

# SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS for the CALENDAR MONTH,

## SEPTEMBER 1897.

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**General Summary.**—The weather of September was upon the whole of a somewhat changeable character, with occasional thunderstorms and heavy falls of rain in most districts. The second week was, however, generally fair and dry, and in all but the extreme northern and north-western parts of the kingdom, where the rains increased in severity, a similar improvement was observed between the 22nd and 27th. Pressure was above the average excepting in the north; temperature was low for the time of year; the winds were chiefly from the Westward; rainfall differed greatly in amount, but was mostly in excess of the normal over Great Britain; bright sunshine was rather deficient in the south and east of England, but more than usually prevalent elsewhere.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·05 ins. and upwards over the western parts of the English Channel to a little below 29·75 ins. in the Shetlands. Over Scotland and the north-east of England the values were a trifle below the average,\* but in other parts of the kingdom they were above it, the gradient being somewhat steeper than usual, and favourable for winds from a Westerly, rather than from a South-westerly quarter. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 13th or 14th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards in all but the extreme northern parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were registered as a rule during the passage of the depression of the 1st and 2nd, the mercury falling below 29·2 ins. over Wales and the west and north of England, and below 29·4 ins. in most other parts of the Kingdom. In the north of Scotland, however, lower readings were recorded on the 23rd, when the barometer sank to between 28·9 ins. and 29·0 ins. in the Shetlands and Hebrides. *Range* was moderate.

**Depressions.**—Very few depressions advanced directly over our islands, a striking exception being, however, supplied by a well-marked disturbance, the centre of which travelled north-eastwards across England on the 1st. Towards the close of the month several large depressions travelled along in a north-easterly direction far to the northward of Scotland.

**Anticyclones.**—The only anticyclone of any importance in our own immediate neighbourhood spread over us from the north-westward on the 9th, and ultimately extended over nearly the whole of Europe. After the 16th the system broke up, one portion moving away to the north-eastward, and the other to the south-westward. On the 26th another system spread temporarily over our islands from the southward, but this soon passed away to Northern Europe.

**Winds.**—On our south-west coasts the winds varied considerably in direction, but in other districts they were mostly from some Westerly point (South-west to North-west). Gales were somewhat frequent for the time of year, as many as 11 being reported at Malin Head, 7 at Aberdeen and Holyhead, and 5 at Dungeness.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 59° and upwards in Jersey, and 57° and upwards at several of the English Channel stations, to a little below 50° in the Shetlands and Hebrides, the general distribution in the intervening regions showing a very fair agreement with the normal. The actual values were, however, below the average,\* the deficit amounting in many parts of Great Britain to between two and two and a half degrees. *Highest* readings were recorded over the country generally between the 12th and 14th, but in the east of England and some portions of our midland and south-eastern counties they occurred mostly between the 24th and 27th. At a large majority of our stations the thermometer did not reach 70°, and in very few places was that point exceeded, but at Ochertyre the reading on the 13th was reported as 78°. *Lowest* readings occurred in the western and northern parts of the kingdom mostly between the 8th and 11th, but in other districts on the 18th or 19th. On one or other of these dates the thermometer in the screen fell below 40° at most of the inland stations in England and Ireland, and below the freezing point in some parts of Scotland, the lowest reading reported being 29° at Braemar. On the surface of the ground slight frosts occurred in most places. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·42 in. at Jersey, and 0·39 in., or more, at the English Channel stations generally, to 0·34 in. and less over central Ireland, and 0·32 in. and less in the north-eastern parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* amounted to over 90 per cent. in the north of Scotland, and to as much as 96 per cent. at Stornoway, as well as at Hawes Junction. Thence the values decreased to 82 per cent. at Yarmouth, and also at Belmullet, to 79 per cent. at Aberdeen, and to 78 per cent. at Liverpool.

**Rainfall** varied greatly in amount in different parts of the kingdom, but was upon the whole in excess of the average,\* a general deficiency being reported, however, over the east and south of Scotland, and all but the eastern parts of Ireland. The largest amounts registered were 11·2 ins. at Glencarron, 9·6 ins. at Fort William, and 8·6 ins. at Arlington; the smallest being 1·5 ins. at Leith, 1·6 ins. at Aberdeen and Armagh, and 1·7 ins. at Churchstoke, Dungeness, and the North Foreland. The number of rainy days was, as a rule, greater than the average, and in many cases the amount collected in 24 hours was very large. Thus, on the 1st., at Douglas (Isle of Man), a fall of 2·8 ins. occurred; on the 5th, at Arlington, 1·9 ins.; and on the 25th, at Glencarron, 2·2 ins., and at Fort William 2·4 ins. On the 29th, severe thunderstorms and heavy rain occurred over a considerable portion of eastern and southern England, the largest amounts measured next morning being 2·1 ins. at Hillington, and 1·5 ins. at Cambridge.

**Bright Sunshine** exceeded the average\* in all localities excepting the east and south of England, where there was a deficiency,—slight in many places, but large in the Channel Islands. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 40 or a little above at most of the English Channel stations, to 35 or less over the northern parts of the kingdom generally, to 29 at Glasgow, and (locally) in London, and to 25 at Fort Augustus.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 25 years 1871–95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years 1866–95; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years 1881–95.