

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

OCTOBER 1892.

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General Summary.—The weather of October was extremely changeable, with heavy falls of rain in nearly all parts of Great Britain. Pressure and temperature were below the average, the deficiency shown by the latter element being very large, especially in Ireland; the winds were rather variable, but mainly from the Northward and North-westward; and rainfall, although somewhat scanty in the west, was largely in excess of the normal elsewhere. Notwithstanding the generally unsettled character of the weather, the amount of bright sunshine was mostly in excess of the average, the only localities in which a deficit was shown being the east and south-east of England.

Pressure.—Mean for the month at 8 a.m. ranged from 29·8 ins. and upwards in the west of Ireland to about 29·65 ins. on the east coast of Great Britain, the general distribution being favourable for winds from the Northward or North-westward, rather than for Westerly and South-westerly breezes. The actual values were in all cases below the average,* the deficit being least (under 0·1 in.) on our extreme western and northern coasts and greatest (0·20 in. to 0·23 in.) in the east and south of England. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 18th and 19th, when the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·4 ins. over the whole kingdom. *Lowest* readings were on the 5th or 6th, when the mercury fell below 29·3 ins. in most districts and below 29·0 ins. in the north of Scotland. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions were very numerous and moved in various directions, as will be seen from a glance at Map 2, Plate X. The most remarkable was observed between the 12th and 16th of the month, when a well-defined system, originally formed over the Bay of Biscay, moved in almost a spiral course over the north-west of France and the English Channel, and ultimately filled up in the neighbourhood of Paris.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclone observed in our immediate neighbourhood spread over from the westward on the 11th and 12th, its central area subsequently remaining for a time off our extreme north and north-west coasts. Between the 16th and 19th the system spread southwards and eastwards again over the whole kingdom, but on the 20th it finally moved away over the Atlantic.

Winds varied a good deal in direction. On our northern coasts the Northerly and at our western stations the North-westerly current was most frequent. In the south and south-east of England, however, there was no marked predominance of wind from any one quarter. Gales were rare on our west and south-west coasts, but somewhat frequent in other localities; at Holyhead and Liverpool there were only 2 and at Valencia 3, but at Spurn Head and Hurst Castle there were as many as 8, at Mullaghmore 10, and at Aberdeen 11.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 51° at Jersey and between 48° and 49° on the south and south-west coasts of England generally to 44° or less over central Ireland and the south of Scotland and to 43° or less in the north of Scotland. The general distribution was of a more wintry type than is usual in October, and the actual values were everywhere below the average,* the deficit amounting to between three degrees and four and a half degrees in most districts and exceeding five degrees in the south of Ireland. *Highest* readings occurred mostly on the 28th and 29th, but at only two or three of the English inland stations did the thermometer exceed 60°. *Lowest* readings were observed between the 24th and 26th, when hard frost prevailed at many of our western and northern stations; at Lairg, Markree Castle, and Brookeborough the sheltered thermometer fell to 19° and at Glenlee to 17°, while at Braemar it went as low as 16°. *Range* was as a rule moderate, but amounted to 40° at Llandoverly and Brookeborough and to 41° at Braemar. *Vapour Tension* was below 0·22 in. over central Ireland, and below 0·24 in. over the inland parts of Scotland and the north of England. On the south-west, south, and south-east coasts of England, however, it ranged from 0·28 in. to 0·30 in. *Relative Humidity* was lowest, 78 per cent., at Jersey, 81 per cent. at Scilly, and 82 per cent. at Mullaghmore; *highest* 96 at Spurn Head and Hawes Junction, and 94 at Stornoway, Loughborough, and Cambridge.

Rainfall amounted to less than the average,* at many of our western stations, but was considerably in excess of the normal elsewhere. At Nairn, Scarborough, Hillington, Yarmouth, and Geldeston, as well as at Llandudno, the total fall was more than twice as much as the average. The largest aggregates for the month were 8·9 ins. at Glencarron, 8·7 ins. at Hawes Junction, and 8·6 ins. at Yarmouth and Llandudno; the smallest were 1·2 ins. at Hereford, 2·1 ins. at Parsonstown, and 2·2 ins. at Edgeworthstown. A continuous and heavy downpour, resulting in serious floods, occurred over the north of England between the 13th and 15th, the aggregate amount for the three days being as much as 5·5 ins. at Aysgarth (near Bedale), 3·8 ins. at Leeds, 2·6 ins. at York, and 2·5 ins. at Bawtry. Heavy falls were also reported at many of our western stations between the 26th and 27th.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient in the east and south-east of England, and also in the Channel Islands; elsewhere it was in excess of the average,* the departure from the normal being considerable in the west and north-west of England. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 46 at Falmouth, 43 at Llandoverly and Pembroke, and 42 at Valencia, to 22 at Edinburgh, 13 at Braemar, and 10 at Fort Augustus.

* 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.