

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

SEPTEMBER 1884.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of September was, on the whole, mild, dry, and quiet for the time of year. It was of three distinct types, viz.:—

- (1.) Cyclonic, and complex,—lasting from the 1st to the 8th;
- (2.) Anticyclonic,—lasting almost continuously from the 9th to the 19th.
- (3.) Cyclonic, and south-westerly,—lasting from the 20th to the 30th.

The mean pressure of the month was about 0·2 inch in excess of its average value; the winds were, as a rule, moderate, but South-westerly gales of considerable strength were experienced from time to time on our western and northern coasts, and on one occasion a slight Northerly gale was felt in the south-east. Temperature was, on the whole, about 2° above the average, rainfall was deficient, except over one or two extreme parts of the kingdom, but bright sunshine also was deficient.

September 1–2.—The month of September commenced with pressure somewhat high both over the extreme northern and southern parts of the Continent and low over the Atlantic. Its distribution was, therefore, a little complex, as an ill-formed “hollow” extended eastward, from the Atlantic, over the British Islands and the North Sea. Thus, while South-westerly breezes were felt over France, Holland, and greater part of England, Easterly to South-easterly winds were blowing in Norway and the Skager Rack. Over North Britain variable airs and calms prevailed, while in Ireland the wind was Southerly. The weather was mild, cloudy, and showery, and in some localities the rainfall was heavy. Depression No. XLIX.* now advanced towards the British Islands, and, just skirting our extreme western coasts, made the weather still more unsettled for a time in the north-west, but passed away to the northward on the night of the 2nd. The barometer rose briskly immediately in its rear, and thunderstorms occurred in the north and north-east as the disturbance moved off. A new fall then set in over the Bay of Biscay and very unsettled weather became general.

September 3–8.—During this period the pressure distribution was cyclonic, and very complex, but leaning more to the westerly type over our southern stations and France than to any other. During its prevalence two very well-defined systems passed over our Islands and their neighbourhood. The first (No. L.*) advanced rapidly towards Lorient on the 3rd (see the Charts in the Weekly Weather Reports, 1884, p. 142), and, travelling in a north-easterly direction, reached Belgium and our south-eastern counties by the following morning. At this time strong Northerly winds prevailed over the south and east of England, North-westerly gales in the west of France, strong Southerly winds in the north-east of France, and an Easterly gale in Holland. Rain fell for many hours in a continuous downpour at all our south-eastern stations and over France, the total fall varying from 1·5 in. to upwards of 3 inches over the south-eastern parts of England. On the 5th the centre of the disturbance (which had grown much deeper) was off the south of Norway, and strong Easterly winds and much rain were recorded at Oxö. The centre then moved north-westwards, and Northerly gales were experienced in the north and east of Scotland, 1·7 inch of rain falling at

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

Sumburgh Head. It is worth remarking that, notwithstanding the great alterations which took place in the movements of this system, it continued to grow deeper and deeper, and finally passed away from our area without showing any indication of filling up. On September 6th (as the system just noticed was disappearing from our area) a new depression (No. LI.*) advanced towards Ireland, apparently from the south-westward, and the wind backed to South-west and South over Ireland and England, and increased in force. The new disturbance, instead of moving northwards, travelled directly across our Islands and the North Sea, causing strong South-Westerly to North-Westerly winds and gales, and bringing with it a further fall of rain, which was nearly as heavy at the Irish and Welsh stations as that of the 3rd had been in the south-east of England. As it passed away the barometer rose quickly on our coasts, the weather cleared, and the depression began to fill up quickly.

September 9–20.—During this period anticyclonic conditions prevailed over our Islands with very little interruption. Between the 9th and 15th a well-formed anticyclonic system (No. XVIII., page 91) lay more or less over the United Kingdom, and fine, dry, but hazy weather was reported generally. Temperature was not high for the time of year, the highest of the daily maxima being only 70° to 75° , while the nights were occasionally cold and foggy. (see the Daily and Weekly Weather Reports for about this date). On the 15th and 16th a well-formed depression (No. LII.*) advanced northwards and north-westwards from the Bay of Biscay, and as it passed by our extreme south-western coasts the anticyclonic system receded to the eastern and south-eastern shores of the North Sea. Temperature now rose considerably over England, the maximum readings during the daytime increasing to between 76° and 78° on the 15th, and to between 80° and 84° on the 17th. The latter were the highest observed during the month. As this depression passed away the barometer rose quickly in its rear, and a new anticyclonic system (No. XIX.) was formed over Ireland. The winds again fell light and variable, the air became hazy, but dry, and the thermometer went down, the nights in particular being cold generally. This new system increased quickly in size, and, moving in an easterly direction, spread over the whole of our Islands; the wind thus became Easterly in the south, and Southerly in the west and north, and in the end, the Southerly breeze veered towards South-west, and became the prevailing wind of our area.

September 21–30.—The general distribution of pressure, and the winds reported over our area during this period were, on the whole, of a South-westerly or Westerly type. Pressure was continuously highest over the Bay of Biscay or France, and lowest to the northward of our Islands, the gradients being, generally, moderate to rather steep. The winds were South-westerly and Westerly. Temperature did not differ much from the mean for the time of year, and the air over England was moderately moist. From time to time large well-formed depressions (five in all) passed by our extreme north-western coasts, travelling in about the direction shown by the broken arrow marked "LIII. and LIV." on Map 2 Plate XIX. Their subsidiary disturbances were occasionally very angular in form and travelled directly over the kingdom, bringing with them sharp showers, and occasionally strong winds veering from South-west to North-west. The largest and deepest system (No. LIII.*) passed very near to the Hebrides on the 27th, when the barometer fell to 28.9 inches at Stornoway, and South-westerly gales of considerable strength were felt on all our western and northern coasts. A second, similar, and somewhat important system (No. LIV.*) travelled in about the same track on the 30th, but it covered a less extensive area, and its gales were consequently not felt so generally as those on the 27th. This was moving away to the eastward when the month closed. In all cases the centres of the main disturbances lay at so great a distance from our coasts, that their tracks cannot be indicated with great certainty on Map 2.

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