# THE KEW OBSERVATORY,

# RICHMOND, SURREY.

# 1886.

# REPORT

#### OF THE

# KEW COMMITTEE

#### FOR THE

## Year ending October 31, 1886,

WITH APPENDICES CONTAINING RESULTS OF MAGNETICAL, METEOROLOGICAL, AND SOLAR OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE OBSERVATORY.

[From the PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, 1886.]

LONDON: HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, Printers in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1886.



# Report of the Kew Committee for the Year ending October 31, 1886.

The operations of The Kew Observatory, in the Old Deer Park, Richmond, Surrey, are controlled by the Kew Committee, which is constituted as follows:

Mr. Warren de la Rue, Chairman.

Captain W. de W. Abney, R.E.	The Earl of Rosse.
Prof. W. G. Adams.	Mr. R. H. Scott.
Prof. G. C. Foster.	LieutGeneral W. J. Smythe.
Mr. F. Galton.	LieutGen. R. Strachey, C.S.I.
Admiral Sir G. H. Richards,	LieutGeneral J. T. Walker,
K.C.B.	С.В.

The Committee regret to announce the death, in December last, of one of their members, Captain Sir F. Evans, K.C.B., formerly Hydrographer. He had held a seat upon the Committee since 1874, and was a frequent attendant at their meetings, rendering most valuable assistance in all questions relating to terrestrial magnetism or navigation brought forward for consideration.

The work at the Observatory may be considered under the following heads :---

- 1st. Magnetic observations.
- 2nd. Meteorological observations.
- 3rd. Solar observations.
- 4th. Experimental, in connexion with any of the above departments.
- 5th. Verification of instruments.
- 6th. Rating of Watches and Marine Chronometers.
- 7th. Miscellaneous.

#### I. MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

The Magnetographs have been in constant operation during the year, and in accordance with the usual practice, determinations of the scale values of all the instruments were made early in January.

The Vertical Force Balance Magnet was found to have a scale value of for 1 inch  $\delta V = 0.0296$ , and therefore appeared wanting in sensitiveness, it was accordingly re-adjusted and brought up to the proper pitch of delicacy.

The values of the ordinates of the different photographic curves determined then were as follows :---

Declination:  $1 \text{ inch} = 0^{\circ} 22' \cdot 04$ .  $1 \text{ cm} = 0^{\circ} 8' \cdot 7$ .

Bifilar, January 11, 1886, for 1 inch  $\delta H=0.0268$  foot grain unit. ,, 1 cm. ,, =0.0005 C.G.S. unit. Balance, January 19, 1886 ,, 1 inch  $\delta V=0.0274$  foot grain unit. ,, 1 cm. ,, =0.0005 C.G.S. unit.

The chief days on which notable magnetic disturbance was recorded were as follows:—January 9, March 30, July 27, and October 7-11.

The magnetic instruments have been studied, and a knowledge of their manipulation obtained by Professor L. M. Russell, Mr. E. Kitto, and Mr. C. Chambers, jun.

Professors Rücker and Thorpe visited the Observatory in April, and made several sets of observations with the instruments which they have employed in their magnetic survey of the British Isles, prior to their commencing operations on the southern section which have occupied them during the past summer.

At the request of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, a set of magnetographs on an improved model has been constructed for the Committee by Mr. Munro, which, after a lengthened trial in the Verification House, were forwarded to Falmouth, and erected at the New Observatory, under the supervision of Mr. T. W. Baker. The cost has been defrayed by a grant from the Royal Society's Government Fund.

At the suggestion of General Sir J. H. Lefroy, the Committee have caused a plate to be engraved on which sectional lines are laid down on the scale adopted by the International Polar Conference, for plotting all magnetic curves on a uniform system. Impressions from this plate will be kept at the Observatory, and supplied at cost price to persons desirous of making use of such forms.

Information on matters relating to terrestrial magnetism and various data, have been supplied to Professor W. G. Adams, Dr. Atkinson, General Sir J. H. Lefroy, Professor B. Stewart, M. Moureau, Captain Schück, and others.

The monthly observations with the absolute instruments have been made as usual, and the results are given in the tables forming Appendix I of this Report.

The following is a summary of the number of magnetic observations made during the year :--

#### Report of the Kew Committee.

Determinations of	Horizontal Intensity	30
**	Inclination	155
÷1	Absolute Declination	36

The diurnal range of the Declination having become a somewhat interesting feature in magnetic reductions, an additional table, giving the values for the summer and winter seasons and for the whole year, as determined from selected curves by the graphic method,\* has been inserted in the Appendix.

#### II. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The several self-recording instruments for the continuous registration respectively of atmospheric pressure, temperature, and humidity, wind (direction and velocity), bright sunshine, and rain, have been maintained in regular operation throughout the year.

The only alterations made in the above instruments have been the following: a screen of blue glass has been interposed in the barograph between the barometer tube and the light, with the result of improving the definition of the photographic curve, and a Stonyhurst lifter has been fitted to the Beckley rain-gauge, causing the pencil to return to its original position after depression more rapidly than it did previously.

The standard eye observations for the control of the automatic records have been duly registered during the year, together with the daily observations in connexion with the U.S. Signal Service synchronous system. A summary of these observations is given in Appendix II.

The tabulation of the meteorological traces has been regularly carried on, and copies of these, as well as of the eye observations, with notes of weather, cloud, and sunshine have been transmitted to the Meteorological Office.

The terrestrial radiation thermometer (grass minimum) was found broken on July 11, and replaced by a new instrument on July 21.

The following is a summary of the number of meteorological observations made during the past year :---

Readings of standard barometer	1725
" dry and wet thermometers	3450
" maximum and minimum thermo-	
meters	730
,, radiation thermometers	1480
,, rain gauges	730
Cloud and weather observations	1877
Measurements of barograph curves	8751

\* See paper by Mr. Whipple in the "Quart. Jour. Roy. Met. Soc.," vol. ix, p. 45.

Measurements of	dry bulb thermograph curves	9473
"	wet bulb thermograph curves	8681
>>	wind (direction and velocity)	17515
**	rainfall curves	740
33	sunshine traces	2113

In compliance with the usual request made by the Meteorological Council to the Committee, Mr. Whipple visited the Observatories at Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Stonyhurst, and the anemograph at Swaubister. He also superintended the erection of new instruments at North Shields and Fleetwood.

Mr. Baker has visited the Valencia and Falmonth Observatories for the purpose of inspection.

With the sanction of the Meteorological Council, weekly abstracts of the Meteorological results have been regularly forwarded to, and published by "The Times" and "The Torquay Directory." Data have also been supplied to the Council of the Royal Meteorological Society, the editor of "Symons's Monthly Meteorological Magazine," the Secretary of the Institute of Mining Engineers, Messrs. B. Latham, Gwilliam, Rowland, and others. The cost of these abstracts is borne by the recipients.

Electrograph.—Acting upon the recommendation of the Kew Committee the Meteorological Council have purchased a new quadrant electrometer, constructed on Mr. de la Rue's principle, with Professor Clifton's improvements, together with a chloride of silver battery of 60 cells, for the purpose of maintaining the potential of the quadrants at a certain point.

By the kindness of the Chairman of the Committee, experiments were made at his laboratory in Portland Place by means of which the scale value of the instrument was determined before it was conveyed to the Observatory, and erected in the place of the Thomson instrument formerly employed.

No change has been made in the recording apparatus attached to it. The instrument has been working for the past month in a satisfactory manner.

In accordance with a request made by the Meteorological Council, and at their expense, the electrograms for the two years 1882 and 1883 have been tabulated in absolute values.

#### III. SOLAR OBSERVATIONS.

The sketches of Sun-spots, as seen projected on the photoheliograph screen, have been made on 169 days, in order to continue Schwabe's enumeration, the results being given in Appendix II, Table IV.

Transit Observations.-301 observations of solar and 76 of sidereal transits have been taken, for the purpose of keeping correct local time

at the Observatory, and the clocks and chronometers have also been compared daily. The Observatory Chronometers Arnold 86 and Parkinson and Frodsham 2408, have been cleaned and re-adjusted, and the mean-time clocks, Shelton K. O., and Shelton 35, examined and re-adjusted by Dent.

The following clocks, French, Dent 2011, Shelton K. O., and the chronometers, Molyneux No. 2125 and Breguet No. 3140, are kept carefully rated as time-keepers at the Observatory.

The mean-time clock, Shelton 35, after cleaning, &c., was bolted to the wall of the chronometer-room for use in daily comparisons with the chronometers on trial.

In order to facilitate the inter-comparison of the clocks, the chronometer "Parkinson" has been specially fitted up as a "hack" instrument.

At the request of the Council of the Royal Meteorological Society, certain experiments were made with the view of investigating Professor W. K. Zenger's solar phenomena and an examination was also made of the Kew solar photographs. The results obtained were however of a negative character only. A note of them has been published in the "Quarterly Journal Roy. Met. Soc.," vol. xii, p. 215.

A comparative trial extending over five months was made of Professor McLeod's sunshine recorder (see "Proc. Phys. Soc.," vol. vi, p. 216), and the Stokes' instrument which proved the results given by the two instruments to be practically identical.

#### IV. EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

Photo-nephograph.—The report on last year's work in cloud photography was duly submitted to the Meteorological Council, and placed by them in the hands of Professor Stokes for consideration.

Professor Stokes having investigated the methods employed at the Observatory, devised a new graphic process for determining the cloud heights and motions in a much simpler manner than by the use of mathematical formulæ only. He invented a special apparatus called a projector, which has been constructed by C. Baker, and is now being utilized in the reduction of the pictures taken during the past season. These have amounted to 112 cloud negatives, and were obtained in 15 days.

For convenience of dealing with the cloud pictures in the projection apparatus with greater facility, the negatives have all been printed off on paper prepared by the cyanotype process.

Certain minor additions were made to the cameras, and accessory apparatus, which have tended to facilitate their working, and their action has been fairly satisfactory ever since. There is, however, still an occasional failure due to uncertainty of the duration of the time of exposure of the twin cameras, although this is apparently instantaneous.

Solar Radiation Thermometers.—The experiments with these thermometers have been continued during the past summer months, and at times as many as 8 instruments have been under observation.

It having appeared that during the winter the vacua in certain of the instruments had deteriorated either by leakage or evolution of gas from the lamp-black coating of the bulbs, experiments were made in the Chairman's laboratory which proved that such was the case. New thermometers were made and enclosed in jackets not provided with platinum electrodes; the bulbs were also made of black glass, having the stems covered with black enamel. These, after careful exhaustion, were placed under observation, but did not register temperatures higher than had been previously observed.

Advantage was taken of an offer kindly made by Professor Thorpe to make solar radiation observations on his recent Eclipse Expedition to Grenada, and two of the instruments were lent to him. He has now returned them to the Observatory, together with copies of the readings he was able to procure on the occasion.

Electrical Anemograph.—This instrument, after a lengthened trial in the Experimental House and the execution of certain minor alterations by Mr. Kempe, has been dismounted and forwarded to the Valencia Observatory by instructions of the Meteorological Council. The external parts were previously put into thorough repair by Mr. Munro, in order to fit the anemograph for the rough weather to which it will be exposed when erected on a hill almost overlooking the Atlantic.

Dines' Anemometer.—Trials have been made of two anemometers constructed on a new principle by Mr. W. H. Dines, B.A. Owing, however, to structural defects, both instruments broke down before any final results were obtained, and were returned to the maker for repair.

Glycerine Barometer.—This instrument, having very considerably deteriorated by age, was dismounted by Mr. Jordan in June, and after thorough cleaning and repair by Mr. J. Steward, was again erected and refilled with new fluid.

Pendulum Experiments.—At the request of General Walker, certain experiments were made with the view of ascertaining the stability of the Experimental House as a site for pendulum operations. These having proved that building unsuitable, a wooden erection 13 ft.  $\times$ 9 ft.  $\times$  8 ft. has been constructed, at the desire of the Pendulum Committee of the Royal Society, in the lower South Hall of the Observatory, on the spot occupied in 1873 by Captain Heaviside, when experimenting with the Russian pendulum. (See Report for 1873.)

In this room it is the intention to erect the Indian Pendulum Appa-

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ratas recently returned by Professor Peirce from the United States, and swing the pendulums so as to obtain a differential connexion with recent swings in New York. Subsequently, it is intended to convey the whole to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, where other series of observations and experiments will be conducted with a view to connecting Greenwich with Kew.

At the request of the Meteorological Council, various experiments were tried with the view of selecting a suitable paper for use with the Beckley anemographs, and also of remedying certain defects found attendant on the employment of gelatinised photographic curves in processes of mechanical reduction in the Meteorological Office.

#### V. VERIFICATION OF INSTRUMENTS.

The following magnetic instruments have been verified, and their constants determined :---

1 Unifilar Magnetometer and an Inclinometer for the Falmouth Observatory.

Two Inclinometers have been purchased on commission for the Bureau of Navigation, Washington, 1 each also for the Ekaterinburg Observatory and the Lighthouse Board, Helsingfors. 2 Dip Needles have been procured and tested for the Mauritius Observatory; also 1 pair for the Lisbon Observatory; 7 Thomson's patent compasses with 7 vertical force instruments have also been examined for the Imperial Japanese Navy.

1 Unifilar, 2 Compasses, and 2 Inclinometers have been tested for opticians, and 2 Unifilars are at present undergoing verification.

The total number of other instruments compared in the past year was as follows :---

Barometers, St	tandard	31
,, M	arine and Station	92
Aneroids		124
	Total	247
Thermometers	, ordinary Meteorological	1320
"	Standard and Chemical	<b>210</b>
,,	Mountain	<b>45</b>
,,	Clinical	9054
,,	Avitreous	816
"	Solar radiation	<b>45</b>
	Total	11490

Hydrometers	.512
Anemometers	15
Rain Gauges	6
Sextants	139
Index and Horizon Glasses, unmounted	170
Dark Glasses, unmounted	597
Theodolites	. 9

Besides these, 32 Deep-sea Thermometers have been tested, 16 of which were subjected, in the hydraulic press, without injury, to pressures exceeding two tons on the square inch. 27 Thermometers have been compared at the freezing-point of mercury, making a total of 11549 for the year.

Duplicate copies of corrections have been supplied in 84 cases.

The number of instruments rejected on account of excessive error, or which from other causes did not record with sufficient accuracy, was as follows :---

Thermometers,	clinical	67
,,	ordinary meteorological	49
Various	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	112

7 Standard Thermometers have also been calibrated, and supplied to societies and individuals during the year.

1 Redier Barograph, 1 Richard Hygrometer, 1 Air Meter, 2 Telescopes, &c., were also examined.

There are at present in the Observatory undergoing verification, 43 Barometers, 904 Thermometers, 2 Hydrometers, and 27 Sextants.

A question having arisen as to the true interpretation of the tables of Specific Gravity used in connexion with the verification of instruments of the hydrometer class, a Sub-Committee has been appointed to consider the matter and authorize the adoption by the Observatory of certain definite rules.

#### VI. RATING OF WATCHES.

The arrangements for rating watches mentioned in previous Reports have been continued during the year with great success, and up to the present 834 watches have been examined, of which 16 were submitted by the owners, and 818 by the manufacturers or dealers.

490 watches were received as contrasted with 302 received during the corresponding period of last year. They were entered for testing in the following classes :---

For class A, 436; class B, 36; and class C, 18. Of these 148 failed to gain any certificate; 16 passed in C, 102 in B, 224 in A, and 8 obtained the highest possible form of certificate, the class A especially good.

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All the watches which obtained Class A certificates had marks assigned to them, indicating the degree of relative efficiency they exhibited during their trial, according to the following scale:---

The number of marks awarded to a watch that only just succeeds in obtaining an A certificate is 0, while that awarded to an *absolutely perfect watch* would be 100, made up as follows:—40 for a complete absence of variation of daily rate, 40 for absolute freedom from change of rate with change of position, and 20 for perfect compensation for effects of temperature.

In Appendix III will be found a statement giving the results of trial of the 20 watches which obtained the highest numbers of marks during the year, the first position being again attained—with 867 marks—by the maker who occupied it—with 861 marks—last year.

The number of watches obtaining a high figure in the marks list has, however, much increased.

The following table will indicate the nature of the trials to which ordinary certificates refer :---

	For certificate of Class			
Position of watch during test.	А.	В.	<b>C.</b>	
Vertical, with pendant up """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	10 days 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 " 5 "	14 days 	8 days 	

Owing to the inconvenience and delay attendant on the employment of one safe for both hot and cold tests, a second was procured, and has been fitted up as a refrigerator, thereby enabling two sets of watch trials to proceed simultaneously, and more constant temperatures in both heat and cold to be sustained for the necessary periods.

Special attention has been given to the examination of *pocket* chronographs, in accordance with the request of the Cyclists' Union.

Manufacturers have also been advised of certain mechanical defects in the action of the chronograph work, and latterly an improvement has taken place in respect of this.

Early in the year a communication was received from the President

of the Section d'Horlogerie de la Société des Arts à Genève, asking for full particulars of the system of rating at this Observatory. These were forwarded to him, and in acknowledging receipt of the same he expressed the gratification of his Council at the degree of accuracy obtained in the Kew trials during the year.

Rating of Chronometers.—Application having been made to the Committee to extend their system of watch rating to marine chronometers, arrangements were carried out for effecting this. A chronometer oven formerly constructed for the Testing Office of the Board of Trade, being unemployed, was obtained on loan from the Meteorological Council, in whose possession it was, and erected with the necessary gas-fittings in the Thermograph-room of the Observatory.

A scheme for rating and certifying was drawn up, of which the following is a brief abstract.

The trial occupies 35 days, divided into 5 periods of 6 days each, and 5 intermediate days, namely, 1 day at the commencement of each period of test :---

1st p	eriod.	Chronometer at	t temperature of	$55^{\circ}$	F. or	13°	C.
2nd	,,	**	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	<b>7</b> 0°	,,	$21^{\circ}$	,,
3rd	,,	,,	"	$85^{\circ}$	,,	$29^{\circ}$	,,
4th	,,	,,	"	<b>7</b> 0°	,,	$21^{\circ}$	,,
$5 \mathrm{th}$	"	,,	"	$55^{\circ}$	,,	13°	,,

Certificates are granted to chronometers which have undergone 35 days' test as specified above, and whose performance is such that :---

1. The mean of the differences in each stage of the examination, between (a) the average daily rate during that period, and (b) the several daily rates, does not exceed one second in any one of the stages.

2. The mean daily rate has not been affected by change of temperature more than one-sixth of a second per  $1^{\circ}$  F., which is about a quarter of a second per  $1^{\circ}$  C.

3. The mean daily rate has not exceeded five seconds in any stage of the test.

The trials were commenced in August, and up to present date seventeen ordinary marine and one sidereal chronometer have been rated.

The Astronomer Royal having on enquiry certified as to the excellent working of Kullberg's temperature regulator in the chronometer oven at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the inventor has been instructed to fit a similar one to the Kew testing case.

A Richard Thermograph has also been procured, and is arranged to work in the case with the chronometers, so as to afford a continuous record of the temperatures which they have experienced during the whole of their trial.

The range of temperature from 55° to 85° F., to which the marine chronometers are submitted, has been decided upon after careful consideration, as being amply sufficient for determining the behaviour of chronometers under conditions to which they are usually exposed at sea, and no objections have yet been received from makers or others to the adoption of the above range.

#### VII. MISCELLANEOUS.

Photographic Paper, &c.—This has been supplied to the Observatories at Batavia, Coimbra, Falmouth, Glasgow, Lisbon, Mauritius, Oxford, Stonyhurst, St. Petersburg, and Toronto, and to the Meteorological Office. Blank forms have also been supplied to various Observatories and individuals.

At the request of Senhor Capello, of the Lisbon Observatory, an astronomical clock was procured and shipped to the Loanda Observatory, for use during the recent solar eclipse.

Two barograph tabulators, photographic appliances, and various other instruments have been procured, verified, and forwarded to the Observatories at Hong Kong and Mauritius.

The Observatory has been presented by the Rev. John Rigaud, B.D., Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, with a bust of his father, Stephen Peter Rigaud, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Astronomy and Radcliffe Observer, who formerly assisted his uncle, the Rev. S. Demainbray, in carrying on the Observatory.

*Exhibitions*, &c.—At the request of the Council of the Royal Meteorological Society a number of old instruments were exhibited at the Exhibition held by the Society in the rooms of the Institution of Civil Engineers in March, and devoted this year to barometers.

Four sets of photographs illustrative of the various processes in use at different periods at the Observatory have been contributed to the Photographic Exhibition, held in the Corporation Galleries of Art at Glasgow.

Library.—In July the Superintendent received a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Society offering a number of duplicate volumes about to be removed from the Library at Burlington House, and forwarding a catalogue.

A selection was made of those suitable for the Observatory Library, and sixteen volumes were accordingly sent down to Kew.

Presents of publications were received during the year from-

- 34 Scientific Societies and Institutions of Great Britain and Ireland, and
- 92 Foreign and Colonial Scientific Establishments, as well as numerous private individuals.

Magnetic Reductions.—At the request of Professor Balfour Stewart, the Superintendent prepared and submitted to the Committee of the British Association on the Reduction of Magnetic Observations, a report on the comparison between Wild's, Sabine's, and the Greenwich methods of determining the solar diurnal range of the declination.

Workshop.—The machine tools procured for the use of the Kew Observatory by grants from the Government Grant Fund or the Donation Fund have been kept in thorough order.

House, Grounds, and Footpath.—These have all been kept in order during the year.

Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests have kindly complied with the request of the President and Council of the Royal Society that the Observatory Staff should have a free passage at all hours through the yard tenanted by the lessee of the Old Deer Park, and accordingly an iron turnstile has been erected at the expense of the Committee at the entrance gate to the Park.

The necessary external repairs and painting of the building have been carried out by Her Majesty's Commissioners of Works as usual.

Owing to the increase of work now undertaken by the Observatory Staff it has become necessary to consider means of increasing the available accommodation, and of providing more space by addition either to the Observatory building itself or to one of the outbuildings.

Plans for both schemes have been submitted to the Committee, together with estimates of the approximate cost.

#### PERSONAL ESTABLISHMENT.

The staff employed is as follows :---

G. M. Whipple, B.Sc., Superintendent.

T. W. Baker, Chief Assistant and Magnetic Observer.

H. McLaughlin, Librarian and Accountant.

E. G. Constable, Solar Observations and Rating.

W. Hugo, ~

J. Foster, Verification Department.

T. Gunter,

W. Boxall, J

E. Dagwell.

H. A. Widdowson.

F. Oliver.

W. C. Gough.

E. Redding.

M. Baker, Messenger and Care-taker.

Abstract. The Kew Observatory. Account of Receipts and Payments for the year ending October 31st, 1886.

•	ne	port of the 1	new	Commit	tee	•	16	9
PAYMENTS. Cr.	daries and Extra	Vermeatrous A staing of Watches and Chronometers	£3097 4 0	found correct. (Signed) · J. T. WALKER, Auditor.	LIABILITIES. & s. d	Stationery, dec	£100117 8	(Signed) G. M. WHIPPLE, Superintendent.
Dr. RECEIPTS.	To Balance from 1884-85       # 3. d.       58         Royal Society (faassiot Trust)       480 17       7         Royal Society (faassiot Trust)       480 17       480 17       7         Magnetic Work       96       9       9         Magnetic Work       91       9       9         Magnetic Work       96       9       9         Miscellaneous       91       9       9         Miscellaneous       81       18       18         Vertifications       813       25       5         Rating of Watches and Chronometers       343       2       5	Arecorological Once for rotating and Foreign Institutions, &c 523 4 6 Commissions executed for Colonial and Foreign Institutions, &c 523 4 6	£3097 4 0	November 19, 1886. Examined and compared with the Vouchers, and	ASSETS. £ s. d.	By Balance as per Statement       576       14       6         Meteorological Office, Allowances, Experimental, and Sundries	£1001 17 8	November 19, 1886. (Signed) FRANCIS GALTON, for Chairman.

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#### APPENDIX I.

Magnetic Observations made at the Kew Observatory, Lat. 51° 28' 6" N. Long. 0<sup>h</sup> 1<sup>m</sup> 15<sup>s</sup>·1 W., for the year October 1885 to September 1886.

The observations of Deflection and Vibration given in the annexed Tables were all made with the Collimator Magnet marked K C 1, and the Kew 9-inch Unifilar Magnetometer by Jones.

The Declination observations have also been made with the same Magnetometer, Collimator Magnets 101 B and N E being employed for the purpose.

The Dip observations were made with Dip-circle Barrow No. 33, the needles 1 and 2 only being used; these are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length.

The results of the observations of Deflection and Vibration give the values of the Horizontal Force, which, being combined with the Dip observations, furnish the Vertical and Total Forces.

These are expressed in both English and metrical scales—the unit in the first being one foot, one second of mean solar time, and one grain; and in the other one millimetre, one second of time, and one milligramme, the factor for reducing the English to metric values being 0.46108.

By request, the corresponding values in C.G.S. measure are also given.

The value of log  $\pi^{2}K$  employed in the reduction is 1.64365 at temperature 60° F.

The induction-coefficient  $\mu$  is 0.000194.

The correction of the magnetic power for temperature  $t_o$  to an adopted standard temperature of 35° F. is

 $0.0001194(t_0-35)+0.000,000,213(t_0-35)^2$ .

The true distances between the centres of the deflecting and deflected magnets, when the former is placed at the divisions of the deflectionbar marked 1.0 foot and 1.3 feet, are 1.000075 feet and 1.300097 feet respectively.

The times of vibration given in the Table are each derived from the mean of 12 or 14 observations of the time occupied by the magnet in making 100 vibrations, corrections being applied for the torsion-force of the suspension-thread subsequently.

No corrections have been made for rate of chronometer or arc of vibration, these being always very small.

The value of the constant P, employed in the formula of reduction  $\frac{m}{X} = \frac{m'}{X'} \left(1 - \frac{P}{r_*^2}\right)$ , is -0.00148.

In each observation of absolute Declination the instrumental readings have been referred to marks made upon the stone obelisk erected 1,250 feet north of the Observatory as a meridian mark, the orientation of which, with respect to the Magnetometer, was determined by the late Mr. Welsh, and has since been carefully verified.

The observations have been made and reduced by Mr. T. W. Baker.

Report of the Kew Committee.

## Table I.

## Observations of Inclination.

Month.	Mean inclination. Month.		Mean inclination.
1885.		1886.	
October 26 27	67 37 <sup>•</sup> 8 67 37•8	April 27 29	67 36 <sup>•</sup> 8 67 37•2
Mean	67 37.8	Mean  -	67 37.0
November 23 24 28	$\begin{array}{ccc} 67 & 37 \cdot 1 \\ 67 & 37 \cdot 3 \\ 67 & 37 \cdot 5 \end{array}$	May 25 26 Mean	67 38.0 67 35.7 67 36.8
Mean	67 37.3	June 24	67 36·2
23 24	$\begin{array}{cccc} 67 & 37 & 6 \\ 67 & 38 & 2 \\ 67 & 37 & 7 \end{array}$	 Mean	67 36 2
Mean 1886.	67 37.8	July 21 22	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
January 26 27	67 37·8 67 37·0	Mean	67 37.5
Mean	<u> </u>	August 23 24	$\begin{array}{cccc} 67 & 35 \cdot 7 \\ 67 & 37 \cdot 5 \end{array}$
February 22 23 26	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Mean	67 36.6
Mean	67 36·7	September 23 29	67 36·3 67 36·2
March 22 27 29	$\begin{array}{ccc} 67 & 38 \cdot 7 \\ 67 & 37 \cdot 0 \\ 67 & 37 \cdot 0 \end{array}$	Mean	67 36 3
Mean	67 37 · 6		

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### Table II.

Observations for the Absolute Measure of Horizontal Force.

Month.	$\operatorname{Log} \frac{m}{\overline{X}}$ mean.	Log mX mean.	Value of m*.
1885. October 29th and 30th November 26th 1886. January 28th February 24th March 25th April 1st and 2nd 28th	$9 \cdot 12250$ $9 \cdot 12195$ $9 \cdot 12187$ $9 \cdot 12184$ $9 \cdot 12184$ $9 \cdot 12221$ $9 \cdot 12230$ $9 \cdot 12086$	0·30825 0·30872 0·30874 0·30902 0·30923 0·30860 0·30865 0·30800	$\begin{array}{c} 0.51925\\ 0.51919\\ 0.51916\\ 0.51913\\ 0.51943\\ 0.51943\\ 0.51928\\ 0.51937\\ 0.51812\end{array}$
May         27th           June         28th           July         23rd           August         26th           September         27th	$9 \cdot 12103$ $9 \cdot 12095$ $9 \cdot 12171$ $9 \cdot 12193$ $9 \cdot 12122$	0 · 30932 0 · 30836 0 · 30807 0 · 30875 0 · 30823	0 ·51901 0 ·51838 0 ·51867 0 ·51867 0 ·51861 0 ·51847

Table III.-Solar Diurnal Range of the Declination.

Hour.	Summer mean.	Winter mean.	Annual mean.
$\begin{array}{c} & 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ 19 \\ 20 \\ 21 \\ \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} +5.6\\+6.8\\+6.0\\+5.0\\+2.8\\+1.8\\+0.7\\-0.3\\-0.3\\-0.9\\-0.7\\-1.0\\-1.2\\-2.0\\-2.2\\-2.5\\-3.8\\-4.0\\-3.8\\-4.0\\-3.5\end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} +2.9 \\ +4.8 \\ +4.4 \\ +3.5 \\ +1.5 \\ +0.6 \\ -0.5 \\ -0.9 \\ -1.0 \\ -1.0 \\ -1.3 \\ -1.3 \\ -1.3 \\ -1.1 \\ -0.8 \\ -0.4 \\ -0.9 \\ -1.3 \\ -1.5 \\ -2.1 \end{array}$	$+4'\cdot 3 + 5\cdot 8 + 5\cdot 2 + 4\cdot 3 + 5\cdot 2 + 1\cdot 2 $
21 22 23	$\begin{vmatrix} -1.5\\ +1.8 \end{vmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} -1.7\\+0.8 \end{vmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} -1.6 \\ +1.3 \end{vmatrix}$

\* m =moment of vibrating magnet.

Table IV.

	Declination.				Ma <sub>f</sub>	gnetic Inten	sity.			
Month.		Ĥ	nglish Units		Ā	fetric Units.		Ö	G. S. Meas	ure.
	Mean of Observations.	X, or Horizontal Force.	Y, or Vertical Force.	Total Force.	X, or Horizontal Force.	Y, or Vertical Force.	Total Force.	X, or Horizontal Force.	Y, or Vertical Force.	Total Force.
200	West.									
October	18 23 34	3 .9163	1913.6	10.2903	1 -8058	4.3877	4 - 7447	0.1806	0.4388	0 •4745
November	18 20 1	3 -9209	9 -5227	10.2984	1 -8078	4.3908	4.7484	0.1808	0.4391	0 •4748
December	18 18 1	3 -9213	9 - 5282	10.3036	1 -8080	4.3933	4.7508	0.1808	0 •4393	0 -4751
1886. January	18 20 19	3 .9241	9.5315	10.3077	1.8093	4.3948	4.7527	0.1809	0 •4395	0 ·4753
February	18 17 45	3 -9237	9 • 5251	10.3017	1.8092	4.3919	4.7500	0 •1809	0.4392	0.4750
March	18 20 36	3.9192	9 -5212	10.2963	1408-1	4.3901	4 -7474	0.1807	0.4390	0 • 4747
April	18 19 9	3 •9208	9 -5201	10.2960	1 -8078	4.3896	4 •7473	0.1808	0.4390	0 • 4747
May	18 19 51	3 .9277	<b>1923</b> · 6	10.3134	1 -8110	4 • 3969	4 .7553	0.1811	0.4397	0 •4755
June	18 17 47	3 -9237	9.5209	10.2977	1.8092	4.3900	4.7481	0.1809	0.4390	0.4748
July	18 17 59	3 -9190	8612.6	10.2949	1 -8070	4.3894	4.7468	4081.0	0 •4389	0.4747
August	18 15 28	3 -9166	1402.6	10 ·2823	1.8059	4 .3836	4.7410	0.1806	0 • 4384	0 -4741
September	18 16 11	3 .9219	9 -5172	10.2937	1 .8083	4.3882	4.7462	0.1808	0 •4388	0 • 47 46

Report of the Kew Committee.

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APPENDIX II. Meteorological Observations.—Table L... Mean Monthly results.

Mean vapour ension 202in. ·257 ·247 183 .163 197 239 -296 -329 -397 415 372 -275 The above Table is extracted from the Quarterly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office, by permission 7 A.M. 1 А.М. 8 P.M. &Midt. 3 P.M. 9 A.M. 2 P.M. 2 A.M. 6 Р.М. 3 P.M. 10 7 A.N 26 Midt. : 2 Date. \$ , d : 4 5 9 18 ર્લ 13  $\frac{12}{26}$ ø 13 ġ. 21 Absolute Extremes. 28.95529-710 29-209 29-366 29-250 29-263 29.007 29-246 29-257 29·101 29.61629.514 Min. ins. : Barometer.+  $23 \{10 \& 11 \}$ 9 А.М. A.M. 8 A.W.) 7 A.M. 9 Р.М. 8 10 P.M. 13 10 P.M. 8 A.M. 2 : : 30 Midt. Date. 15 Midt. 12 10 :::: -1 ,d **c** ÷ 17 20 8 G 30.206 Max. 30-415 30.600 30-340 30.16630.759 30.426 30.305 30.326 30.299 30-491 30.501 ins. : Mean. 29-718 29.91229-675 29.982 29-928 29.94229-992 29-929 29-999 29-957 30.223 30.139 30.040 ins. h. 7 А.**м.** 3 ... 7 11 P.M. 7 & 9 ] A.M. 2 : : : 2 2 \$ : \$ Date. :::: 1 ഹ 00 ¢ 10 d. 30 <u>م</u> ۵ က် 8 Ц 17 Ξ Absolute Extremes. Min. 32.8 32.8 15.8 22.2 23.233.8 31·1 22.3 30.940.346.657 57 44·1 : 2 P.M. 30 11 A.M. 8 P.M. °~ ~ : 2 2 2 \$ 2 2 : Date. • Ь. Thermometer.\* 3 က 3 20 2 3 24 7 24 33 33 က 03 53 29 ÷ Max. 64.875.2 83.2 84.4 58.9 58.450.4 51:3 47.5 64.471.9 6.08 : 40.4 62.448.257.3 58.5 Max. 46.343.638.4 33.9 34.0 6.94 52.6 32.2 and Min. Means of-41.850.6Min.  $40^{\circ}$ 31.3 30.5 40.0  $49.0 \\ 53.5$ 39.034.6 44.4 53-9 34·1 Max. 40.5 65.6 65.6 54.637-5 53.7 70.966.3 60·8 51.7 42,7 461 48:1 61.81 58.48 Oct..... 46°5 Nov.... 43:9 38.7 36.3 33.9 57·0 62·2 48:1 March. 39-9 52.5 April. . . | 46.3 .пвэМ May .... Aug. ... Sept.... June ... Dec. ... Jan....  $Feb. \dots$ July ... Means.. Months. 1886.1885.

+ Reduced to 32° at M.S.L. § Means for three days are approximate.

\* The thermometers are 10 feet above the ground.

of the Meteorological Council.

Mean for one day is approximate.

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Report of the Kew Committee.

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# Report of the Kew Committee.

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e of day jistered	Clear sky.	°0	ന	2	6		ro	20	ŋ	ß	10	2	4	9	58
Number vere reg	Thun- der- storms.	:	:	:		:	:	:		67	-		:	-	9
her.	Hail.	:	:	:	•	-	:	:	-	:	:	:	:	:	50
Weat]	Snow.		:	-	;	Ξ	e	ന	e	:	:	:	:	:	21
	Rain.	20	16	14	2	74	30	12	12	19	10	15	10	11	171
	Date.	23	24	S	1	<u>م</u>	67	20	28	12	10	25		10	
ıfall *.	Maxi- mum.	in. 0-905	0.5555	0.350	100 0	9.0	0.270	0.280	0.310	1.200	0.440	0.510	0.150	0.385	
Raiı	Total.	in. 3.865	2.970	1.165	1	3.510	0.670	1.350	1.495	4.100	0.845	2.380	0.675	1.790	24.815
Mean	amount of cloud (0=clear, 10=over- cast).	•••	2.2	9.9	1	<u>6.5</u>	2-2	6.9	6.3	8.9	6.3	5.9	2.9	2.8	
	Months.	1885. October	November	December	1886.	January	February .	March	April	Mav	June	July	August	September	Totals.

+ As registered by the anemograph. \* Measured daily at 10 A.M. by gauge 1.75 feet above surface of ground.

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Meteorological Observations. -- Table II,

Kew Observatory.

Meteorological Observations.-Table III.

Kew Observatory.

	1 0	1												
nent	Date			282	788	16		31 31	ø	18	61 S S	22	13	27 27
tal mover the Air.*	Greatest hourly Velocity.	miles.	32	38	38	33	27	40	34	38	23	33 23	26	30
Horizon of	Average hourly Velocity.	miles.	=;	H	<b>ი</b>	11	æ	14	15	10	G	6	ø	10
bera-	Date.		02	P P	T	ø	<u>о</u>	16	10	-	11	11	e	17
num temp n the gro	Lowest.	deg.	24.8	6.8T	14.3	10.9	15.1	14.5	25.0	19-4	36-0	39-9	37-1	32.4
Minin ture o	Mean.	deg.	8	35	67	27	26	30	36	40	45	494	50	47
bera- ays. acuo.)	Date.			N	-	28	26	31	9	x	27	1	e	1
um temp a sun's re bulb <i>in v</i> e	Highest.	deg.	113	en G	64	68	86	114	121	137	138	142	138	130
Maxim ture i (Black	Mean.	deg.	63	99	50	64	59	86	106	114	124	129	125	114
	Date.			-	10	16	1	6	23	4	4	ß	ŝ	L-
shine.	Greatest daily record.	h. m.	6 36 6	2 6	5 54	6 18	6 48	9 12	11 6	12 54	13 54	14 54	11 54	11 12
tright Sun	Percen- tage of possible sunshine.		56	14	50	18	14	20	36	35	45	42	42	35
щ	Total number of hours recorded.	h. m.	93 12	39 6	48 36	47 0	38 12	72 48	151 0	169 0	222 30	211 0	189 12	134 18
	Months.	1885.	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September

Report of the Kew Committee.

## Table IV.

Summary of Sun-spot Observations made at the Kew Observatory.

Months.	Days of observation.	Number of new groups enumerated.	Days with- out spots.
1885.			
October	15	6	2
November	7	4	0
December	13	5	1
1886.			
January	13	3	3
February	8	4	0
March	15	9	0
April	17	9	0
Мау	12	3	2
June	18	9	1
July	17	9	1
August	17	6	3
September	_ 17	6	2
Totals	169	73	15

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	FFENDIA
-	⊲

Performance of 20 Watches which obtained the highest number of marks during the year. Results of Watch Trials.

	Character of test.	Class A.	
	Total Marks. 0100.	86 •7 84 •1	8888 888 888 888 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 8
ed for	Тетрегаture сот- репзаtion.	19•3 18•0	17.17 1860 1860 1860 1860 1860 1860 1860 1860
s award	Change of rate with change of position.	34•1 35•6	56888888888888888888888888888888888888
Markı	Daily variation of rate.	33 •3 30 •5	822.52 825.52
tremes	Difference between ex of daily rate.	80CS. 7.75 4.75	
f mean ce	Between dial up and dial down.	86C8. -3.7 -3.7	+++11+1+1+1+1+1+++ 
rence of aily rat	Between pendant up and pendant left.	- secs. +1.9 +0.2	1   +     + + + + +   +   +     +     +     0 0 0 4   0   4 0 0 2 0 0 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Diffe	Between pendant up and pendant right.	secs. -0.8	+     +   +     +     +   +   +   +   +
tusbu	Difference detween pe up and dial up.	secs. +3.4	11++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
JC.	Mean change of rate fo N. F.	secs. 0-03	
	Mean variation of dail. rate.	8ecs. 0.3	
	Mean daily rate. + Gain- tng. - Los- ing.	secs. +0.5 -2.1	1++++111111+111+11+11 0002801180010018880000 00080000000000
	Balance spring, &c.	Overcoil, fusee	Duo-in-Uno, fuse. Duo-in-Uno, fuse. Overcoil, going barrel Overcoil, going barrel
	Number of watch.	03385 2163	2166 6660 2160 2160 2161 2161 2161 2161
	Watch deposited by	. F. Ashley, Clerkenwell	arkinson and Froudsham, arkinson and Froudsham, armao & Co., London raunte & Co., London rautter & Co., London arme & Co., London Buckery, London Same ad Co. Standar Bockerry and Co. Banger & Co., London arres & Co. Banger & Co., London arres & Co. Banger & Co.

+ Minute repeater and clock watch.

\* Fly-back chronograph.

#### APPENDIX IV.

List of Instruments, Apparatus, &c., the Property of the Kew Committee, at the present date out of the custody of the Superintendent, on Loan.

To whom lent.	Articles.	Date of loan.
G. J. Symons, F.R.S.	Old Kew Thermometer Screen Portable Transit Instrument	1868 1869
The Science and Art Department, South Kensington.	The articles specified in the list in the Annual Report for 1876, with the exception of the Photo-Heliograph, Pendulum Apparatus, Dip-Circle, Unifilar, and Hodgkinson's Acti- nometer.	1876
Dr. T. Thorpe, F.R.S.	Three Open Scale Standard Thermometers, Nos. 561, 562, and 563. Tripod Stand	1879 1883
Lieutenant A. Gordon, R. N.	<ul> <li>Unifilar Magnetometer by Jones, No. 102, complete, with three Magnets and Deflection Bar.</li> <li>Dip-Circle, by Barrow, one Pair of Needles, and Magnetizing Bars.</li> <li>One Bifilar Magnetometer.</li> <li>One Declinometer.</li> <li>Two Tripod Stands.</li> </ul>	1883
General Sir H. Lefroy, R.A., F.R.S.	Toronto Daily Registers for 1850–3	1885
Professor W. Grylls Adams, F.R.S.	Unifilar Magnetometer, by Jones, No. 101, complete.	1883
Professor O. J. Lodge	Unifilar Magnetometer, by Jones, No. 106, complete. Barrow Dip-Circle, No. 23, with two Needles, and Magnetizing Bars. Tripod Stand.	1883
Mr. W. F. Harrison.	Condensing lens and copper lamp chimney	1883
Captain W. de W. Abney, F.R.S.	Mason's Hygrometer, by Jones	1885
Professor Rücker	Tripod stand	1886