

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

JULY 1898.

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General Summary.—The weather of July was mostly fair and dry until the close of the month, when it became much less settled, with thunderstorms and heavy rain in several places. Pressure was above the average; temperature was slightly above the normal in the west and south, but below it elsewhere; the winds were chiefly from the Westward or North-westward; rainfall was very deficient, especially in the west and south; bright sunshine was mostly in excess of the average.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30.15 ins. and upwards over the south western parts of the United Kingdom generally, to very little above 30.0 ins. in the north and north-east of Scotland, and to about 29.9 ins. in the Shetlands. The gradients were, therefore, in favour of North-westerly winds, and were rather steeper than usual, the actual readings being above the average* in all districts, and especially in the west and south of Ireland, where the excess amounted to 0.25 in. or more. *Highest* readings occurred on the 10th or 11th, when the barometer rose to 30.4 ins. and upwards in all districts excepting the east and south-east of England, where it exceeded 30.3 ins. *Lowest* readings were observed on the 22nd and 23rd, the mercury falling to between 29.3 ins. and 29.5 ins. in the north and north-east of England, to 29.6 ins. and less in the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain generally, and to 29.8 ins. and less in the south-western districts. *Range* was somewhat small for the time of year in the south-west, but moderate elsewhere.

Depressions.—The only depression of any importance observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands was a rather well marked system which advanced over Scotland from the north westward on the night of the 27th, and which afterwards moved south-eastwards across the North Sea to the Netherlands and Germany, where it gradually dispersed. In the course of the month, however, several disturbances travelled across the southern parts of Scandinavia—mostly in an easterly or east south-easterly direction.

Anticyclones.—At the close of June a large anticyclone spread over our islands from the southward, and, after a temporary recession to the south-westward on the 3rd, remained with us until about the 12th, when it passed away over the Atlantic. A second system advanced from the north-westward on the 19th, but soon travelled across our islands to the Continent. The third spread in from the Atlantic on the 24th, and, with the exception of a temporary withdrawal on the 27th and 28th, continued in force until quite the end of the month.

Winds, though rather variable on our south-west coasts, were mostly from the Westward or North-westward. Over the country generally there was an almost entire absence of gales, but at Wick and Donaghadee the wind reached force 7 from the North-westward on two days,—at the former station on the 7th and 8th, and at the latter on the 28th and 29th.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 63° and upwards at several stations in the south of England, 62° and upwards over the western parts of the Channel, and 60° and upwards over the south of Ireland and a small portion of central Scotland, to 58° or less along our east coasts, 55° and less in the extreme north and north-west of Scotland, and to rather below 52° in the Shetlands. Over the British Islands generally the distribution was in fair accordance with the normal, the only feature of any real importance being the prevalence over the western parts of the English Channel of an area of relative warmth in the region usually affected in July by the cool current from the Atlantic. Over Ireland and on the west and south coasts of Great Britain the mean readings were as a rule a little above the average,* but in most other districts they were below it, the deficiency varying greatly in amount in different places. *Highest* readings occurred at various times in Scotland, but mostly between the 9th and 11th in Ireland, and on the 15th or 16th over England. As a rule the thermometer scarcely touched 80°, but in London it rose to 82°, while at Southampton it reached 85°. *Lowest* readings occurred at very irregular times in Scotland, but mostly on the 4th or 5th in Ireland, and on the 30th or 31st in England. At several of our northern stations the thermometer on one or other of these dates fell below 40°, at Llandoverly to 34°, and at Braemar to 33°. *Range* was somewhat large for the time of year, especially over the inland parts of Great Britain; at Hillington and Southampton it amounted to 42°, at Churchstoke to 43° and at Llandoverly to 45°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0.47 in. at Scilly, and 0.42 in. and upwards on our southern coasts generally, to 0.34 in. and less in the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 90 per cent. at Malin Head, 86 per cent. at Ardrossan, and 85 per cent. at Scilly to 73 per cent. in London and at Leith, and to 69 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall was considerably less than the average,* in nearly all parts of the Kingdom, and especially in the west and south. Over Ireland and the Irish Sea, as well as in the south of England, the amount was, as a rule, less than one fourth of the normal, while in some parts of Cornwall and Devonshire it was less than one eighth, the month being, in several instances, the driest recorded for at least 25 years past. The highest aggregates recorded were 6.7 ins. at Glencarron, 2.8 ins. at Fort William, and 2.5 ins. at Stornoway and Bawtry; the smallest being 0.2 in. at Cullompton, 0.3 in. at Scilly, Plymouth and Douglas (Isle of Man) and 0.4 in. at Donaghadee, Prawle Point and Dungeness. In so dry a month individual heavy falls were naturally rare; on the 17th, however, 1.7 in. fell at Glencarron, and 1.0 in. at Fort William, while on the 22nd as much as 2.2 ins. were recorded at Bawtry and 1.6 in. at York.

Bright Sunshine was largely in excess of the average* in most places, but was rather deficient at one or two stations in the east and south-east of England. The percentage of the possible amount ranged from 63 at Jersey, and 50 or more on several parts of our south-west coasts and at Churchstoke and Douglas (Isle of Man) to 40 or less at many of our northern and eastern stations, and to only 21 at Stornoway.

* 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.