

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

APRIL 1896.

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General Summary.—During the earlier half of the month the weather was changeable and showery, with thunder and lightning in various places, and with hail, snow, or sleet showers at many of the northern and eastern stations between the 10th and 13th. Later on the conditions became fair and dry, and in some parts of central and southern England no rain fell after the 17th. Thunderstorms were, however, experienced in Lancashire on the 28th, and in the eastern and southern parts of Great Britain on the 29th or 30th. Pressure was above the average, excepting in the extreme north; temperature was high, especially in the north-east; the winds were mostly from the Westward; rainfall was considerably less than the normal in all but the extreme northern and north western districts; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in the western and northern parts of Great Britain, but rather deficient elsewhere.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·25 ins. and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts to a little below 29·9 ins. in the Shetlands, the values being above the average* at all but the extreme northern stations, and especially so in the south-west, where the excess amounted to nearly four-tenths of an inch. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 19th and 21st, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards at many of our southern stations, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards in nearly all other parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 28th or 29th, when the mercury fell to between 29·3 ins. and 29·5 ins. in Scotland, and to 29·8 ins. or less over the southern portions of our islands. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The Atlantic depressions passed as a rule well to the northward of our islands, and travelled across the northern parts of Scandinavia. In one or two instances, however, the centre of the system advanced sufficiently near the Scotch coasts for its track to be shown on Map, 2 Pl. IV. No serious disturbance was observed at any time.

Anticyclones.—During the first week a large anticyclone extended from the Atlantic over the greater part of Western Europe. After the 5th, however, the system began to move southwards, and by the 9th its influence had disappeared from all but our southern coasts. After a very temporary extension on the 13th, the anticyclone again spread northwards on the 18th and steadily increased in size until it embraced nearly the whole of Europe. On the 21st the system began to move westwards, while on the 23rd it pursued a southerly course, and finally passed away from our neighbourhood on or about the 25th.

Winds were chiefly from the Westward. On our southern coasts scarcely any gales were reported, but in the west there were two or three, while at Wick and Aberdeen there were as many as five.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from between 50° and 51° over the south-western and extreme southern parts of the United Kingdom and also over the St. George's Channel, to 45° and less in the Shetlands. The distribution in the intervening regions was somewhat irregular, an area of cold (46° and less) being situated over the east coasts of England, and an area of relative warmth (49° and upwards) over the south-east of Scotland. Compared with the average* for the years 1871–90 the values showed an excess in all places, the departure from the normal being greatest (three and a half to four and a half degrees) in the east of Scotland and the north-east of England. *Highest* readings were recorded as a rule at various times between the 20th and 27th, when the thermometer rose to 65° and upwards in nearly all districts, and to 69° at Ochertyre, Geldeston, Stamford, and Londonderry. *Lowest* readings were observed at somewhat irregular times in the various districts, but mostly between the 1st and 3rd in England and Ireland, and on the 15th in Scotland. On one or other of these dates frost was experienced at nearly all the inland stations, the lowest readings of all being 24° at Nairn, 25° at Llandovery, and 26° at Fort Augustus and Glenlee. *Range* was moderate for the time of year. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·30 in. or a little more over the south-west of England and the greater part of Ireland, to 0·24 in. and less in the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from a little above 90 per cent. on our extreme north and north-west coasts, and a trifle above 85 per cent. in the south-west of England, to 78 per cent. in London and to only 70 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall exceeded the average* in the north of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland. In all other districts, however, there was a large deficiency, the amount being less than half the normal in many places and less than one-fourth of the normal at several of our southern stations. The largest aggregates for the month were 8·7 ins. at Glencarron, 3·7 ins. at Sumburgh Head and Laudale, and 3·6 ins. at Fort William; the smallest being 0·3 in. at Roche's Point, Plymouth, and Prawle Point, and 0·4 in. at Kilkenny and Dungeness. On our extreme north and north-west coasts the number of rainy days varied from 20 to 25, but at some of our southern stations there were less than 10 such occasions, and at Roche's Point only 4. Snow or sleet was experienced over the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain between the 10th and 13th.

Bright Sunshine was fairly abundant in the western and northern parts of Great Britain as a whole, though rather deficient in the north of Scotland. In all other places the amount was less than the average. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 48 at Falmouth, and 40 and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, to 22 at Fort William and 21 at Fort Augustus.

* 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.