MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

JUNE 1886.

SECTION I.

General Summary for the Month.

The weather of June was on the whole cold, cloudy, dry, and quiet. Until the 21st it was most unseasonable, the temperatures being much below the average and the winds as a rule unpleasant and dry. On the 22nd, however, a change commenced, and from this date a spell of really good summer weather spread gradually over us, and was still in progress on the 30th. During this period the thermometer rose on one occasion to between 78° and 80° over several parts of England, and the amount of bright sunshine was very large. Taking the month as a whole, pressure was rather in excess at the southern stations, and slightly defective in the north; temperature was low everywhere; the winds were chiefly from the northern half of the compass, but were not strong; the air was dry, and the rainfall deficient.

June 1–2.—The weather during this period was of a somewhat unsettled character. An anticyclone lay over the eastern shores of the North Sea, whence a broad band (or col) extended westwards over the northern half of the British Islands, while over the Bay of Biscay lay a low-pressure system, and a small subsidiary disturbance (No. XLIII.*) over the north of France; the latter moved first in a northerly and afterwards in a north-easterly direction, causing thunderstorms and rain at all our stations, and an especially heavy fall over our north midland and north-eastern counties. As the subsidiary system advanced the anticyclone passed out of our area in an easterly direction, and reached the Baltic provinces at 8 a.m. on the 2nd, but a new anticyclone appeared in the north-west, and subsequently spread all over the kingdom.

Over central and southern Europe the weather during this time was fine, the wind light and variable, and pressure uniformly high.

June 3–7.—The distribution of pressure over our Islands and their neighbourhood during this interval was anticyclonic, the system (No. XIII., p. 67) advancing to us from the north-westward, and spreading completely over the United Kingdom by the morning of the 4th. At this time the wind was North-westerly to South-westerly in the north, and North-easterly to Easterly in the south; temperature was low, the minimum at Cambridge being 34°, and the weather was dry generally, but hazy or foggy in the south-west. The anticyclone then moved in a south-westerly direction, the system broke up, and rain began to fall in the west, accompanied by South-westerly winds, with a rather decided increase of temperature over France and the south-east of England during the daytime.

June 8–15.—The weather now became cyclonic owing to the advance of some depressions from the Atlantic to our western coasts. These moved in a direction about parallel to the arrow marked "A" on Map 2, Plate XII., but at too great a distance from the Irish coast for the details as to their form, depth, &c. to be given in Section II. As they passed northwards, however, some of them developed "hollows" over the more eastern parts of the

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

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United Kingdom and the North Sea (see the charts for 11th to 13th in the Daily and Weekly Weather Reports), and, as the North-westerly winds on the south-western sides of these alternated with the Southerly and South-easterly winds on their eastern sides, considerable variations of temperature were recorded, as well as rather showery weather, and local thunderstorms of considerable severity. On June 16th a small and shallow, but well-marked, depression (No. XLIV.*) arrived over the south of Norway, apparently from the north-westward, and as it moved south-eastwards the barometer rose in the West, and the distribution of pressure over the United Kingdom changed permanently.

The Continental reports for this time showed that there were two high-pressure areas prevalent, one over northern and the other over south-western Europe, and that as the depressions referred to passed northwards outside our western and northern coasts, local disturbances were developed in the hollow on the western side of these systems, causing the disturbed weather referred to.

June 16–21.—The high-pressure area in the south-west now moved northwards along our western coasts, and pressure gave way in the east and also over the Mediterranean. The wind therefore drew permanently into North and North-west over the British Islands and France, and temperature became very low for the time of year over Great Britain. The mean readings for the week ended on June 21st varied from 1° below the average in the south of Ireland to 6° below over the eastern and Midland counties of England. The air, however, was dry, and, as the sky was much clearer and the wind lighter at the Irish stations than in the eastern parts of England, the thermometer there rose considerably during the day time, so that maximum readings in the south-west of England and over Ireland were much higher than those at the more central and eastern of the English stations. On the 20th and 21st some shallow depressions appeared over the southern parts of Scandinavia, but these soon dispersed, only causing a temporary increase in the strength of the Northerly wind over the North Sea. On the 20th, however, a shallow depression (No. XLV.*) appeared near Trieste, and moving northwards, travelled across Austria and Germany to the Baltic, which it reached at 8 a.m. on the 22nd; it then moved north-westwards across Scandinavia, and disappeared from our area over the Atlantic. In its rear the barometer rose steadily, the gradients became favourable for winds from a more Westerly point, and a complete change took place in the weather over western and north-western Europe.

The weather which prevailed over the Continent during this week was remarkable; for, while the cold North-westerly and Northerly current of wind (on the western sides of the hollows referred to above) blew persistently over the British Islands and France, the central and northern parts of Europe were favoured with the Southerly and South-easterly airs of the same hollows, and the anticyclonic airs of the more northern of the two high-pressure areas referred to above. Temperature was consequently very high in those parts, the readings over Sweden and Finland being greatly in excess of those recorded in the United Kingdom. The greatest difference occurred on the 18th, on which date the maximum temperature recorded in the shade at Hernösand was no less than 34° higher than that registered in London.

June 22–30.—A marked change now took place; for as the depression (No. XLV.*) moved away to the north-westward, the anticyclonic system which lay off our western coasts moved southwards to the Bay of Biscay, and the barometer rose in the south. The higher pressures then spread eastwards over France, and moved northwards to the United Kingdom. As this occurred the wind over western Europe backed into West and South-west, and lulled, first to a moderate breeze and afterwards to nearly a calm. Temperatures rose day by day; on the 24th many of the maxima over England exceeded 70°, on the 26th they varied from 70° to 77°, and (after a temporary change in the opposite direction on the 27th) they rose to between 75° and 79° on the 29th and 30th. This was the first portion of a period of perhaps the finest and most "summer-like" weather which we have experienced for many years.

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

On the Continent also the weather became gradually more and more settled, but it was not until after the 26th that the 8 a.m. temperatures in the south of France were at all generally above 70°, though on the northern shores of the Adriatic they had reached that value a day or two earlier. The month closed with anticyclonic airs and dry weather over all the countries in western Europe.