



**Administration Report of the India  
Meteorological Department for the  
year 1924-25 and A History  
of the Department during  
the half century  
1875-1924**

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# METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, HALF-CENTENARY, 1925.

## DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF INDIAN OBSERVATORIES.



H. F. BLANFORD, Esq., F.R.S.,  
1875-1880



SIR JOHN ELIOT, K.C.I.E., F.R.S.,  
1880-1903



SIR GILBERT WALKER, C.S.I., F.R.S.,  
1904-1924

# Report on the Administration of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India in 1924-25, and a General Survey of half a century's Work since the Establishment of the De- partment.

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THIS is the fiftieth Administration Report of the India Meteorological Department and records the completion of the first half century of systematic observations on weather in India, by uniform methods. It would have been pleasant to have been able to call 1925 a Jubilee year, but that would imply not only a 50 years' course of work, but a prosperous condition of the department at its close, with adequate staff and resources: it will be safer to call this year the half-centenary, and regard it as a fitting time to review the progress made, to take stock of the present and consider the future.

## HISTORY.

2. In a country where extremes of climate—temperature, dryness and torrential rainfall—have always added to the difficulties of life, there must often have been a natural instinct to set up a collection of private meteorological instruments and take at least occasional readings. Even in the earliest days of British interest in India this was evidenced, for among the less unsystematic work of this kind there have been records by Colonel Pearse in Calcutta, 1785, and by other officers sprinkled about the country. But the difference is radical between any collection of short series of unordered observations and the work of a centrally controlled system on uniform lines, so that although before 1865 provincial authorities occasionally issued instructions to district administrative and medical officers to note temperatures, rainfall and air pressure, these old observations as actually taken have since been found to be of little value.

Sets of instruments were then issued, but without previous comparison with standards for determination of their errors, and commonly without instructions