

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

OCTOBER 1899.

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**General Summary.**—The weather of October was mostly fair and dry, but with a good deal of fog and mist between the 18th and 24th, especially over England. At the beginning and end of the month, however, the conditions were very unsettled, with heavy falls of rain in most districts. Thunderstorms occurred in many parts of England on the 1st, in the west of Scotland on the 28th, and in the northern parts of the kingdom generally on the 30th. Pressure and temperature were high; the winds were mainly Westerly or South-westerly in the north, but variable or Easterly in the south; rainfall was deficient in most places; bright sunshine was, as a rule, considerably in excess of the average.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·05 ins. and upwards over the Channel and the central and southern parts of England to 29·85 ins. and less in the extreme north of Scotland, and 29·80 ins. and less in the Shetlands. The mean values were above the average,\* the excess amounting in most places to between 0·15 in. and 0·18 in., but to less than 0·10 in. in the Shetlands and Hebrides. Over England and Ireland the mean distribution of pressure was anticyclonic, and in this respect the map on Plate X. differed rather materially from the chart of normal values. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 21st, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards in the north-east of Scotland and to 30·3 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred over our central and southern districts on the 1st, when the barometer fell below 29·2 ins. over the whole of England. On our northern coasts the lowest readings occurred on the 3rd, the mercury falling to about 28·8 ins. in the Shetlands, and to 29·0 ins. and less in the north of Scotland generally. *Range* was moderate in the south, but rather large in the north.

**Depressions.**—These were somewhat rare for the time of year, the centres passing, as a rule, north-eastwards along our extreme northern coasts, and thence on to Scandinavia. The only disturbance of any importance which appeared over our immediate neighbourhood was the system which moved southward over the western parts of England at the close of September. On the 1st and 2nd this travelled in a north-easterly direction across England and the North Sea to the south of Norway, where it eventually dispersed.

**Anticyclones.**—Two such systems were observed. The first advanced over our islands on the 5th, and ultimately spread over nearly the whole of Europe, the system becoming somewhat contracted on the 8th, and afterwards moving away to the south-eastward and southward. The second passed steadily eastwards across the United Kingdom on the 14th and 15th, and afterwards north-eastwards to Scandinavia. After the 17th it spread southward and westward, its influence remaining over Western Europe until the 24th, when it moved away in an easterly direction.

**Winds** were chiefly from the South-westward or Westward in the north, but were rather variable over England. On our south-west coasts there was a large proportion of wind from the Eastward (North-east to South-east). Gales were experienced in most places at the beginning and end of the month, and again on some parts of our northern coasts on the 13th and 14th. They were, however, of no great severity for the time of year.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from about 56° in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 52° and upwards on our south and south-west coasts generally to 49° and less over central Ireland, and to 48° and less over the northern parts of the English midland counties, and also in the Shetlands and Hebrides. At most of the inland stations in Scotland the mean values were higher than in the central parts either of England or Ireland, the distribution of temperature in this respect being quite abnormal. The mean readings were slightly below the average at some stations in Central England but above it elsewhere, the excess being largest in the northern and extreme southern parts of the Kingdom, where it amounted in most cases to over two degrees. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 17th and 19th, when the thermometer rose to 65° and upwards in most districts, to 71° at Llandudno and Jersey and to 76° at Lairg. *Lowest* readings occurred as a rule either on the 14th or 15th or between the 19th and 21st, but at many stations in Ireland and the north of Scotland they were observed on the 5th or 6th. Frost occurred at most stations in these districts on the dates mentioned, the lowest readings of all being 23° at Glenlee and 25° at Braemar and Ochtertyre. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·38 in. at Scilly and 0·32 in. and upwards on our southern and extreme western coasts generally to 0·27 in. and less over the east of Scotland and the northern and central parts of England, and to 0·25 in. at Loughborough. *Relative Humidity* varied from 94 per cent. at Loughborough and 90 per cent. and upwards over the northern and central parts of England and Ireland generally, to 83 per cent. at Holyhead, 79 per cent. at Jersey and 78 per cent. at Aberdeen.

**Rainfall** was less than the average\* in most districts, and especially in the east of Scotland, where the amount was in many cases less than half the normal. At some stations in the west of Scotland, however, and at one or two places in the central parts of England there was a slight excess. The largest aggregates reported were 10·8 ins. at Glencarron, 9·2 ins. at Fort William and 6·5 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 0·8 in. at Aberdeen, 0·9 in. at Nairn and Leith, and 1·1 in. at Jersey. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded in many parts of England on the 1st (the heaviest reported being 1·7 in. at Rothamsted), in the west of Scotland on the 2nd and the 10th and 11th, and at one or two stations in the western parts of Great Britain on the 29th. Hail and sleet occurred in the north of Scotland on the 11th and 12th.

**Bright Sunshine** was considerably in excess of the average\* in most places, but showed a slight deficiency at some stations in the north of Scotland. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from between 50 and 54 at most of the English channel stations to 27 in London and at Edinburgh, to 23 at Glasgow, and to between 22 and 25 in the north of Scotland generally.

\* 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.