

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1886.

SECTION I.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

THE weather of November was of a very changeable character. Pressure was slightly below its normal value in the north, but above it in the south; depressions were numerous, but, as a rule, they were neither large nor deep; of anticyclones there was only one, but that was large and well-marked. Temperature was in excess of the mean, and exhibited very sudden, but not unusually large changes. The wind was chiefly Westerly and South-westerly, and gales, though frequent in the west, were not severe. The rainfall was large in the south-west and south, and also at some northern stations, but defective over the Midland counties as a whole. Bright sunshine was deficient in the south, while in the north-east a large amount was recorded.

November 1-4.—The dominant system of pressure-distribution during this period was cyclonic, the gradients were at times steep and favourable for South-westerly winds, and the general tendency of pressure was to decrease. As is usual under such conditions in winter, the temperature was high, the weather unsettled and showery, and as some depressions passed by our north-western coasts in a north-easterly direction, the South-westerly winds increased to the force of a gale at many places on our western and north-western coasts. The centres of these depressions passed at so great a distance from our north-western coasts that their characteristics cannot be tabulated in Section II., nor can their tracks be drawn at all accurately in Map 2, Plate XXII.

November 5-15.—The weather of this period was very unsettled: it was wet, cold, and often windy, and the movements of the depressions were peculiar. During the 5th pressure was highest over south-eastern Europe, and a shallow depression (No. LXVI.*) advanced over our western coasts from the north-westward. In its rear the barometer rose decidedly, so that North-easterly and Easterly winds set in over our northern and north-western districts, while Westerly and South-westerly winds prevailed at our southern and south-eastern stations; temperature decreased decidedly, much cold rain fell, especially in the north, and lightning was seen in the south-east of England. The system grew deeper as it moved eastwards, and Northerly winds spread all over the kingdom, with cold but clearing, weather. No sooner had this disturbance passed off than the barometer rose in the south, and the evening of the 8th again found us with moderate gradients for South-westerly winds and milder weather. Another depression then appeared over Ireland. It was apparently

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

formed in the subsidiary "hollow" of a larger system, the centre of which travelled in a north-easterly direction outside our extreme north-western coasts. The new system took a south-easterly and afterwards a southerly course, and in its rear the barometer rose quickly, and strong, cold North-easterly and Easterly winds again set in. On its central parts reaching the north-west of France and Bay of Biscay several small minima were developed—at 6 p.m. on the 9th there were three of them. One of these, LXVII B., moved east-north-eastwards to our south-eastern coasts, while the other, LXVII A., passed south-westwards to Corunna, and the third filled up. In the meantime another small system had been developed over Germany, and moving north-westwards over the German Ocean passed out of our area along the western coast of Norway. The minimum off our south-eastern coasts now moved northwards and north-north-westwards along the north-east coast of Great Britain, producing Northerly breezes over England as it did so, but the condition was soon complicated by the sudden advance of yet another system from the north-westward during the night of the 11th; the centre of this was found next morning close to Holyhead. These two systems moved quite independently of one another, for while the one travelled away to the north-westward between the north-east of Scotland and the Shetland Islands, the other changed its course, and, going north-eastwards passed across the North Sea and Denmark to the Baltic. The Northerly winds were so cold that the minimum temperature for the month occurred more generally on the 9th than on any other day, but there were no reports of snow in the level parts of the country, though much fell on the hills. With the 15th, however, this series terminated, and the distribution of pressure became less complicated.

November 16–20.—The distribution of pressure, though still cyclonic, was now more simple and of a westerly and south-westerly type; some large depressions travelled in a north-easterly direction outside our extreme northern coasts, while subsidiary systems took a more southerly course, and travelling across England caused their rough and unsettled weather to spread to the southern parts of our area. Temperature changed greatly and suddenly, the mild South-westerly and Southerly winds in front of the systems alternating with the cold North-westerly breezes in their rear, and *vice versa*; sharp frosts occurred at night when the ridges between the cyclonic systems passed over the kingdom at that time.

November 21–28.—A very decided change of weather now took place. The barometer rose rapidly, the depressions above referred to passed away, and a well-formed anticyclone was developed over the United Kingdom. At 8 a.m. 22nd the central portion of this system stretched from south-west to north-east over the Bay of Biscay, France, England, and the North Sea; temperature fell except in the west and north-west, and calms, fogs, and sharp frosts spread over the kingdom. For the next two days pressure increased steadily, until on the 24th it was as high as nearly 30·8 inches over England and Ireland. Fog and frost increased in intensity, and in London the fog was of a very irritating nature, especially during the daytime of the 24th, when it was dry and very dense. A singular change then took place; the anticyclone centre had continued to move slowly to the westward until at evening on the 24th it lay over Ireland, and a light Northerly breeze spread over Great Britain. With this Northerly breeze the fog cleared off and temperature rose decidedly; and when on the three following days the centre again moved eastwards over England, the cold and the fog did not recur with anything like the intensity with which they prevailed before. The centre of the anticyclone (which was now growing less intense), reached France on the 28th, the barometer fell in the north, and steep gradients for Westerly winds spread over the country, with rising temperature and damper air.

November 29–30.—A very large low-pressure area now advanced over northern Europe from the north-westward, and South-westerly to North-westerly winds prevailed over the United Kingdom, the former accompanied by rain generally, and the latter by snow in the north. The low-pressure system, however, lay at too great a distance from us for its characteristics to be tabulated, or its track to be drawn on Map 2, Plate XXII. Temperature was unsteady, and at 8 a.m. on the 30th was rather low and falling, with a North-westerly wind.