

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

FEBRUARY 1893.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1893.)

ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.
PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER ST., EDINBURGH, and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

General Summary.—The weather of February was generally rough and unsettled, with frequent falls of rain; snow or sleet occurred in many places during the latter part of the month. Pressure was everywhere low; temperature was above the average over England, but a little below it in Ireland and Scotland; the winds were chiefly Westerly or South-westerly, and often very strong in force; and rainfall was heavy, especially in the western and southern parts of England. Bright sunshine was in excess of the average, except in Wales and the north-west of England.

Pressure.—Mean for the month at 8 a.m. ranged from 29·79 ins. at Jersey and from 29·70 ins. or more in the extreme south of England, to a little below 29·45 ins. in the north of Scotland—the type of distribution being in close agreement with the normal, while the actual values were considerably below the average;* and the deficit was least (0·26 in. to 0·28 in.) in the south, and greatest (0·35 in. to 0·38 in.) in the north, the mean gradient was much steeper than usual. *Highest* readings were observed mostly on the 4th, when the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·4 ins. over the greater part of England, and to between 30·1 ins. and 30·2 ins. in Ireland and Scotland. *Lowest* readings occurred in Scotland and the north of Ireland on the 14th, in the south of England on the 21st, and in the more central parts of the United Kingdom on the 26th, the barometer in each case falling below 28·7 ins. in the regions mentioned. The absolutely lowest readings observed at the Telegraphic Reporting Stations were 28·56 ins. at Malin Head on the 14th, and 28·60 ins. at Aberdeen and Shields either on the evening of the 26th or the early morning of the 27th. *Range* was rather large, especially over the south-eastern part of England.

Depressions were very numerous, and often of considerable depth. During the earlier half of the month they advanced, in most cases, over the northern parts of our area, and travelled eastwards to Scandinavia, or south-eastwards across the North Sea. Later on, however, the depressions appeared much further south, their centres travelling, as a rule, over the Channel or the south of England and passing away to the eastward or north-eastward; those of the 14th and 26th moved abruptly to the north-north-eastwards on reaching Great Britain.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclone observed during the month was a large one which spread over us from the Continent on the 3rd and 4th. Two days later the system moved away to the south-eastward, and for the remainder of the time the distribution of pressure over our Islands was distinctly cyclonic.

Winds were chiefly South-westerly or Westerly, with frequent gales in most districts. At Hurst Castle the wind blew with the force of a gale on 8 days, at Donaghadee on 9 days, and at Aberdeen and Mullaghmore on as many as 10 days.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 46° and upwards in the Channel Islands and Scilly to 41° or less over central Ireland, to about 39° on the east coast of England, and to 38° or less over the north-eastern parts of Scotland. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were a little below the average* in Ireland and Scotland and above it over England, the excess being greatest (about two degrees), at our extreme southern stations. *Highest* readings were observed in most places on the 18th or 19th, when the thermometer rose to between 55° and 60° over a considerable portion of the United Kingdom. In the northern and central parts of Scotland, however, the absolute maxima were very little above 50°, and at Braemar the thermometer did not exceed 48°. *Lowest* readings occurred over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England on the 6th, but in other districts they were observed either on the 25th or 28th. Sharp frost was experienced very generally on one or other of these dates, the lowest readings of all being 9° at Braemar and 11° at Nairn. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* amounted to rather more than 0·25 in. on our south-west coasts, whence it decreased to 0·20 in. or less in the Shetlands and the eastern parts of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was below 90 per cent. on our north-eastern and extreme western and south-western coasts, as well as over central England. In other localities it was greater, the highest values being 96 per cent. at Prawle Point and 95 per cent. at Stornoway.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in all parts of the United Kingdom with the exception of the Shetlands and Hebrides. The amount of excess varied greatly in different localities, but was upon the whole greatest in the west and south of England; at Hastings the total fall was more than twice as much as the normal. The largest aggregates reported during the month were: (1 in Scotland), 8·7 ins. at Laudale, and 8·5 ins. at Fort William; (2 in Ireland), 7·2 ins. at Killarney and 6·4 ins. at Belmullet and Valencia; and (3 in England and Wales), 9·0 ins. at Hawes Junction, 6·7 ins. at Arlington, and 6·1 ins. at Llandovery. The smallest totals were 1·6 ins. at Spurn Head, 1·8 ins. at Leith, and 2·1 ins. at Durham and Stamford. More than an inch in 24 hours was reported at several stations, the largest of such amounts being 1·8 ins. at Brookeborough on the 7th and at Fort William on the 9th, and 1·7 ins. at Laudale on the 9th and at Hawes Junction on the 13th.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient in Wales and the north-west of England, but slightly in excess of the average* elsewhere. The per-centage of the possible amount ranged from 10 at Manchester 14 at Fort Augustus, and 18 in London and at Stonyhurst, to 30 at Stornoway, Falmouth, and Guernsey, and to 32 at Jersey.

* 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.