

# SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS.

SEPTEMBER, 1905.

**General Summary.**—Though the period under review was occasionally of a very unsettled character, the disturbances which reached our shores were, as a rule, of no great intensity, and the few gales they brought were, comparatively, unimportant. In the first and last weeks the weather generally was very dull, with frequent rains which in some localities were heavy. In various parts of England thunderstorms were experienced at times. There was a marked absence of any very warm days in every part of the country, but the nights were usually of moderate mildness, and only at a few of the more open situations was there a slight frost registered. An earthquake shock was felt in the neighbourhood of Stirling on the 21st. For the month as a whole pressure did not differ much from the normal, being slightly deficient over the east of England; the winds were mainly North-Westerly to Northerly and Easterly along the English Channel, and South-Westerly to North-Westerly elsewhere; temperature and rainfall were nearly everywhere in defect; and bright sunshine was in excess generally over North Britain, and in defect elsewhere.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·00 ins. at Roche's Point, and above 29·95 ins. over the greater part of England and Ireland to below 29·85 ins. in the north of Scotland, and to 29·80 ins. at Sumburgh Head. The values were slightly below the average\* over the eastern and south-eastern counties of England, but the excess over the rest of the Kingdom was not large, nowhere amounting to as much as 0·05 in. (0·045 in. at Blacksod Point). The distribution of mean pressure was in fair agreement with the normal, except that the highest values were on the south-western coasts instead of over the north of France. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 1st, 30·38 ins. at Valencia; 14th to 17th, 30·45 ins. at Valencia; 21st, 30·35 ins. at Sumburgh Head; and 29th, 30·30 ins. at Stornoway. *Lowest* occurred on the 7th, 28·91 ins. at Stornoway, 28·95 ins. at Malin Head, and 28·96 ins. at Blacksod Point; on the 3rd, 29·35 ins. at Wick; and on the 27th, 29·47 ins. at Scilly. *Range* was greatest over the north of Ireland, 1·5 in., and least on the south coast of England, 0·75 in.

**Depressions.**—The principal disturbances of the month had their central spaces outside our islands, some travelling on a north-easterly course beyond the northern coasts, others following curved paths off the south-western coasts and round the north of France. That of the 7th, to the north-westward, was a very deep one, the barometer sinking below 29 ins., but the others were much shallower. There were several instances of small secondary irregularities moving across the country.

**Anticyclones.**—For some days round the middle of the month the whole country was covered by a well marked system of high pressure, in which the barometer rose above 30·4 ins. During the rest of the period our islands were only partially affected by anticyclones whose central spaces were at considerable distances to the south-westward, north-westward or north-eastward.

**Winds.**—The prevailing winds were in close agreement with the general distribution of mean pressure, South-Westerly to North-Westerly over the western and northern districts, North-Westerly to Northerly and Easterly in the south and south-east of England. Gale force was attained on 6 days at Jersey, and on 5 days at Portland Bill and Malin Head.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from nearly 59° in the Channel Islands and at Margate, and above 56° over the extreme south and east of England, to below 53° over nearly the whole of the north of Scotland, and to 51·2° at Sumburgh Head. The general distribution did not differ materially from the normal, but the mean values were, with a few unimportant exceptions on the east coast of England and in Scotland, below the average\*, the deficiency being more than a degree in most places, and amounting to 3° at Wisley, 3·1° at Llangammarch Wells, and 4·2° at Bettws-y-Coed. *Highest* values were registered in the first week, in numerous instances on the 3rd or 4th, when 76° was reached at Whitby and Maidenhead, and 75° or 74° at several other English stations, 71° at Kingstown and 70° at Kilkenny Castle and Aberdeen. *Lowest* readings occurred on very varied dates, principally about the 15th in England, the 21st in Scotland, and the 26th in Ireland. At Garforth the minimum was 28°, at Llangammarch Wells, Wokingham and Crathes 29°, and at Bawtry and Braemar 30°. *Range* was as large as 44° at Wokingham, 41° at Alnwick Castle, and 40° at Epsom, Hereford and Oundle, against 19° at Sumburgh Head, Deerness, Spurn Head, Portland Bill and Malin Head, and 15° at Scilly. *Vapour Pressure* ranged from 0·41 in. at Jersey, and 0·39 in. at Dungeness to 0·32 in. at Wick and 0·31 in. at Nairn and Sumburgh Head. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 90 per cent. at Birr Castle and 89 per cent. at Malin Head to 82 per cent. at Shields, Nairn and Wick, and 77° per cent. at Leith.

**Rainfall.**—At nearly every station the rainfall was below the average\*, the deficiency amounting to 2 ins. at Clifton, 2·5 ins. at Roche's Point, and 2·7 ins. at Falmouth. At Fulbeck, however, there was an excess of an inch, at Laudale of 1·9 in., and at Glencarron of 3·4 ins. The largest aggregate totals for the month were 11·1 ins. at Glencarron, 9 ins. at Laudale, and 5·1 ins. at Stornoway. Falls of an inch or more in a day were not numerous, 1·0 in. to 1·5 in. at various north-western stations between the 6th and 9th, 1·3 in. at Valencia on the 21st, and 1·0 in. to 1·8 in. in the eastern counties of England between the 24th and 26th. The number of days with rain ranged from 26 at Blacksod Point and Glencarron and 24 at Stornoway and Lairg, to 9 at Shrewsbury, Bath, Buntingford, Oundle and Kingstown, and 8 in the Forest of Dean.

**Bright Sunshine.**—In most parts of Scotland the duration of bright sunshine was above the average\*, by 27 hours at Deerness and 23 hours at Stornoway. Over England and Ireland the records showed a deficiency, which was very considerable in places, a loss of 63 hours being reported at Jersey, 53 hours at Eastbourne, 52 hours at Ventnor, and 50 hours at Brighton. The percentage of possible duration ranged from 45 at Skegness and 44 at Scilly to 24 at Newcastle and Fort Augustus and 21 at Birmingham.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 30 years 1871–1900; *Rainfall* for the 35 years 1866–1900; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 20 years 1881–1900. See Appendix III. "Weekly Weather Report," 1901.