

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

APRIL 1890.

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General Summary.—The month of April was dry (except in some south-western and north-western localities), rather cold, and quiet. Pressure was below the average, but very uniform; the winds were light and variable, depressions were shallow and unimportant, and sunshine was very abundant during the first week.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from a trifle above 29·85 ins. at Valencia to slightly below 29·80 ins. at Scilly, and to 29·77 ins. at Sumburgh Head. Over nearly the whole of the kingdom it varied between 29·85 ins. and 29·80 ins. Gradients were therefore very slight and favourable for variable winds. The values were below the average* for April everywhere, especially at the southern stations, where the deficiency ranged from 0·12 in. to 0·15 in. *Highest* readings were recorded very generally on the 1st, when a well-marked anticyclone was passing over us, and the highest of all exceeded 30·3 ins. *Lowest* were recorded at the northern stations on the 22nd, but over the kingdom generally on the 25th, when a very complex low-pressure system passed over, and the barometer fell to 29·2 ins. over our southern counties. *Range* was moderate—not much exceeding 1·1 ins.

Depressions.—There were very few depressions worth mentioning during the month, the most important being those which prevailed over the southern part of our area between the 13th and 19th, and over the northern parts between the 21st and the 25th. Of shallow ill-defined systems there were several, but these caused little wind and not much rain.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclone which passed over our Islands during the month was that noticed at the beginning. This presented no features worthy of special comment, except that the minimum temperatures produced by it at the English inland stations were very low for the time of year. In England, north-east, the shade minimum was 23°, and over our midland counties 24°.

Wind varied greatly both in force and direction, the various systems reported being unimportant and passing over all parts of our area. At the southern and south-eastern stations, however, there was a preponderance of wind from the Northward and North-eastward. Gales were very few in number, except at Mullaghmore and Spurn Head, and in those regions they were moderate in force and local in character.

Temperature.—*Mean, at Sea Level*, ranged from between 48° and 49° over the extreme south-west of our Island to about 43°·5 over the northern parts of Scotland and to less than 43° in the Shetlands. It was below the average* except in the extreme north, but the deficiency was slight except over the eastern counties of England, where it amounted to about three degrees. *Highest* values were recorded at the extreme northern and north-western stations on the 1st or 2nd, in Ireland between the 20th and 23rd, and over England on the 30th. *Lowest* were registered on very various dates, but in most cases the cold was sharpest either between the 1st and 3rd or between the 12th and 14th. *Range* was moderate in most places, but amounted to 43° at Cambridge, 42° at Loughborough, and 41° at Strathfield Turgiss and Ochertyre. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·30 in. at Scilly, and from 0·28 in. in the extreme south-west both of Ireland and England, to 0·22 in. in the east of Scotland, and to about the same value over the north-west of England. *Relative Humidity* at 8 a.m. was as high as 92 per cent. of saturation at Stornoway and 90 at Pembroke and Hurst Castle, but was as low as 75 in the south-east of Scotland, 80 over the north-west of Ireland, and rather below 80 at Liverpool, in London, and at Jersey.

Rainfall varied from only 0·3 in. at Bawtry and 0·4 in. at Hillington, and from little more than half an inch at several other stations in the east and north-east of England, to rather more than 5 ins. at Valencia, to 4·4 ins. at Glencarron, and rather more than 3·5 at Stornoway, Laudale, Arlington, and Cullompton. It was much below the average over the greater part of England and the east of Ireland, but slightly in excess at certain stations in the west of Ireland and the south-western parts of Ireland and England. There were very few falls of an inch, or more, within 24 hours.

Bright Sunshine was considerable. It ranged from 49 per cent. of the possible duration at Douglas, Isle of Man, and upwards of 40 at several other western, southern, and south-eastern coast stations, to 30 in London and at Stonyhurst and to 29 at Stowell, Durham, and Fort Augustus. The week ending on April 5th was particularly bright and sunny, especially over the southern half of the kingdom.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years, 1861–80; *Rainfall* for the 20 years, 1866–85.