

carried out to a certain extent, and with considerable success, by Admiral Fitzroy, now deceased, in connection with the Board of Trade, but since his death, a committee of the Royal Society in London, took the meteorological department of the Board of Trade under their charge in 1866, and a liberal grant of money—£10,000—is annually made by the British Parliament for the purpose of carrying on the meteorological duties formerly undertaken by Admiral Fitzroy and for making various and extensive enquiries in connection with this interesting and important subject.

This Committee of which the president of the Royal Society is chairman, and the Hydrographer of the Admiralty is a member, is composed of eight members, all of them gentlemen of high scientific attainments, who have undertaken these duties entirely gratuitously, although of a onerous nature, and who perform them very willingly on account of the earnest desire they severally feel for the improvement of meteorological science.

The Committee divide their operations into three heads, viz:—*Ocean Meteorology*, comprising the investigation of the meteorological conditions of the entire ocean, by means of observations made at sea with instruments lent by the office. *Telegraphy and Weather Signals*, comprising the entire system of observation, and telegraphy required for the preparation of the daily weather reports, and for the issue to our own ports and to foreign countries telegraphic information of ordinary weather and of storms. *Land Meteorology* of the British Islands, comprising the method of enquiry carried on at the seven self-recording observatories established by the Committee. The object of this branch is, firstly, to afford for the entire area of the United Kingdom accurate meteorological information, similar to that published in most European countries under the auspices of their respective Governments; and secondly, to furnish better data for the study of our weather than had previously existed, so as to place the investigations conducted in connection with the telegraphy and weather signals on a satisfactory scientific basis. On the approach of storms, intelligence thereof is sent to 123 different stations in the United Kingdom, which are provided with drums or storm signals, with an order to hoist the drum accompanied by a brief explanation of the reasons why it is to be hoisted. The message is posted up as soon as it is received. Barometers for the use of fishermen are also lent by the Committee to small ports and fishing stations in the United Kingdom for public use, with a view of enabling such persons to judge for themselves as to changes in the weather which may be expected. 113 are now in use. Storm warnings are also sent to France, Holland, Hamburg, and Norway. The expenditure by the Committee for the year ending 31st March, 1871, was £9,760 7s. 7d. sterling, including £800 sterling as salary for the Director, and £400 sterling as salary for the Marine Superintendent of Ocean Meteorology. The cost incurred by the Committee for telegraphing was only £850 19s. 2d., but this service is not nearly so expensive there as in the United States, seeing details are never sent by telegraph in England as they are in the United States to many of their stations three times a day. Warnings are only sent in the United Kingdom, and these not every day, but only when they are needed.

In the United States great progress has been made of late years in the development