXI., to which reference has already been made. On the 12th and 13th the anticyclone assumed the form of a band (or "crest") of high pressure—stretching from west to east over the southern parts of our Islands, the Netherlands, and the north-east of France. It was during these days (when the wind drew into West and South-west) that the maxima for the month were recorded in most places, but on the 14th, as the highest pressures moved westwards and the wind drew Northerly, the temperature again fell decidedly.

June 16-17.—The weather during these days was of a mixed kind. The anticyclone began to break up, shallow local depressions appeared, some rain fell, and thunderstorms occurred in many places. On the 16th a shallow depression (No. XXXII.*) began to show itself over the Bay of Biscay, and, passing north-eastwards was found over France at 8 a.m. on the 17th (see the charts in the Daily and Weekly Reports for this time). This brought about a temporary spell of Easterly winds, with rain and thunder over our south-eastern counties, but as it passed off, the barometer rose, and the distribution of pressure over our area changed very materially.

June 18-23.—During this interval the barometer was continuously highest over the southern, and lowest over the northern parts of our area, the gradients being moderate in the south, but at times rather steep in the north. During its continuance the winds varied between South-west and North-west in direction, veering and backing between these points as some well-marked depressions (Nos. XXXIII.* and XXXIII.A.*) passed by our northern coasts from the westward. Cold showers fell in most places, with the South-westerly winds chiefly in the west and north, but the North-westerly breezes were very dry, and over the southern parts of England they soon removed from the ground all traces of the rain which fell in the showers. Temperature was very low, especially on the 20th and 21st, when the daily maxima over England did not exceed 60° . Towards the end of the period, however, there was some tendency to an improvement, as the wind backed to the Southward, and the thermometer began to rise.

June 24th.—The weather on this date was remarkable. Pressure had become highest to the eastward of the North Sea, but a second high-pressure area appeared off our western coasts, being separated from that in the east by a broad band of low pressure, which lay from north to south over our Islands, and contained one very shallow minimum (see Daily and Weekly Reports). To the eastward of the centre of this band the winds were Southerly, the weather was bright and fine, and the temperature comparatively high, the daily maxima being as high as 80° to 82° over our eastern counties. To the westward, however, the conditions were the reverse; the winds were Northerly, the temperature low, and rain fell at times. Very gradually the western anticyclone gained ground, and the colder Northerly breezes spread all over the kingdom, but little rain fell over England.

June 25th-30th.—Throughout this period the dominant system was anticyclonic, and the type of gradient mainly northerly (north-west to north-east). Temperature, after falling

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

decidedly when the Northerly wind first set in, soon began to rise again, and as the anti-cyclone moved eastwards and the wind lulled, the sky cleared and the thermometer rose, until on the 27th the highest readings recorded ranged from 70° to 75° at the English stations. The anticyclone then receded a little to the westward, and the cold Northerly current of wind was restored. The thermometer straightway fell decidedly, and the month closed with cold, dry, Northerly breezes and fair weather, and with the daily maximum temperatures all below 70°.

Day	Barometer	Thermometer	Direction of Wind	Force of Wind	State of Sky	Remarks
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