

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

AUGUST 1900.

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General Summary.—With the exception of one fine week about the middle of the month, the weather was extremely unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms, accompanied in many instances by very heavy falls of rain. Much fog prevailed on our north-east coasts between the 15th and 17th. Pressure was above the average; temperature was rather low for the time of year; the winds varied considerably in direction, but over England they were mostly from points between South and West; rainfall was considerably in excess of the normal in all but the extreme northern and south-western districts; bright sunshine was abundant over the country generally, but was rather deficient in the south and east of Scotland and the north and east of England.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* was extremely uniform, the values varying from a little above 30·00 ins. at Jersey, and from 29·95 ins. and upwards over the southern parts of the United Kingdom generally, to about 29·90 ins. in the Shetlands. The peculiar dip in the isobar of 29·95 ins., shown on Map 3 Pl. VIII., is explained very largely by Map 2, from which it will be seen that the centres of many of the principal depressions passed immediately over the St. George's and Bristol Channels and thus served to reduce the mean pressures in those regions. The actual mean values were generally above the average,* the excess being rather large (0·10 in. to 0·15 in.) in the north, but slight in the south; at Scilly the value was a trifle below the normal. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 13th and 14th, or on the 28th and 29th; on the two former dates the barometer rose slightly above 30·4 ins. in many parts of England and Ireland, while on the latter dates similarly high values were recorded over the northern parts of Great Britain generally. *Lowest* readings were observed mostly during the passage of the deep depression of the 6th, when the barometer fell to 29·0 ins. and less in North Wales, to 29·2 ins. and less in many parts of Ireland and England, and to 29·5 ins. and less on all but our extreme northern coasts. At some places in the eastern and central parts of England, however, the barometer fell quite as low on the 3rd, while in the north of Scotland the lowest readings (29·3 ins. and less) were registered on the 1st or 2nd. *Range* was moderate in Scotland, but rather large for the time of year over England and Ireland.

Depressions were numerous, and in many cases their centres moved eastwards or north-eastwards directly across the United Kingdom. The depressions of the 3rd and 6th were unusually deep for the season.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems were observed. The first advanced over our islands from the Atlantic on the 10th, and after a partial and temporary recession on the 11th, spread over nearly the whole of Western, Northern, and Central Europe; after the 16th it moved slowly eastward and gradually broke up. The second extended over our islands from the northward after the 24th, and, like its predecessor, ultimately embraced the greater part of Europe; at the close of the month it was moving southward, and depressions were beginning to skirt our northern coasts on their way from the northern parts of the Atlantic to Scandinavia.

Winds varied considerably in direction, but over the greater part of England breezes from between West and South were the most frequent. Gales were rather numerous, those experienced on our western and southern coasts on the 3rd and the 6th being of unusual severity for the time of year.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 63° and upwards in the Channel Islands, and from 62° and upwards at several inland stations in the south of England, to 56° and less on the north and north-east coasts of Scotland, and to 53° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed fairly with the normal, but the mean values were mostly below the average*, the deficit being generally slight, but greatest in the north of England and the eastern and central parts of Scotland. In the extreme north of Scotland and in a few isolated parts of England and Ireland the values were a trifle above the average. *Highest* readings occurred mostly between the 13th and 15th, when the thermometer rose to 80° and upwards in many parts of the United Kingdom, to 85° at Southampton, and to 86° at Llandoverly and Londonderry. *Lowest* readings were registered at various times in the different districts, the lowest of all being registered over the northern parts of Great Britain between the 8th and 10th, when the thermometer fell to 40° or less in many places, to 34° at Braemar and to 36° at Alnwick Castle. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·47 in. and 0·44 in. at the English Channel stations to 0·38 in. and less in Scotland, and to 0·36 in. and less in the Shetlands. *Relative Humidity* varied from 91 per cent. at Donaghadee, and 85 per cent. or more in many other parts of the Kingdom to 80 per cent. at Aberdeen and Valencia (Ireland), and to 76 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall was considerably in excess of the average* over the United Kingdom generally, the only regions with any general deficit being the south-west of England and the extreme north of Scotland. The largest aggregates reported were—7·5 ins. at Parsonstown, 7·4 ins. at Manchester (Prestwich), and 7·3 ins. at Glencarron; the smallest were 1·5 in. at Portland Bill, 1·8 in. at Hastings and also at Sumburgh Head, and 2·0 ins. at Jersey. As regards frequency, the rainfall of the month was by no means unusual, the large aggregate amounts being due, as a rule, to one or two individual falls of considerable weight. The principal cases occurred—(1) on the 2nd or 3rd, when 2·6 ins. fell at Scarborough, 2·4 ins. at Shields, and 2·1 ins. at Dublin; (2) on the 6th, when 1·9 in. fell at Llandudno and 1·8 in. at Alnwick Castle; (3) on the 8th, when 1·7 in. fell at Foynes and 1·0 in. at Valencia; (4) on the 11th, when 1·6 in. fell at Laudale and 1·5 in. at Fort William; and (5) on the 21st or 22nd, when 2·1 ins. fell at Braemar and 1·4 in. at Glenlee and Parsonstown.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* in most places, but was rather deficient in the south and east of Scotland and the north and east of England. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 62 at Scilly, and 55 and upwards on several parts of our south-west coasts, to 30 and less at most of our northern stations, to 19 at Glasgow and to 17 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.—See Preface to the *Weekly Weather Report*, 1895