

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

AUGUST 1897.

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General Remarks.—The weather of August was extremely changeable, with frequent thunderstorms, accompanied in many places by very heavy falls of rain. Pressure was low, but temperature above the normal; the winds were mostly from the South-westward or Westward; rainfall exceeded the average in most districts, and especially in the west; bright sunshine was, however, more than usually prevalent, excepting at a few of our western and south-western stations.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29.90 ins. at Jersey, and 29.85 ins. and upwards over the Channel and south-east of England generally, to 29.65 ins. and less in the west of Scotland and the extreme north of Ireland. The actual values were everywhere below the average*, and as the deficit was greatest (0.2 in. or more) on our extreme north-west coast, the mean gradient for South-westerly winds was somewhat steeper than usual. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 3rd, when the barometer rose to between 30.2 ins. and 30.3 ins. in all but the extreme south-western parts of the Kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred as a rule on the 20th or 21st, when the mercury fell to 29.1 ins. and less in the Hebrides, and to 29.6 ins. and less at all but the English Channel stations. On our extreme north-west coasts, however, the readings appear to have been equally low on the 29th or 30th. *Range* was somewhat small in the south, but moderate elsewhere.

Depressions were very numerous for the time of year. The centres of the more important systems appear to have travelled in a northerly or north-easterly direction outside our western and northern coasts, but in many instances their secondaries passed directly across the United Kingdom. The depressions which advanced eastward or north-eastward over England between the 8th and 9th, the 10th and 12th, and the 24th and 25th, were very shallow, and dispersed entirely on reaching the North Sea or the south of Scandinavia.

Anticyclones.—The large anticyclone which spread over Western Europe at the close of July continued in force until the 3rd of the month, after which it moved away to the north-eastward, and gradually dispersed. During the remainder of the time no well-defined system was observed in our neighbourhood, the highest pressures being found usually over the southern, but in some cases over the more central parts of the Continent.

Winds.—Over England and Ireland the prevailing winds were mostly South-westerly (Southerly to Westerly), but in the north of Scotland there was a somewhat large proportion of breezes from the South-eastward and Eastward. During the latter part of the month gales were rather frequent in the west; at Holyhead they occurred on as many as seven days. On our east coasts there were none at all.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 64.4 in London, and from 63° and upwards at most stations situated in the south and east of England, as well as in the Channel Islands, to 58° and less in Caithness and the Hebrides, and to 57° and less in the Shetlands. The difference between the temperature at inland and coast stations appears to have been far slighter than is usual in August, and the mean readings were, in nearly all cases, above the average*, the excess being greatest in the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain. *Highest* readings occurred at various times between the 2nd and 5th, when the thermometer rose to 80° and upwards in nearly all parts of Great Britain, to 85° and upwards at many of the English and Welsh stations, and to 90° at Bawtry and Cambridge. *Lowest* readings occurred at various times in the different districts, but mostly towards the close of the month. On many parts of the English and Welsh coasts the thermometer did not fall even as low as 50°, but at some stations in the north of Scotland it went slightly below 40°. *Range* amounted to over 40° in many of the inland parts of Great Britain, and was as large as 49° at Llandovery and 47° at Bawtry. At several of the coast stations in England and Wales, however, it was below 25°, and at Pembroke the extreme range was only 18°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0.50 in. at Spurn Head and 0.45 in. or more on most parts of the English coasts, to 0.41 in. at Parsonstown, 0.40 in. at Aberdeen, and 0.38 in. at Liverpool. *Relative Humidity* exceeded 90 per cent. at several of our extreme northern and north-western stations, and also, locally, at Spurn Head, the lowest values being 73 per cent. at Liverpool, 79 per cent. at Aberdeen and York, and 80 per cent. in London.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* over the United Kingdom as a whole, and especially in the south-western districts, including the Channel Islands. In the north of Scotland, however, and at several isolated stations in the northern and eastern parts of England, the amounts were less than the normal. The largest totals for the month were 10.4 ins. at Hawes Junction, 8.0 ins. at Killarney, and 7.8 ins. at Valencia (five to seven inches being reported at many of the western stations); the smallest were 1.6 ins. at Geldeston, 2.0 ins. at Lairg, and 2.2 ins. at Yarmouth and Wick. The number of rainy days was large, especially in the west; at Killarney there were as many as 28, and at Markree Castle 27. At various times in the month heavy falls occurred in most districts, the largest of all being 2.4 ins. at Clifton on the 30th, and 1.8 ins. at Belmullet on the 29th.

Bright Sunshine exceeded the average* in most places. At several stations in the south and east of England more than 50 per cent. of the possible duration was reported, and at Falmouth as much as 55 per cent. In the west and north of Scotland the percentage values were mostly below 30.

* 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.