

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

NOVEMBER 1899.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.
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General Summary.—During the first nine or ten days the weather was in an extremely unsettled state, with heavy rain in most districts, and occasional thunder and lightning in the north-western parts of the Kingdom. Later on, however, a decided improvement occurred on all but our extreme north and north-west coasts, and at some stations in the south and east of England no rain fell after the 10th or 11th. Pressure was above the average, especially over England; temperature was considerably above the normal; the winds were mostly from the Westward or South-westward; rainfall was deficient over the country generally, but exceeded the average in the east and south of England, and also in the western and central parts of Scotland; bright sunshine was in excess of the normal at many of the English stations, but below it elsewhere, and especially in the extreme north and north-west.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 30·20 ins. and 30·25 ins. over the greater part of the English Channel and our southern counties, to a little below 29·70 ins. in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the gradients over our islands were far steeper than usual, the difference between the mean pressure in the extreme north and south being more than twice as great as that shown by the chart of normal values. The readings were, in nearly all cases, above the average,* the excess being slight in the north of Scotland, but large over England, where it ranged between 0·25 in. and 0·30 in. *Highest* readings occurred on the 17th, when the barometer rose to 30·6 ins. and upwards in Ireland, and to 30·7 ins. and upwards in most parts of Great Britain. *Lowest* readings were observed during the passage of the deep depression of the 3rd, when the barometer fell to 28·2 ins. and less in the Shetlands, and to 29·0 ins. and less over Scotland generally, but to very little below 29·5 ins. in the extreme south and south-east of England. *Range* was moderate generally, but large in the extreme north, where it amounted to over two inches.

Depressions.—The track of these lay, as a rule, well outside our western and northern coasts, the centres being, in many cases, too distant for their positions to be shown on Map 2, Plate XI. During the latter half of the month several large disturbances advanced over northern Europe, apparently from the north-westward.

Anticyclones.—An anticyclone spread over our islands from the south-westward on the 11th, but moved away to the eastward on the 13th. Next day, however, a larger and more permanent system extended from the north-westward over the United Kingdom, and later on over the whole of western and central Europe. On the 20th this receded temporarily to the westward, but on the following day it again spread eastwards, and remained over all the more southern parts of our islands and the Continent until the end of the month.

Winds were chiefly from the Westward or South-westward, with frequent gales in the west and north; at Blacksod Point and Valencia the wind reached the force of a gale on 13 days, and at Aberdeen on as many as 16 days. The storms were, however, of no great severity for the time of year.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 53° and upwards in the Scilly Islands, and from 51° and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, to 47° and less in several distinct areas lying over various parts of our northern and eastern districts. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were considerably above the average,* the excess varying from a little under 4° at several stations in the east and south of England, to between 5° and 6° in many parts of Scotland and the north of Ireland, and to as much as 6·3° at Newton Reigny. Over the northern parts of the Kingdom as a whole the mean temperature was the highest registered in November since at least the year 1871. *Highest* readings occurred mostly on the 4th or 5th, when the thermometer rose to 60° or slightly above it in most parts of the United Kingdom, to 65° at Dublin and to 66° at Jersey. *Lowest* readings were registered at various times between the 17th and 20th, when frost occurred in most districts, the lowest temperatures reported being 22° at Stamford and Llandovery, and 23° at Braemar and Cirencester. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·36 in. at Pembroke, and 0·32 in. and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, to 0·26 in., or a little less, over central England and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 92 per cent. at Donaghadee, and 91 per cent. at Malin Head and Pembroke, to 81 per cent. at Aberdeen, and 79 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in the north-west of Ireland and the central parts of Scotland, as well as at many stations in the south and south-east of England. Elsewhere the amount was less than the normal, the deficiency being large over some of the northern and central parts of England. The largest aggregates reported were 16·6 ins. at Glencarron, 12·7 ins. at Fort William, and 10·4 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 0·7 in. at Spurn Head, 1·1 in. at Bawtry and Liverpool, and 1·2 in. at Shields and Stamford. In the south and east of England the rainfall was confined almost entirely to the first nine days of the month, in London there was no measurable quantity after the 11th, and at Oxford none after the 10th. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were reported in the north-western parts of the Kingdom on several occasions. Between the 2nd and 3rd, and again on the 7th, they occurred far more generally, while on the 5th heavy falls were experienced only in the south and east of England. The largest daily amounts reported were on the 7th, when 2·1 ins. fell at Braemar, 2·0 ins. at Glenlee, and 1·9 in. at Ochtertyre; and on the 3rd, when 1·8 in. fell at Southampton, and 1·7 in. at Braemar, Glenlee, and Newton Reigny. At Sumburgh Head and Laudale there were 27, and at Glencarron 28 days with a measurable quantity of rain.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient over the country as a whole, but exceeded the average* at several of the English stations. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 33 at Scilly and 30 at Jersey and Dublin, to 7 at Deerness and Glasgow, and to only 5 at Fort Augustus and Fort William.

* 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.