



On Meteorology

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JANUARY 28TH, 1856.

HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., in the Chair.

PROFESSOR HENNESSY read a paper on Meteorology.

“ In the first part of the paper the principles and methods of meteorological inquiries were discussed, and some fundamental changes suggested. The system of fixed and pre-arranged observations was maintained not to be generally suitable to the inquiring into phenomena so singularly variable as those of the atmosphere. These views were supported by arguments drawn from considering the nature of other sciences which have for their subject matter the investigation of rapidly changing phenomena, as well as by reference to the comparative absence of any important results deduced from the pre-ordained system of observations for the true science of meteorology. The nearly similar views put forward by MM. Biot and Regnault at some of the recent meetings of the French Academy of Sciences were also occasionally referred to.

“ While thus pointing out the comparative barrenness in general meteorological results of the system of inquiry so generally adopted, Mr. Hennessy fully acknowledged the value of the facts which have been acquired for the science of Climatology; and how by advancing that science they may even indirectly contribute to our knowledge of the laws of meteorology. The second part of Mr. Hennessy’s paper was occupied with a theory of insular climate and its application to Ireland. It was shown that in general the isothermal lines in an island surrounded by an ocean of a higher temperature than the air over the land would have some relation to the coast line, and might even in many instances be irregular closed curves. The influence of the differences of latitude of the parts of the island on these curves would be to transport their centres towards

whatever pole of the earth belonged to the hemisphere in which the island was situated.

“In applying this theory to Ireland, Mr. Hennesy first described the physical structure of the country, especially the relations of the mountain groups to the coast line. He then pointed out how the position of Ireland was precisely such as to make it an instance for the application of his views, and quoted the result obtained by Dr. Lloyd* as to the difference of nearly 4° Fahr. in the temperature of the surrounding seas and that of the air over the land. It was then shown that the isothermal lines for the year 1851, so far as the observations contained in Dr. Lloyd’s Memoir permit of their formation, would strictly conform to the theoretical views put forward.

“The paper concluded with some remarks on the application of these views to medical climatology, and the modifications they should undergo in being applied to islands situated within the tropics.”

Dr. Lloyd made some remarks on Mr. Hennesy’s paper.

The Secretary presented:—

1. On the part of the Dean of Waterford, a remarkable specimen of early oak carving, found in a crypt under the Deanery House at Waterford.
2. On the part of Mr. Henry O’Neill, two copies of an engraving made by himself, of an ancient gold fibula found near Coleraine, and now in the possession of Mr. Henry Gilmore.
3. On the part of Lord Dungannon, fragments of three cinerary urns found on his estate in the county Down, and quite close to the Giant’s Ring.

* Trans. R. I. A., vol. xxii.