

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

JUNE 1897.

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General Summary.—The weather of June was extremely changeable, with frequent thunderstorms, especially over England and Ireland. On the afternoon of the 24th a violent squall of wind and hail passed over Mid Essex, causing, within a limited area, a vast amount of structural damage and a complete destruction of the crops. Pressure was slightly above the average; temperature was also in excess at all but the northern stations; the winds were variable; rainfall was mostly in excess of the normal, but very deficient in the north-west of Scotland; bright sunshine was less than the average.

Pressure.—The mean readings at 8 a.m. were extremely uniform, being slightly above 30·0 ins. in all the more western and southern parts of the United Kingdom, and slightly below it in the northern and eastern districts. The difference between the readings at any two stations was, however, less than one tenth of an inch. Compared with the average* the values showed in all cases a trifling excess, the difference from the normal being greatest in the north and east of Scotland. Highest readings were recorded over England on the 11th or 12th, when the barometer rose to 30·3 ins. and upwards at all the more southern stations, and to 30·2 ins. and upwards in the north. In Ireland the highest readings occurred on the 3rd, and in Scotland either on the 3rd or the 7th, the barometer rising in each country to a little above 30·2 ins. Lowest readings were observed on the 16th or 18th, when the barometer sank to 29·4 ins. and less over the south of Scotland and the northern parts of England and Ireland. In the southern parts of the kingdom it did not fall much below 29·6 ins. Range was moderate.

Depressions.—Between the 16th and 20th the centres of three depressions advanced directly over our islands from the Atlantic, the disturbance of the 16th being of considerable depth. Early in the month, and again towards its close, some shallow and rather complex depressions spread in over our southern districts, their movements being, however, too irregular to be shown on Map 2, Pt. VI.

Anticyclones.—The most important were:—(1.) A large area which spread over our islands from the northward at the beginning of the month and remained with us until about the 8th, when it passed away to the north-eastward. (2.) An area which came in from the south-westward on the 10th, and steadily increased in size until it embraced nearly the whole of Europe; after the 13th, however, it began to disperse, the attenuated system finally settling down over the southern parts of the Continent. (3.) A system which spread over the southern parts of our islands on the 21st, but moved away to the eastward after the 23rd.

Winds.—Varied greatly in direction, but in the west and north of Scotland the Northerly and Easterly currents showed some predominance. On our western coasts gales were more than ordinarily frequent, the Westerly to North-westerly gale which occurred in the north-western parts of the kingdom on the 16th being in some places of unusual severity for the time of year.

Temperature.—Mean at Sea Level ranged from between 61° and 63° in many parts of the English midland and southern counties to a little below 50° in the Shetlands, areas of relative warmth being shown over Central Scotland and the inland parts of the south of Ireland. The summer type of distribution was, in fact, very strongly marked, and the actual values were above the average* in all the more central and southern parts of the kingdom, a slight deficit being shown, however, at many of the northern stations. Highest readings were recorded on various dates in Ireland and Scotland, but mostly on the 12th and 13th, or on the 23rd and 24th over England; in many parts of Great Britain the thermometer exceeded 80°, while in London on the 24th it rose to 90°. Lowest readings were observed as a rule either between the 8th and 10th, or the 17th and 19th; at many of the northern stations the thermometer fell below 40°, and at Nairn on the 8th it fell as low as 31°. Range was large, especially over the northern and central parts of Great Britain, where it amounted to between 40° and 45°. Vapour Tension ranged from 0·44 in. and upwards at several of the English Channel stations, to 0·35 in. and less in the north-east of Scotland. Relative Humidity varied from between 90 and 94 per cent. on our north-western and extreme northern coasts, to 80 per cent. or less in many parts of England, and also in the east of Scotland.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* over the United Kingdom generally, the amount being more than twice as much at many stations in the north-west of England, the north of Ireland, and the south of Scotland. In isolated portions of the English midland and southern counties, however, there was a slight deficit, and in the north-western parts of Scotland a very large one, the total fall at Stornoway being little more than one seventh of the average. The largest aggregates reported during the month were 7·4 ins. at Edenfel (Omagh), 6·7 ins. at Ochtertyre, and 6·6 ins. at Glasgow; the smallest being 0·5 in. at Stornoway, 0·8 in. at Dungeness, and 1·1 ins. at Wick and Lairg.

Bright Sunshine amounted to less than the average* at all but a few of the English Channel stations and at Stornoway, the deficiency being large in Ireland, the north-west of England, and the south of Scotland. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from between 49 and 53 over the western parts of the Channel, to 21 at Markree Castle and Valencia, 18 at Glasgow, and 14 at Edinburgh.

* 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.