

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

FEBRUARY 1895.

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General Summary.—The early part of the month was intensely cold, with frequent snow showers in the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, and with occasional heavy falls in the extreme western districts. Later on the thermometer rose somewhat, but the thaw was very gradual, and was interrupted on some occasions by further spells of sharp frost. Bright aurora was seen over the northern parts of Great Britain generally on the 15th, and in Scotland between the 16th and 18th. Pressure was above the average, especially in the north; temperature was exceptionally low; the winds were rather variable in the north and east, but chiefly Easterly in the west and south; rainfall was slight, especially over England; bright sunshine was considerably in excess of the average.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 30·10 ins. and 30·15 ins. over the north of Ireland and all the more northern and central parts of Great Britain to 30·00 ins. or a little less on our extreme south-west coasts. The general distribution was therefore of an anticyclonic type, and the mean values were everywhere in excess of the average,* the difference from the normal being slight in the extreme south, but large in the north, and especially so in the north of Scotland, where the excess amounted to more than 0·3 in. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 16th or 17th, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and upwards in the north-east of Scotland, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme south-western coasts. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule on the 10th, when the barometer fell to 29·3 ins. or rather less on our extreme south-west coasts, and to 29·7 ins. and less in the western and southern districts generally. Over the northern parts of Great Britain, however, pressure was lowest on the 28th, the readings in Scotland ranging between 29·2 ins. and 29·6 ins. *Range* was slight generally, but moderate in the extreme north.

Depressions.—Very few depressions were observed in our own immediate neighbourhood. During the early part of the month several disturbances moved eastwards over the Spanish peninsula and the extreme south of France, while at the close of the time some large systems passed south-eastwards across Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Anticyclones.—The large anticyclone which extended over our islands from Scandinavia at the close of January receded slowly north-eastwards shortly after the commencement of the month, and disappeared from our neighbourhood after the 7th. On the 12th, however, a new system began to extend over us from northern Europe, its central portion ultimately moving south-westwards, and remaining over our islands until the 23rd, when it passed away to the Atlantic.

Winds varied considerably in direction on our north and east coasts, but were chiefly from the Eastward in the west and south. Gales were rare in all the more northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, but rather frequent over Ireland and the south-west of England. At Donaghadee, Scilly, and Prawle Point there were 11 days with a wind force of 7 and upwards.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 37° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts to 28° and less in some parts of Wales and Central England, to 27° and less in Kirkeudbrightshire, and to 26° and less in Western Aberdeenshire. The general distribution was of a strongly marked wintry type, and the actual values were in all cases greatly below the average.* At most of the inland stations over England, as well as in some parts of Central Scotland, the deficit amounted to more than 10°, and in some places to more than 12°, the greatest divergence from the normal being shown at Llandovery, where the deficiency was as large as 14·2°, and at Braemar, where it amounted to 13·8°. *Highest* readings were recorded mostly on the 28th, but were very low for the time of year; at a large number of the central stations in Great Britain the thermometer did not reach 45°. *Lowest* readings occurred pretty generally between the 7th and 9th, when the thermometer fell below 10° over a considerable portion of the United Kingdom, and below zero in many of the northern and central districts. In the latter regions minimum readings either below or very little above the zero point were recorded on several successive nights, the lowest of all being -17° at Braemar on the 11th, and -8° at Stamford on the 8th. *Range* was large. *Vapour Tension* was very low, especially over the central parts of England and Scotland, where the values ranged between 0·09 in. and 0·12 in. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 97 per cent. at Stornoway, and 94 per cent. at Dungeness, to 74 per cent. in London, and 72 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall consisted for the most part of melted snow, and was exceedingly deficient, especially over the central and southern parts of England, where the total amount was in nearly all cases less than a quarter of an inch. The largest aggregate falls were 2·8 ins. at Valencia, 2·5 ins. at Donaghadee, and 2·4 ins. at Glenlee and Killarney; the smallest being 0·03 in. at Plymouth, and 0·06 in. at Prawle Point and Hurst Castle. The snowstorms which occurred over Ireland and the south-west of Scotland on the 6th and 7th were very heavy, the amount at Donaghadee on the latter day yielding, when melted, as much as 1·6 ins. of water in the gauge.

Bright Sunshine was largely in excess of the average* over nearly the whole kingdom. The percentage of the possible amount was above 30 in many places, the highest values of all being 54 at Jersey, 43 at Westbourne, 42 at Guernsey, and 40 at Southampton.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years 1871-90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years 1866-90; *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years 1881-90.