

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: YORK HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON W.C.2; 13A CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH 2; 39-41 KING STREET, MANCHESTER 2; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any bookseller.

VOL. 61. No. 10.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Price 1s. 0d. net, Post-free 1s. 1d.

Annual Subscription, including  
Annual Summary and Introduction,  
15s. 0d. post-free.

## OCTOBER, 1944.—Unsettled; rather cold; wet on the whole

Unsettled, rather cold and mainly dull weather, with frequent falls of rain, prevailed during October. Rainfall exceeded the average generally but over an area extending from the Firth of Forth to the Wash there was a deficiency.

During the opening days of the month a large anticyclone was situated westward of the British Isles. On the 2nd and 3rd, a depression moved south-east from a position near Iceland to Denmark. Showers and local thunderstorms occurred on the 1st and rain or showers, heavier locally in Scotland, on the 2nd and 3rd. On the 4th and 5th a ridge of high pressure associated with the Atlantic anticyclone moved slowly south-east over the British Isles and was followed by a trough of low pressure. Further rain or showers and local thunderstorms were experienced. Subsequently from the 6th-9th an extension of the anticyclone westward of Ireland lay over the British Isles and a period of comparatively fair weather ensued although slight rain or drizzle and some fog occurred locally, particularly from the 7th-9th. Good sunshine records were obtained over England and Wales and south-west Ireland on the 6th.

A period of very unsettled weather ensued from the 10th-24th. On the 10th a deep depression was centred off south-west Iceland, where it remained almost stationary becoming less deep, until the 12th. Meanwhile on the 10th an associated trough moved east over the British Isles and on the 11th and 12th, a vigorous secondary depression moved northward over this country from the south of Ireland. On the 13th and 14th a new depression off north-west Ireland moved east and then turned north. Rain fell daily during this period and was heavy at times, particularly on the 11th and 13th. Thunderstorms occurred at numerous places on the 11th and 12th and gales were reported between the 11th and 14th; the gales on the 11th were widespread and severe in England and Wales. On the 15th and 16th a depression west of Ireland moved across the British Isles, on the 17th a deep depression southward of Iceland and an associated trough moved east, and on the 18th a new, deep secondary depression moved east across the north of Scotland. Very disturbed weather persisted with heavy rain and local thunderstorms. Gales were reported on the 17th-19th. On the 20th and 21st a deep depression off west Ireland moved south-east to France: on the 20th rainfall was general and heavy and there were rather widespread gales but only slight rain or showers were reported on the 21st. On the 22nd a ridge of high pressure moving south-east over the British Isles gave a short interval of less unsettled weather, but on the 23rd a trough of low pressure over Ireland moving east was associated with general rain and local thunderstorms.

Thereafter a short period of more settled weather ensued with the south-eastward passage of a ridge of high pressure on the 24th and 25th, but even on these days rain occurred in some districts. On the 26th and 27th a depression moved east over Iceland and an associated trough moved more quickly east over the British Isles causing rain generally on the 26th and showers and bright periods on the 27th. On the 28th and 29th a depression moved south over Britain: there were showers and local thunderstorms. During the closing days a ridge of high pressure over Scotland associated with the Atlantic anticyclone moved slowly south giving a mainly fair day on the 30th. On the 31st, however, shallow troughs moving south caused some rain.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average: at 6 h. the deviations from the average ranged from -0.5 mb. at Tiree to -3.7 mb. at Lympne. Gales were reported on the 3rd-4th, 11th-14th and 17th-20th. The gale was widespread and severe in England and Wales on the 11th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 65 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 4th, 97 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head, 89 m.p.h. at Scilly, 78 m.p.h. at Ringway (Manchester), 72 m.p.h. at Plymouth and 70 m.p.h. at Southport and Boscombe Down all on the 11th and 67 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 12th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was about average in the north of Scotland and below the average elsewhere, the deficiency being largely due to low day maxima. The coldest spells occurred on the whole during the first five days and the last week. There was no really warm spell; for example, at Hampstead the absolute maximum temperature 58.5°F. was the lowest registered for October since records were begun in 1910. The mildest spell occurred on the whole between the 6th and 21st. Screen frost was most widespread on the 2nd and from the 28th-31st.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 67°F. at Fowey on the 8th, 26°F. at Santon Downham on the 28th; (Scotland) 66°F. at Dunoon (Benmore) on the 6th, 23°F. at Eskdalemuir on the 2nd and at Braemar on the 30th; (Northern Ireland) 61°F. at Lisburn on the 7th, 31°F. at Hillsborough on the 30th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 115 over England and Wales, 123 over Scotland and 151 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average occurred over a large area stretching from Edinburgh to the northern borders of the Wash and extending west to cover Nottingham, parts of Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire and the eastern portion of Dumfries. Somewhat less than the average was received also locally in Cornwall, Dorset and the Isle of Wight and the extreme north-east tip of Aberdeenshire. Less than 75 per cent. was registered in small coastal strips in south-east Scotland and north-east England. More than 150 per cent. occurred over much of Northern Ireland, at many places on the west coast of Scotland and in the western Isles, over a narrow inland strip in Wales, in the extreme east of England from north of Felixstowe to Margate, in a small area in Wiltshire and a few isolated places elsewhere. A very wet period occurred from the 11th-20th. Rain fell very frequently, measurable falls being registered at Tiree and Garvagh on 29 days and at Achnashellach and Castlerock on 28 days. At Wakefield, the number of rain-days, namely 26, was the greatest for October since 1906.

Among the largest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 3rd. 2.43 in. at Derry Lodge, near Braemar.
- 11th. 2.39 in. at Broadford, Skye, 2.35 in. at Arisaig.
- 13th. 2.27 in. at Aitnach, Deeside.
- 19th. 3.65 in. at Fofanny Reservoir, Mourne Mountains, 2.28 in. at Abergorlech, Carmarthen.
- 20th. 2.12 in. at Bridge of Dye (Kincardine).

Local thunderstorms were reported rather frequently for the season, mainly on the 1st, 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 16th-18th, 20th, 23rd, 28th and 29th.

Snow or sleet fell locally in Scotland on the 1st, 3rd, 17th, 23rd, 24th and 26th-28th. Sleet was reported at Whipsnade on the 4th, snow at Lake Vyrnwy on the 16th, sleet at Bishops Court, Northern Ireland on the 24th, at West Kirby and Princetown on the 28th and at Hastings on the 29th.

**Sunshine.**—Broadly speaking in Great Britain sunshine was below the average except in England, S.W. and S. Wales. In Scotland an excess was registered in the Orkneys and a slight excess locally in the south-west. In England and Wales percentages of the average were variable; for example, the percentage was only 65 at Keswick and 71 at Sheffield, but 123 at Haverfordwest and Tenby.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred fairly frequently, particularly at some inland stations in England. It was reported mainly from the 5th-11th, 15th-16th, 21st-27th and 29th-31st and most often during the night or early morning.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 16 nights: the display on the 14th was one of the finest in recent years and was seen in all parts of Scotland. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 9 days.