

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

AUGUST 1893.

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General Summary.—The weather of August was changeable and showery in the western and northern parts of the kingdom, but mostly fine in the eastern and southern districts. Thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence over Great Britain. Pressure and temperature were each in excess of the average; the winds were chiefly South-westerly; rainfall showed a deficiency in nearly all the eastern, central, and southern districts, but was in excess of the normal in the west and north; bright sunshine was unusually prevalent in most places.

Pressure.—Mean for the month at 8 a.m. ranged from 30·05 ins. and upwards, over the English Channel to a little below 29·85 ins. in the Shetland and Hebrides. The general distribution was in close agreement with the normal, but the actual values were a little above the average,* the excess being greatest (0·09 in. or more) over the central and south-eastern parts of England, and least (0·04 in. or less) on the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 28th or 29th, when the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·4 ins. over the entire kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule on the 21st, when the mercury fell below 28·8 ins. in the extreme north of Scotland, below 29·5 ins. over the northern parts of our islands generally, and below 29·7 ins. in the southern and south-eastern districts. *Range* was small in the south, but rather large for the time of year in the extreme north.

Depressions.—The tracks of the depressions lay as a rule to the westward or north-westward of our Islands, but on the 21st and 22nd an Atlantic disturbance came sufficiently near to our coast to enable its course to be laid down on Map 2, Plate VIII. During the concluding week numerous depressions were observed over Scandinavia and northern Russia, but the systems were mostly ill-defined, and their movements very erratic; their tracks cannot therefore be drawn on Map 2.

Anticyclones.—During the early part of the month the highest pressures were found over the more central parts of Europe, but on the 12th they spread westwards over our Islands, a definite anticyclone being observed in our neighbourhood until the 16th, when it moved away to the eastward. A second anticyclone spread over the United Kingdom from the south-westward on the 24th and remained with us until the close of the month, its central area being situated for the most part off our western coasts.

Winds although chiefly South-westerly, were rather variable on our south-western and extreme northern coasts; at Valencia there was a somewhat undue prevalence of calms. The number of gales was, as a rule, small, but at Stornoway there were four such occasions, while at Hurst Castle there were as many as six. The Southerly gale which occurred in Scotland on the 21st was rather severe for the time of year.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from about 68° in the Channel Islands, 66° in London, and 65°, or more in several parts of central and southern England, to 57° in the Hebrides and 54° in the Shetlands. The general distribution was fairly normal, but the actual values were everywhere above the average,* the excess ranging in most places between three and four degrees. *Highest* readings were observed on the 9th in the west of Scotland, on the 14th or 15th in other parts of Scotland and in Ireland, and on the 18th at most of the English stations. On one or other of these dates the thermometer exceeded 80° in nearly all districts, and in many parts of England it exceeded 90°, the highest readings of all being 93° at Stamford and in London. *Lowest* readings occurred either on the 6th or between the 27th and 29th, but presented no features of special interest excepting at Braemar, where the thermometer on the 28th fell to 31°. *Range* was large,—over 40° at many of our stations, and over 50° in several parts of our midland and south-eastern counties. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·40 in. and 0·45 in. over the northern and central parts of the United Kingdom, but exceeded 0·49 in. on our extreme south and south-west coasts, and was as high as 0·51 in. at Hurst Castle. *Relative Humidity* was lowest (80 per cent. or less) over the central parts of England and in the Channel Islands, and highest (94 per cent.) in the Shetlands and Hebrides.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in Ireland, the north-west of England and many parts of Scotland, but showed a deficiency in most other districts. At some of the extreme southern stations the aggregate fall was less than half the average. The largest totals recorded were 7·0 ins. at Hawes Junction, 6·6 ins. at Fort William, and 6·1 ins. at Stonyhurst; while the smallest amounts were 0·7 in. at Hurst Castle, 0·8 in. at Hastings, and 1·1 in. at Geldeston and Oxford. The number of rainy days was small over England, but large in the extreme western and northern parts of the kingdom; at Lairg and Glencarron there were 27 such occasions, and at Stornoway and Londonderry as many as 28. Amounts exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded on various dates at several of our western and northern stations, the largest of all being 1·9 ins. at Stonyhurst on the 2nd.

Bright Sunshine was unusually prevalent in all districts excepting the north of Scotland and the south of Ireland, where the aggregate amount differed very little from the normal. At many stations situated in the southern parts of England the per-centage of the possible duration exceeded 55, and in the Channel Islands it ranged between 71 and 72. In Ireland and Scotland, however, there was less than 40 per cent. of the possible amount, and the smallest value of all was 18 per cent. at Fort Augustus.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.