

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

MAY 1894.

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General Summary.—The weather of May was cool and unsettled, with occasional thunderstorms and with frequent falls of rain, especially in the northern districts. Between the 19th and 22nd showers of snow or sleet were experienced at many of our northern and western stations—even as far south as Plymouth. Pressure differed but little from the normal; temperature was low; the winds were very variable, but mostly from some Northerly point; rainfall differed in amount in various places, but was as a rule in excess of the average in all but the central and southern districts; bright sunshine was rather deficient excepting in the extreme north.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·00 ins. and upwards over the central and southern parts of Ireland to 29·92 ins. or less on the east and south-east coasts of England and to 29·90 ins. in the Shetlands, the gradient being favourable for light winds from the North-westward. The actual values were a little above the average* in Ireland and Scotland but a trifle below it at nearly all the English stations, the difference from the normal being in most cases less than 0·05 in. *Highest* readings were recorded generally on the 1st, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards in the west of Ireland, and to 30·3 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the kingdom. In Scotland, however, the highest readings (30·4 ins. and upwards) were observed on the 17th and 18th. *Lowest* readings were recorded mostly between the 8th and 11th in the western and northern districts, and on the 28th or 29th in the eastern and southern parts of England. Over Ireland and England the barometer did not sink much below 29·6 ins., but in Scotland it fell to between 29·3 ins. and 29·4 ins. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions were numerous for the time of year, and moved in various directions, as will be seen on referring to Map 2, Plate V. The two most important systems were:—(1.) A rather deep disturbance which approached the Norwegian coasts from the north-westward on the night of the 3rd, and which afterwards filled up over Sweden; and (2.) A larger and somewhat deeper depression which advanced over Piedmont from the Mediterranean on the 25th, and which subsequently moved north-eastwards across Central Europe.

Anticyclones.—During the early part of the month the only anticyclones observed were a system which spread over our Islands from the westward at the close of April, but which quickly moved away southwards; and another which extended over us temporarily from the south-westward on the 12th. Between the 14th and 16th a large area spread over from Northern Europe and remained in our neighbourhood until the 19th, when it moved away to the westward. On the 21st and 22nd an anticyclonic band, which was formed over the west and north of our Islands, became united with another area lying over Scandinavia, but on the 25th this system, like its predecessor, moved away to the Atlantic.

Winds were very variable, but in most places there was a slight predominance of breezes from the Northward (North-west to North-east). The number of days with gales was, as a rule, very small, but at Donaghadee there were as many as 9 such occasions, and at Aberdeen 6.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 53° at Jersey, and 51° and upwards at many stations situated in the southern parts of England and Ireland to 44° at Stornoway, the general distribution leaning rather to the winter than to the normal summer type. The actual values were everywhere below the average,* the deficit being greatest over the northern parts of the kingdom, where it amounted in some instances to as much as three and a half degrees or more. *Highest* readings, which were recorded either between the 16th and 18th or on the 24th or 25th, were below 70° at all but a few of the English stations, and below 60° on several parts of our north-east and north-west coasts. *Lowest* readings were observed between the 20th and 22nd, when sharp frost occurred in most districts; at Braemar the sheltered thermometer fell to 24°, and at Lairg, Nairn, Glenlee, Loughborough, and Brookeborough to 26°. *Range* was somewhat small for the time of year, the only stations at which it exceeded 40° being Loughborough and Llandoverly. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·30 in. and upwards, over the English Channel, and between 0·28 in. and 0·30 in. on our extreme western coasts, to 0·25 in. or less in the east of Scotland and the north of England. *Relative Humidity* varied from 93 per cent. at Stornoway to 75 per cent. at Leith and Oxford, to 73 per cent. in London and to 72 per cent. at Liverpool.

Rainfall amounted to less than the average* in the south of Ireland, the extreme west of Scotland, and most of the central and southern parts of England, but was in excess of the mean in nearly all other localities. The largest aggregates recorded were 6·2 ins. at Glencarron, 4·0 ins. at Marchmont and Braemar, and 3·7 ins. at Fort William; while the smallest were 0·4 in. at Roche's Point, 0·8 in. at Hurst Castle, and 1·1 ins. at Bawtry. The very small amount at Roche's Point (less than one eighth of the average for the month) appears to have been quite local. Over the northern parts of the kingdom rain was very frequent, the number of days with a measurable quantity being as large as 26 at Lairg, and 25 at Braemar and Alnwick Castle.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient in most places, the only district with any general excess being the north of Scotland. The per-centage of the possible amount ranged from 54 at Scilly, 53 at Newquay and Falmouth, and 45 or more at several of the other south-coast stations to 29 at Manchester, 27 at Braemar, and 26 at Fort Augustus.

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