

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

APRIL 1897.

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General Summary.—The changeable weather noticed in so many previous months continued throughout the greater part of April, the conditions being especially unsettled in the earlier half of the period, with snow or sleet showers in many places. Thunder and lightning occurred in the south of England on the 7th and 27th, and in many parts of the United Kingdom between the 14th and 16th, or on the 28th. Pressure and temperature were each below the average; the winds varied a good deal in direction; rainfall was rather deficient in many of the northern and eastern districts, but exceeded the normal elsewhere, especially in the south-west; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in the north, but deficient in the south.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·85 ins. and upwards over the central and south-eastern parts of England and the eastern parts of the Channel, to 29·75 ins. and less in the Hebrides. The general distribution over the country agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were below the average,* the deficit being everywhere slight, but greatest on our extreme western and northern coasts. *Highest* readings occurred as a rule on the 10th, when the barometer rose to 30·3 ins. and upwards in the south-western districts, and to 30·2 ins. and upwards in all localities excepting the north of Scotland. In the north-eastern parts of Great Britain, however, the barometer was highest (30·3 ins. and upwards) on the 22nd or 23rd. *Lowest* readings were observed over the country generally early on the 1st, when the mercury fell below 28·9 ins. at several of the English Channel stations, and below 29·3 ins. on all but our extreme north and north-west coasts. In the latter regions the lowest readings (29·0 ins. to 29·2 ins.) occurred on the 13th or 14th. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—Early in the month several depressions advanced over our southern districts from the westward, the most important being that which passed along the English Channel on the 1st. Later on the Atlantic depressions pursued a more northern course, their centres moving as a rule too far outside our north-western and northern coasts for the tracks to be shown definitely on Map 2, Pt. IV. On the night of the 17th a rather deep secondary was developed over the North Sea, the system ultimately moving on to the Baltic and Finland, where it gradually dispersed.

Anticyclones.—During the earlier half of the period anticyclonic systems were located both over the south-western and the extreme northern parts of the Continent. After the 20th a new system was developed off our own northern coasts, but in the closing days of the month this moved away slowly to the south-eastward, pressure being eventually highest over the eastern and central parts of Europe.

Winds.—Varied greatly in direction, but in the west the Easterly current seems to have been the most pronounced. Scarcely any gales were reported on our east coasts, but in the south-west and extreme north they were somewhat frequent, the number of days affected being as large as 10 at Scilly, 8 at Prawle Point, and 7 at Valencia and Jersey.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 49° and upwards in the Channel Islands, and 48° and upwards over the western parts of the Channel generally, as well as at a few isolated stations in the south of England, to 44° and less in the north of Ireland, and to 42° and less in the north of Scotland. The general distribution was of a fairly normal character, but the actual readings were below the average,* on all but the east and south coasts of England, the deficit being greatest (2° to 3°) in the north of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland. *Highest* readings occurred between the 26th and 29th, when the thermometer exceeded 65° at many of the English stations, and reached 69° at Oxford and Southampton, and 70° at Llandoverly. In Ireland and Scotland the thermometer did not as a rule exceed 60°. *Lowest* readings occurred mostly between the 1st and 3rd, but in many of the central and southern parts of England on the 5th. The frost which prevailed in the north of Scotland early on the 3rd was unusually sharp for the time of year, the sheltered thermometer falling to 13° at Braemar, 18° at Lairg, and 23° at Nairn and Glencarron. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·30 in. at Scilly, and 0·28 in. and upwards in the south-west of England generally, to 0·22 in. and less in the north of England and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 93 per cent. at Ardrossan and Pembroke, and 92 per cent. at Wick and Prawle Point, to 76 per cent. at Aberdeen, and 74 per cent. at Liverpool.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in all districts excepting the north of Scotland, the extreme south of that country, and at many stations in the northern and eastern parts of England. Over the south-western parts of the kingdom the excess was very large, the total amount being in some places more than twice as much as the normal. The largest aggregates for the month were 5·9 ins. at Foynes, 5·7 ins. at Falmouth, and 5·6 ins. at Arlington; the smallest being 0·7 in. at Nairn, and also at Dungeness, 0·8 in. at Lairg and Leith and 1·1 ins. at Spurn Head. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were somewhat rare, but on the 3rd, 1·2 ins. fell at Parsonstown, while on the 13th an equally large amount fell at Braemar. During the early part of the month snow or sleet showers occurred in many parts of the United Kingdom, more particularly in the north and east.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* over the northern parts of Great Britain, but was deficient elsewhere, especially in the south-west of England. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 47 at Stornoway, 42 at Gilcrux, and 41 at Margate, Blackpool, and Southport, to 28 at Falmouth, and 26 at Scilly.

* 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.