

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

MARCH 1889.

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General Summary.—The weather of March was very changeable. Pressure was rather in excess of the average, its range was somewhat large, and the changes in its distribution were frequent. Temperature was rather below the average, and its range was very large over Great Britain—as much as 56° at Aberdeen. The wind was variable, but not strong. Rainfall was in excess over some districts, deficient in others, the excesses being due to heavy temporary falls, and the amount of bright sunshine was considerable.

Pressure.—*Mean for the Month, at 8 a.m.*, varied from a little above $30\cdot0$ ins. over the southern parts of Ireland and England to about $29\cdot9$ ins. over the south of Scotland and to rather below $29\cdot8$ ins. at the southern extremity of the Shetland Islands, and was rather lower at the mouth of the Bristol Channel than over the land immediately surrounding. It was decidedly higher than that for February over the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, but slightly lower in the south-west and west; the gradients were favourable for winds from a more Westerly direction than those in the earlier month. It was in excess of the average* for March by six to eight hundredths of an inch over the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, and by about $0\cdot14$ in. in the south-west of Ireland. *Highest* values were recorded very generally between the 14th and 16th, as an elongated high-pressure area moved south-eastwards over the kingdom; *Lowest* were recorded in most places on the 19th or 20th, as a rather deep depression travelled across Ireland and England from the westward. *Range* was rather large, especially at the central stations.

Depressions were as a rule neither large nor very deep; the most important were the systems which came over us from the westward on the 7th–9th and the 19th–20th. The former caused severe floods over our south-western and midland counties. The systems observed over our area travelled from points between south-south-west and round by west to north; two of them filled up on reaching the Continent, and another over Bedfordshire.

Anticyclones were prevalent either to the westward or eastward of our area during the greater part of the month, and occasionally spread over the British Islands or France in form of a “ridge” or “col.” Only one system, however, (that of March 14–16) travelled directly over the kingdom, and in this the maximum reading exceeded $30\cdot5$ ins.

Wind was very variable both in force and direction. It was mainly Westerly or North-westerly over the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, South-westerly in London, but Easterly (North-east to South-east) in the Channel Islands. The gales experienced were somewhat numerous in the north and west, but were not severe.

Temperature.—*Mean, at Sea Level*, ranged from 46° at Scilly, and from 45° and more on our other extreme south-western coasts, to less than 43° over the inland parts of the north of Ireland, to less than 42° over central England, less than 40° over West Yorks and the extreme east of England, and to less than 39° in the north of Scotland. It was higher at all stations than in February, the change varying from three to four degrees over Scotland and the greater part of Ireland, and to very little less than that over England, but amounting to only 1° in the Channel Islands and $0^{\circ}\cdot4$ at Valencia. It did not differ much from the average* value for March at the Scotch and Irish stations, but was below it over England by rather more than 1° . *Highest* readings were recorded in nearly all places on the 24th, 28th, or 29th, but at several of the western stations on the 13th. *Lowest* occurred between the 2nd and 4th, except at some of the Irish stations, where the cold was sharpest on the 10th or 11th. *Range* was large, amounting to more than 40° in many places, and amounting to 49° at Rothamsted, 51° at Cambridge, and 56° at Aberdeen. *Vapour Tension* varied from between $0\cdot24$ in. and $0\cdot26$ in. at our extreme western and south-western stations to less than $0\cdot20$ in. in many parts of Great Britain, the lowest of all being rather less than $0\cdot19$ in. at Aberdeen and Hawes Junction. *Relative Humidity* varied from 80 to 90 per cent. over the eastern parts of Great Britain, but was as high as 95 at Stornoway, 93 at Belmullet, 92 at Malin Head, Ardrossan, Barrow, and Hurst Castle, 91 at Donaghadee, and 90 at Holyhead.

Rainfall varied from $0\cdot67$ in. at Leith, $0\cdot81$ in. at Ochertyre, $0\cdot85$ in. at Geldeston, and slightly below an inch at Braemar, to upwards of 3 ins. at many stations on the western side of Great Britain and Ireland, to more than 5 ins. at Falmouth, Plymouth, and Laudale, and to $9\cdot66$ ins. at Glencarron. Over our south-western and midland counties the fall was greatest between the 6th and 9th, but at many of the northern and north-eastern stations the heaviest fall was on the 19th, and at some north-western stations on the 24th. It was in excess of the average* in many districts, but below it in many others, the excess being in most cases due to heavy, and somewhat local, falls which occurred within very limited dates—such as have been quoted above. But for these falls the month would have been a dry one generally.

Bright Sunshine varied from 18 per cent. of the possible duration in London, from between 20 and 25 per cent. over Scotland and the north of Ireland, and from between 25 and 28 per cent. over the greater part of England, to about 30 in Devonshire and at Parsonstown, 39 at Valencia, and 40 at Jersey.

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