Note on a New Method of Printing Barometer and other Curves.


[Read before the Royal Society of N.S.W., 5 August, 1880.]

The necessity for a convenient and expeditious method of printing barometer curves has long been felt by all who have had to publish weather maps, and I have therefore no hesitation in publishing what to me at least appears to be one method of meeting this want.

It is simple enough. The blanks for the curves containing lines at 29.4, 29.6, 29.8, 30.0, 30.2, and 30.4, and these crossed by vertical lines giving a column to each station, are cast ready for use, and, so soon as the barometers are reduced, the height at each station is marked in the column for that station, and a pen line is run through these points; the blank is then put under a fret-saw and the saw is run along the marked curve, and into the saw cut is placed a ribbon of soft metal, the edge of it marks the curve and serves as a printing surface. The whole of this may be done in less time than it has taken to describe it.

The advantages are obvious:

1. In the first place, it gives a block which can be printed with ordinary type, and has therefore a great advantage over the lithograph system, in which the curve has to be printed after the map is otherwise complete.

2. Second: As soon as the barometers are reduced the printing block may be completed in from 8 to 10 minutes, and at once put into the press and printed at any required speed.

3. Third, as to cost: The blanks are only ¼-inch thick, and when used can be melted again as often as may be required, and 5 minutes suffices to cut the groove and make it ready for printing.

4. Fourth: By this system the blocks may be placed together for subsequent printing, as shown, so that the change in the barometers from day to day is seen at a glance.
It seems hardly necessary to suggest other uses, but no doubt many will be found for this method of preparing a block from which curves may be printed. But I would suggest here that for printing isobaric, isothermal and other lines, one engraving of the world or section to be illustrated being engraved it could be used as a mould from which to cast any required number, and upon each a different set of curves could be placed in this simple way.

[One diagram.]
October 20th, 1889.
Generally cloudy.

October 21st, 1889.
Rain general; wind W.

October 22nd.
Some rain; strong S. to S.W. gale.
Barometer at Gabo, 29-20 inches.

October 23rd.
Wind light; weather clearing.

October 24th—Sunday.

October 25th.
Winds variable.

October 26th.
Generally fine and clear with N. to N.E. winds.

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