

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

JUNE 1899.

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General Summary.—During the earlier half of June the weather was extremely fine and dry, at first over England, and afterwards over the United Kingdom generally. After the 17th, however, it broke up entirely, and for the remainder of the month was very unsettled, with frequent rain in most districts, and occasional thunderstorms, the latter being very general over England between the 27th and 29th. Pressure and temperature were above the average; the winds were rather variable, but mostly from the Westward or North-westward in the north, and from the North-eastward in the south; rainfall was deficient in all but the north-western districts; bright sunshine was in excess of the average, especially over the central and southern parts of England.

Pressure.—Mean at 8 a.m. was extremely uniform, the readings ranging between 30·05 ins. and 30·09 ins. over all but the extreme northern parts of the United Kingdom, where they decreased to about 30·02 ins. The greatest difference between the values at any two stations was, in fact, less than 0·08 in. The mean readings were in all cases above the average, the excess being least (0·08 in. or less) over the English Channel, and greatest (0·12 in. to 0·14 in.) on our extreme north and north-west coasts. *Highest* readings occurred on the 8th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards in Scotland, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards at all stations excepting those in the south of England. *Lowest* readings were registered on the 19th or 20th, when the barometer fell to 29·2 ins. and less on the Cornish coasts, to 29·4 ins. and less over England generally, and to 29·6 ins. and less in Ireland and Scotland. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—During the earlier half of the month the distribution of pressure was almost continuously anticyclonic, the only depression observed in our neighbourhood being a small system which moved in a north-north-easterly direction along our extreme western and northern coasts on the 1st and 2nd. After the 17th, several depressions advanced over our islands from the westward, their movements being, however, in many instances too irregular to be shown on Map 2, Pl. VI. The disturbance of the 19th–21st hung for some time in the neighbourhood of Cornwall.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems were observed. The first extended from the Atlantic on the 2nd and 3rd, and remained over a considerable portion of Western Europe until the 16th, the original system being reinforced from time to time by others which advanced either from the westward or north-westward. The second spread in from the westward on the 24th, the central area remaining off the south-west of our islands until the 27th, when it travelled north-eastward to the North Sea and Scandinavia, where the entire system quickly dispersed.

Winds varied a good deal in direction, the general tendency being, however, for breezes from the North-eastward in the south and east, and from the Westward or North-westward in the north and north-west. At Nairn and Valencia there was an unusually large proportion of calms. Slight gales were experienced between the 19th and 21st on our extreme south-west coasts, and on one or two occasions in the north-east of Scotland, but over the country generally the wind never exceeded the force of a strong breeze.

Temperature.—Mean at sea level ranged from 63° and upwards at inland stations in the south of England, from 61° and upwards in the east of Ireland, and from 60° and upwards in the south-east of Scotland, to 56° and less on several parts of our eastern and extreme north-western coasts, and to 51° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution over our islands agreed fairly with the normal, but the thermal gradient between the coast and inland stations was steeper than usual, especially in the north. The actual values were in all cases above the average,* the amount of excess varying considerably in different places, but being upon the whole greatest at inland stations in the west and north, where it amounted, as a rule, to between three and four degrees. *Highest* readings occurred between the 5th and 7th, excepting on our extreme north and north-west coasts, where they were observed mostly between the 15th and 17th. On each of these occasions readings slightly above 80° were recorded in many places, the highest of all being 85° at Ochertyre and Llandoverly. *Lowest* readings were registered at somewhat irregular times—mostly between the 13th and 15th over Great Britain, excepting in the extreme north and north-west, but on the 19th in Ireland. At many of the northern and central stations frost occurred on the surface of the ground, and at some places the thermometer, even in the shelter of the screen, fell to within a degree or two of the freezing point. *Range* was large—over 45° in many places, and as much as 48° at Lairg and Durham, and 49° at Bawtry. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·44 in. at Pembroke and Dungeness, and 0·40 in. and upwards on several parts of our western and southern coasts, to 0·35 in. or less in the Shetlands and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 95 per cent. at Sumburgh Head, 92 per cent. at Malin Head, and 89 per cent. at Dungeness, to 75 per cent. and less in the east of Scotland and the central parts of England, and to only 67 per cent. in London.

Rainfall was, as a rule, less than the average,* but showed an excess at several of our north-western stations, as well as at Shields. At some stations in central Scotland, and at many places in the southern parts of Great Britain, the total fall was less than half the average. The largest aggregates reported were 3·5 ins. at Markree Castle, 3·4 ins. at Glenlee, and 3·0 ins. at Liverpool, the smallest being 0·7 in. at Dungeness, and 0·9 in. at several stations in the east and south-east of England. The number of rainy days was mostly small, less than 10 in many places, and as low as 5 at Oxford, Shaftesbury, Hastings, Pembroke, Clifton and Prawle Point. The thunderstorms which occurred so generally towards the end of the month were accompanied in some cases by heavy falls of rain, but amounts exceeding an inch in 24 hours were rare.

Bright Sunshine was mostly in excess of the average,* a slight deficiency being reported, however, at some stations in the west and north of Scotland. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 66 at Guernsey, and 60 or more on several parts of our south and south-west coasts, to 40 or less at several of our northern stations, and to only 28 at Fort Augustus.

* 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.