

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

JANUARY 1888.

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General Summary.—The month was, as a whole, quiet, foggy, and damp, but not rainy. Clouds were low and dense. The distribution of pressure was mainly anticyclonic, and the mean barometric readings were considerably in excess of the average.* Temperature was exceptionally high on the 8th and 9th, but towards the end of the month cold weather began to set in, and in many places snow fell.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month, at 8 a.m.,* ranged from 30·28 ins. at Jersey to 29·96 ins. at Sumburgh Head. It was in excess of that for December by 0·27 in. in Ireland, 0·37 in. in the south-east of England, and 0·42 in. in the north of Scotland. It exceeded the average* for January by 0·35 in. over the Shetland Isles and the south-west of Ireland, and by 0·25 in. over the south-east of England. *Highest* values recorded were 30·7 ins. and more, over the southern districts, on 9th and 10th, during the prevalence of a large anticyclone; in the North, they were highest between 14th and 16th, when the same anticyclone had reached the northern parts of our area. *Lowest* in the West and North on the 4th, but over Great Britain on the 31st, when the barometer fell below 29·2 ins. in many places.

Depressions.—Those passing near to our Islands were not large, and some were very small. The system No. V.† advanced suddenly, and gave very little indication of its approach.

Anticyclones were three in number; all were large; the first and second were very persistent. During the prevalence of the first system temperature was not so low as is usual during winter time, the air was damp, and the fogs were of a very wet class. All of the systems passed away from us in a westerly direction.

Wind was chiefly South-westerly, especially in the north and west. At the southern stations there was a considerable per-centage of Easterly wind, in the extreme north a still greater per-centage of wind from between WSW. and NNW. Wind-force was light, except in the extreme NW., and gales were few in number.

Temperature.—*Mean, at sea level.* For distribution see Map 3, Plate II.; for individual values *not reduced to sea level,* see Table II. The *mean* differed very little from the average,* being slightly in excess in some localities and in defect in others. *Highest* readings occurred generally on 8th or 9th, when values were exceptionally high—maximum at Durham was 63°. *Lowest* values occurred in Scotland, between 19th and 21st, in Ireland and England between 29th and 31st. *Range* was considerable, exceeding 40° in many parts of Great Britain. *Vapour Tension* was greatest in SE., least in NE., ranging from 0·27 in. at Scilly to 0·19 in. over our Midland Counties and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was high, ranging from 99 at Stonyhurst and 98 at Stornoway to 86 at Valencia.

Rainfall.—For distribution see Map 4, Plate II. *Aggregate* values were below the average* in all districts, especially over England, where many were but little more than half an inch. *Heaviest falls* occurred in Ireland and the west of Scotland on the 3rd or 4th; another heavy fall occurred in the north-west and north on the 24th and 25th. *Number of rainy days* was very small over England and the east of Ireland. On several days water, sufficient to be measured in an ordinary rain gauge, was deposited by the wet fogs.

Bright Sunshine was deficient, except in the east of Scotland. The per-centage recorded was 29 at Jersey, 27 at Churchstoke, 25 at Aberdeen, and between 20 and 25 at several of our north-eastern, eastern, and southern stations. At Stonyhurst and Blackpool it was only 8, and in London 9.

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

† See Map 2, Plate i.