

little difference. A comparative table of the indications of the common registering thermometers in air and of "Stevenson's mean thermometers," for six months, is given in Appendix B to this chapter.

The yellow line indicates the rise and fall of the wet-bulb thermometer.

The blue line, perhaps the most interesting to us of the whole, gives the temperature of the surface of the sea—ascertained by bringing up some water at bi-hourly intervals in a draw-bucket, and testing it with a standard thermometer. The course of this blue line on the diagrams gives an example of the advantage of some such plan of graphic representation, where it can be employed, in giving a rapid and vivid impression to the eye of phenomena, which it would be somewhat difficult to realize from the data presented in a tabular form.

When there is no interfering cause, and where the sea-surface is free to assume the local temperature conditions, the normal position of the blue line may perhaps be stated as markedly below the mean of the red line, but a little above its greatest depressions. The wide elevations and depressions of the red line correspond with changes of wind and alternations of bright and cloudy weather, and these principal deviations of the red line from a straight path the blue line follows slowly, but, upon the whole, closely. The daily oscillations which are the most prominent on most of the diagrams indicate, of course, the difference between the warmest hour of the day and the coolest hour of the night. The sea-surface absorbs radiant heat during the day which it does not entirely dissipate during the night, so that while its maximum never rises nearly so high as that of the air of midday, its minimum for the coldest period of the night does not fall so low, and the daily mean which it tends to take is just a little below that of the air.

It is rarely, however, that the water of the sea-surface is at liberty to assume the local conditions of temperature. Owing