

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND AT GIBRALTAR AND MALTA, WITH A CHART OF RAINFALL CONTRIBUTED BY THE BRITISH RAINFALL ORGANIZATION.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

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Windy and sunless but warm; Wet in the far North, dry in the South.

The weather of this month was unusually consistent. The wind over the British Isles was from the west on nearly every day, and overcast skies and comparatively high temperatures were the rule. In the south there was not much rain, but in Scotland the month was decidedly wet. In the west of Ireland there was unusual amount of fog. In England conditions were favourable for agricultural work: thus the observer at Allan's Green (Northumberland) reports "All the potatoes and most of the roots have been got off the land in first rate order. Ploughing is also well forward. I do not remember it so advanced for many years." At Weston Turville (Bucks) "Great progress was made with winter sowing." In Ireland there was sufficient fine weather in the middle of the month for lifting potatoes and other urgent work.

Air Pressure.—The month opened with a depression (marked A in the track-map on page 123, and K on the map for October, page 111) centred between Iceland and Norway, and unsettled conditions over the British Isles. By the fifth of the month a south-westerly current was well established, a belt of high pressure stretching from the Azores to Central Europe, and low pressures being found in the far north. The map was not much modified by the passage of the depressions C to F, which passed between Scotland and Iceland during the period from the 5th to the 12th. From the 12th to the 23rd Southern England was well within the area of high pressure, but Scotland was affected by depressions, the centres of which passed in succession towards Norway from the north of Iceland. The Lows of the last week of the month might be regarded as secondaries of a large Scandinavian depression; they all passed between Scotland and Iceland. Weather in the British Isles was most affected by the one marked H, which moved across the North Sea to Denmark on the 25th. The North wind on its western borders brought in a sudden drop of temperature, with some snow and rain; there was an equally sudden rise of temperature the next day.

The comparatively simple meteorological conditions of the month are reflected in the map of mean pressures (p. 123), which shows a general excess of pressure above the normal. The run of the isopleths of mean pressure is roughly east and west and does not differ much from the normal, but the gradient is much steeper, the difference of pressure between Jersey and Shetland being 18 mb. as compared with the normal value 7 mb.

Wind.—As in October there was a large excess of westerly winds during the month. At Scarborough an easterly component was reported only once after the 3rd. At Shrewsbury there was a light breeze from the south-east on the 4th associated with the shallow depression B, otherwise there is no entry of a wind with an easterly component during the month. At the telegraphic stations on the northern and western coasts, the wind was estimated as reaching gale strength on about 6 days. The mean speed for an hour of 17 m/s., which is conventionally adopted as the equivalent of gale force for an anemometer at 33 feet above ground in the open, was exceeded by the Southport anemometer which is at 32 feet, during 44 hours distributed over 9 days. The Holyhead (40 feet) and Kingsdown (27 feet) anemometers recorded winds of like strength for 37 and 33 hours respectively.

The strongest gales were recorded during the passage of the depression H to the north of Scotland between the 24th and 25th when 29 m/s. was the average for an hour at Fleetwood (44 feet), 27 m/s. at Southport and 25 m/s. at Holyhead. The highest gust of the month 38 m/s or 85 m/h was recorded at Southport the same night.

Rainfall.—The rainfall of the month was closely associated with the passage of the successive depressions, and was heavy in the north and especially in the west of Scotland, but light in most parts of England. The largest fall of the month in south-west England, about 25mm., came on the 3rd, when the shallow depression B was moving across to France. Over the greater part of England the fall was largest on the 26th, when there was a good deal of hail and snow. The middle period of the month from the 11th to the 25th was free from rain in the southern counties. In the south of Ireland the greatest fall (up to 20mm.) was on the 11th. In the north rain was frequent at the beginning and end of the month. At Glenarm Castle, Co. Antrim, 32mm. fell on the 6th and 28mm. on the 26th, and 183mm. were recorded during the month. In south-east Scotland rainfall

was somewhat below the normal, but in the north and even more so in the west, aggregates showed, as in October, a very large excess, and various places had at least twice the average. At Rothesay (265mm.) the month appears to have been the wettest November for at least 100 years; at Poltalloch, in Argyllshire (298mm.), it was the wettest for at least 50 years; and at Glenquoich, in Inverness-shire (696mm.), the wettest for at least 40 years. At Kinlochquoich the aggregate was as much as 915mm. Heavy rains were general on the night of the 5th, as much as 51mm. being measured at Kilmarnock; from the 7th to the 23rd there were few falls of importance, except in the northern and north-western counties. On the 23rd Kinlochquoich had as much as 114mm. From the 26th to the 30th conditions were extremely unsettled and there were abnormally heavy falls in the west and north-west. At Kinlochquoich there were five days from the 26th to the 30th with an aggregate of as much as 423mm. made up as follows:—87+72+148+44+72. This station is in the western Highlands 560 feet above sea level and is no doubt representative of a large area. The observer at Fordon Loch Awe, in Argyllshire, noted that it "rained continuously from the morning of the 26th to the evening of the 30th, except for a few hours in the afternoon of the 27th." There was snow here and there in Scotland about the 6th, and from the 24th to the 26th a passing touch of wintry weather with moderate snowfalls, which quickly disappeared. Flooding occurred in places on the 6th, and to a serious degree in the Beaulieu district and elsewhere at the end of the month.

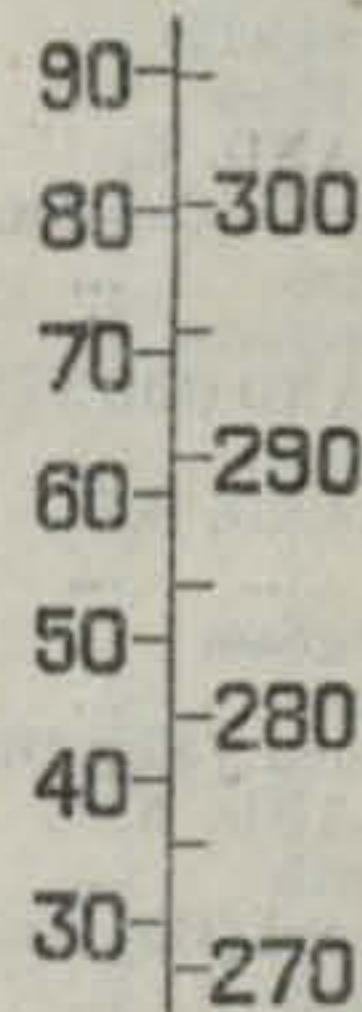
Sunshine.—The month was a cloudy one in all parts of the British Isles and more especially in Ireland. At Birr Castle, King's County, there were 24 days on which it was overcast or nearly overcast at each of the three observations, the mean duration of Sunshine was 0.87hr. as compared with the normal for November 2.13 hr. The map (p. 123) indicates that there was most sunshine (2.6 hr. per day) in the Isle of Wight; the Cornish coast which normally receives over 2.5 hr. in November had much less, 1.0 hr. being the figure for Newquay. At Ilfracombe, North Devon, the average was only 0.6 hr. In England N.W. as well as in Ireland the amount of sunshine was also below normal. On the other hand in the east of Scotland there was rather more than usual, two hours and more being recorded at Aberdeen and at Dundee. Presumably a Föhn effect is to be traced in this last circumstance; the West winds lose their moisture as they cross the Highlands and bring comparatively clear skies to the east coast.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was above the normal everywhere by 1.5 a. on the average. This result is to be attributed to the small daily range, low temperatures being rare throughout the month. In Scotland and on the south coast of England the highest temperature of the month was 28.9a. and was reached on the 21st—a dull day with strong wind from the West. The highest figure, 28.9a., was recorded at Scaleby, near Carlisle on the 28th.

The lowest temperature for the month occurred at most places on the 26th, with a strong North wind. At Eskdalemuir the minimum was 26.8a. on that occasion and at Dungavel (Co. Lanark) 26.7a. These are high level stations 800 feet above sea level. On the coast the minimum for the month occurring on the same night was remarkably high, 27.4a. at Scarborough, 27.5a. at Malin Head, Co. Donegal, 27.5a. at Holyhead, and 27.8a. at Hartland Quay, North Devon, and in the Channel Islands. At many inland stations about a dozen ground frosts were recorded, the number rising to 19 at Braemar and Logie Coldstone in Aberdeenshire.

Solar Halo observations were reported at Oxford and Clacton on the 6th, at Oxford, Tenbury (Worcester) and Bromyard (Hereford) on the 11th, at Greenwich on the 12th, and at Dublin on the 13th. A lunar halo was seen at numerous stations in England south-east on the night of the 27th, the observer at Canterbury mentioning it as the "biggest and plainest I have ever seen."

Aurora were observed in the Shetland and Orkney Isles and at Aberdeen and Whitby on the 12th, and in the Shetlands again on the 13th.



Temperature Scales.