

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

JANUARY 1895.

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General Summary.—The weather of January was very cold and changeable, with frequent falls of snow. Thunder and lightning were reported occasionally on our west and south-west coasts, and on the 23rd a severe thunderstorm, followed by heavy snow squalls, passed rapidly southwards over the east and south-east of England. Pressure was low, especially in the east and south; temperature was considerably below the normal; the winds were rather variable; rainfall was in excess of the average, excepting in Ireland and the west of Scotland; bright sunshine was, as a rule, very abundant.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·75 ins. and upwards over the western and central parts of Ireland to 29·65 ins. and less in the east of England, the distribution in the intervening regions being somewhat irregular. The mean values were below the average in all localities excepting the Shetlands and Hebrides, the deficit being greatest (0·3 in. and upwards) on the east and south coasts of England. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 30th, when the barometer rose to 30·8 ins. and upwards in the north-east of Scotland, and to 30·5 ins. and upwards in all other localities excepting the extreme south of England. *Lowest* readings were observed at various times between the 13th and 17th, when the barometer fell below 28·6 ins. in the south-west of Ireland, and below 29·0 ins. in most other parts of the kingdom. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The depressions observed were rather numerous, but in many cases their movements were too irregular to permit of the tracks being shown on Map 2, Plate I. One of the most important systems appeared originally off the south-west of Ireland on the 13th. After lying almost stationary for some time, the system began to move away to the northward, but on the night of the 14th it took a southerly course, while on the following day it advanced north-eastwards over our south-west coasts. Between the 16th and 18th the depression moved slowly, first in a north-easterly direction across England, and afterwards in a northerly direction along the east of Scotland to Caithness, where it dispersed.

Anticyclones were rare in the neighbourhood of our islands. On the 1st, and again on the 21st, an anticyclone spread over our western and northern coasts from the Atlantic, but in each case the system soon moved away to the south-westward. On the 28th a large area advanced over the kingdom from the westward, the system afterwards becoming merged in an anticyclone of great height, which spread over our northern coasts from Scandinavia.

Winds were rather variable, but chiefly from some Northerly point. Gales were frequent in the north-west and north, the number of days being as large as 18 at Donaghadee, 15 at Holyhead, and 12 at Aberdeen and Malin Head. Their severity was, however, at no time very great.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 42°·5 at Scilly and 39° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts generally to 32° and less over the northern and central parts of England, and to 29° and less in some parts of central Scotland. The general distribution was of a decidedly wintry type, and the mean values were considerably below the average,* the deficit amounting to between 6° and 7° at many of our western, northern, and central stations. At Braemar and Llandovery the mean was nearly 10° below the normal. *Highest* readings were observed as a rule between the 20th and 23rd, when the thermometer over the southern parts of England rose to between 50° and 53°. In the more northern and central parts of the kingdom, however, the absolute maxima were in nearly all cases below 45°. *Lowest* readings were recorded at various times in the different districts, but mostly either between the 9th and 12th, or between the 27th and 29th. At several of our northern and central stations the thermometer fell below 10°, the lowest readings of all being -5° at Braemar, -2° at Llandovery, and +2° at Hillington. *Range* was generally moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·20 in. and 0·22 in. on our extreme west and south-west coasts to 0·16 in. or less over the northern and central parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* was greatest, 96 per cent. at Dungeness and 94 per cent. at Stornoway and Donaghadee, and least 81 per cent. at Aberdeen and 82 per cent. at Valencia and Jersey.

Rainfall, which consisted largely of melted snow, was in excess of the average* over the greater part of England and also in the north-east of Scotland; in the north-east of England and also, locally, at Dublin the total amount was more than twice as much as the normal. At the Irish stations generally there was, however, a deficiency, and in the west of Scotland a very large deficiency, the amount at Laudale and Ardrossan being less than one-fourth of the average. The largest aggregate falls were 6·5 ins. at Alnwick Castle, 6·2 ins. at Falmouth, and 5·8 ins. at Valencia; the smallest being 0·9 in. at Ardrossan and Malin Head, and 1·4 ins. at Leith and Glasgow. In the course of the month there were very few days on which snow or sleet did not occur in some part of the kingdom, the fall experienced over Ireland, Wales, and the west and north of England between the 11th and 13th was very heavy.

Bright Sunshine was abundant, especially in the west and south, where the total quantity amounted in some places to twice as much as the average.* The per-centage of the possible amount ranged from 36^N at Douglas and 34^N at Torquay to 9^N at Fort Augustus, and to only 7^N at Manchester (Oldham Road).

* 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.