

the NW. coast of Scotland. Fig. 32, for the 15th, shows but little change of pressure over central Europe, but a fresh disturbance has appeared off the west coast of Ireland, causing the winds to back to S. and SE., and blow with the force of a gale. Fig. 33, for the 16th, shows us this second disturbance in the position of its

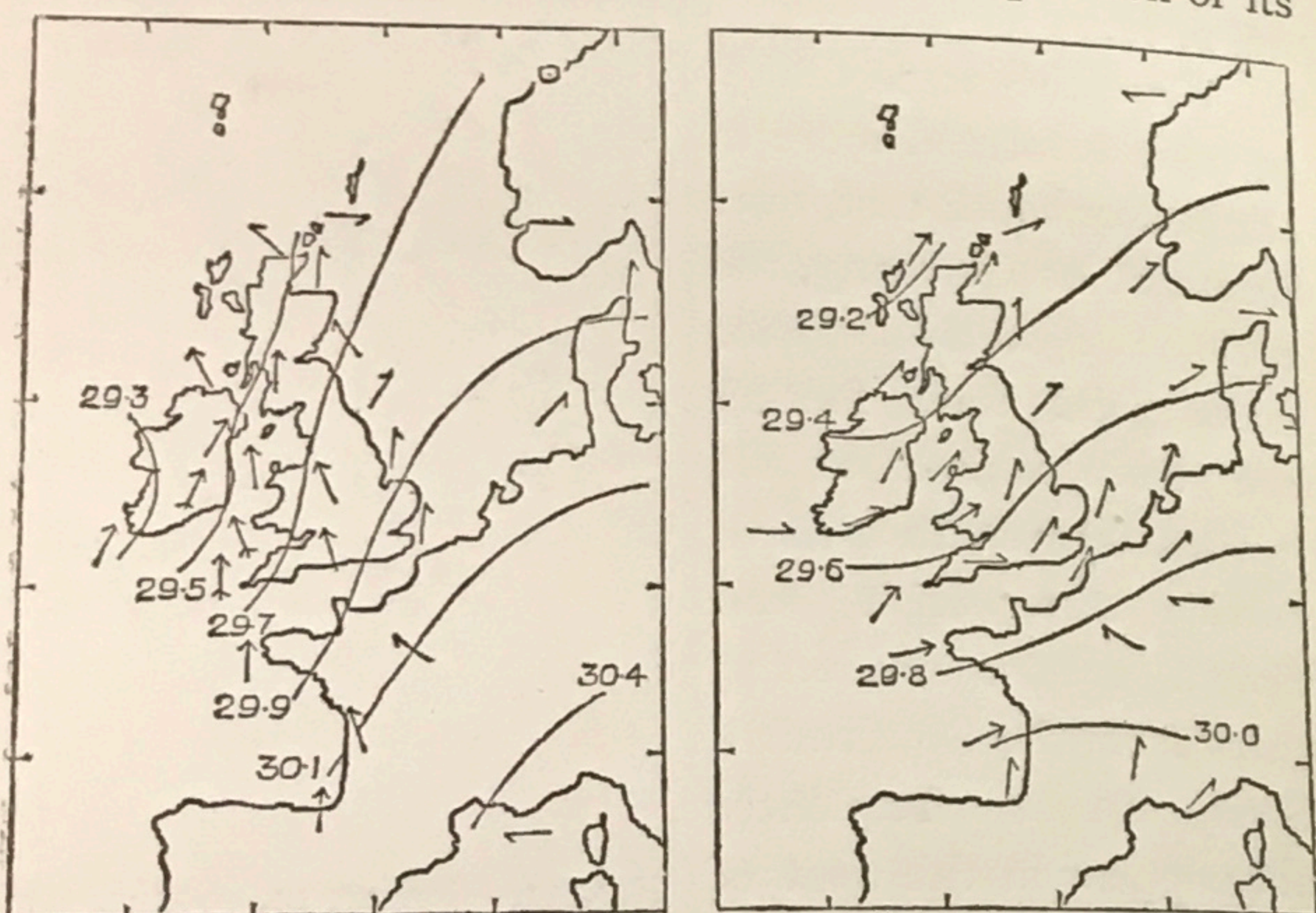


FIG. 32.—January 15, 1875; 8 a.m. New disturbance off west coast of Ireland.

FIG. 33.—January 16, 1875; 8 a.m. Pressure highest in south. Depression off NW. coast of Scotland, moving eastward.

predecessor of the 14th, but pressure having given way over Norway the conditions are altered, and the region of highest barometrical readings is transferred to Spain.

I have hitherto spoken of the cases when pressure is highest in the west, south, and east respectively, but the anticyclone must sometimes lie to the northward of

us, and then, if ever, should the disturbances advance from the eastward. Such a movement is, however, excessively rare in these latitudes, though this is not the case with the tropical hurricanes or cyclones, which at first move from the Eastward. There are, however, some principles which have not yet been thoroughly explained, and which are antagonistic to the development of such a motion in the storms of our part of the Temperate zone. I shall hereafter say a few words as to the causes which have been adduced to account for the motion of storms, but it will suffice, at this juncture, to remark that the motion of cyclones round anticyclones will not by any means account for all the motions which have been noticed in our storms.

The typical cyclone of November 29, 1874, figs. 19-22, pp. 83-85, to which reference has frequently been made, did not skirt round the region of high pressure on our charts, but travelled directly towards it. In this case, however, as in many others, it is possible that a study of the weather over more extensive charts, like those of Captain Hoffmeyer, might throw more light on this question of motion than we are at present able to obtain.

While discussing the motion of storms, it may be interesting to trace the path of a very erratic disturbance which visited these islands in April 1872, and the course of which has been followed out with the aid of the continuous records at our self-recording observatories. The following seven charts (figs. 34-40) show the successive