

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

JULY 1885.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of July was fine generally. Pressure was considerably above its normal value, and the changes in it were small. Anticyclonic conditions were very prevalent, while the cyclonic systems were either small and shallow, or passed by our Islands at too great a distance for their effects on pressure to be very seriously felt at any of our stations. Temperature has been about its normal value over central England and the east of Ireland, rather low elsewhere, especially in the north-west of Ireland, where the mean was about 3° below the average. There were only two days which could be termed hot, viz., the 25th and 26th, when the thermometer rose to about 90° in several parts of England, and to 91° in some places. Rainfall has been very deficient, especially over central England, where the air was dry; but Bright Sunshine was less prevalent than might have been expected with such dry weather. The brightest districts were our southern counties and the Channel Islands.

July 1-6.—During this period the dominant system of pressure distribution over our Islands was anticyclonic, in continuation of the conditions observed at the close of June; the gradients were chiefly of a north-westerly type, but became south-westerly on the 6th. The gradients were slight, and the winds, as a rule, light. These conditions were brought about by the advance of the anticyclonic systems Nos. XXIII. and XXIV., which covered the Bay of Biscay, France, and the greater part of our Islands, bringing with them dry, fair weather, and some fog, but temperatures were not high for the time of year. On one occasion (the 6th), the thermometer rose to between 79° and 81° over the southern half of England, but on the other days the maximum readings were not nearly so high, and the night temperatures were as a rule very low (37° to 39° at the inland stations on one occasion). The winds were chiefly South-westerly to Westerly at the northern stations, but North-westerly to North-easterly in the south, so that although a little rain fell almost daily in the extreme north-west and north, the air was dry elsewhere; thunder occurred locally at our southern stations on the 5th. On the 6th, pressure gave way in the west and north-west, and a well-marked depression (No. XXXV.*) advanced towards the north-west of Ireland from the Atlantic, bringing about Southerly gales and rain in those regions, with unsettled weather generally, and forcing back the anticyclonic system to the central and south-western parts of France and the southern shores of the Bay of Biscay.

July 7-11.—During this period the distribution of pressure was cyclonic over Ireland and Scotland, but chiefly anticyclonic over France, England, and the North Sea, the gradients being favourable for South-westerly winds in most places. Thus, while showery weather prevailed in the west and north, (and much rain in the extreme west on the 10th,) fair weather was experienced elsewhere, but with a good deal of cloud on some occasions, and an occasional

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

slight shower or two over England. Temperature was at first not high for the time of year, even over England, where the daily maxima as a rule did not exceed 75°. On the 10th and 11th, however, a change took place, and the thermometer rose to between 80° and 83° over some parts of the southern and south-eastern counties. The winds were mainly Southerly and South-westerly, and at times blew hard in the extreme west and north, while they remained light or moderate in the east and south. A singularly local fall of rain, amounting to nearly half an inch, occurred in and around London early on the 12th, the cause of which is by no means apparent.

July 12-20.—A considerable change now took place, for while the system of pressure-distribution remained chiefly anticyclonic in the south and cyclonic in the north, with moderate or slight gradients, the latter became of a more westerly, and occasionally north-westerly, type than of late, and the wind veered accordingly. Temperature at once fell decidedly, the air became dry and somewhat unseasonable over England, and cloudiness increased greatly. Showers continued to fall in the northern parts, both of Great Britain and Ireland, but in the south of Ireland the fall became less than it had been, and a great deal of fog prevailed both on our west and south-west coasts. The daily maximum temperatures scarcely exceeded 70°, even at the warmest stations, until the 18th, where they rose temporarily to 74° in a few places.

July 21-31.—An important alteration now took place. A new anticyclone (No. XXV.) arrived off our north-western coasts and spread completely over the kingdom, bringing with it dry, quiet, hazy, and foggy weather, with light and varying wind. Temperature at once began to increase during the daytime, though the nights remained cool for a time; by the 23rd readings as high as 80° or 81° were recorded at several of the northern stations, and a further increase to between 80° to 84° was observed over England on the following day. The two warmest days of the year in England were the 25th and 26th, when the thermometer rose to between 85° and 93° over the inland counties. The anticyclone then moved slowly to the north-westward and northward, and cooler Northerly to North-easterly winds again set in, so that from the 28th to the 30th the daily maxima did not exceed 70° to 77°, and of these the highest were recorded over the inland parts of Ireland, not England. At the close of the month there was no appearance of any tendency to showery weather.