

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

(Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report.)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM THE RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM,
WITH A CHART CONTRIBUTED BY THE BRITISH RAINFALL ORGANISATION.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE,

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS.

General Summary.—For the time of year the period under review was marked by very quiet weather conditions, more especially during the first three weeks, when the distribution of pressure was mainly anticyclonic, there being only one important disturbance, which passed swiftly eastward beyond Scotland in one night, and occasioned the severest and most widely felt gale of the month. Perhaps the most striking feature of this quiet spell was its extremely mild and humid character, the air temperature being well above the normal for the season. Notwithstanding the dampness of the atmosphere, the rainfall records for the three weeks disclose amounts below the normal over nearly the whole Kingdom, the general deficiency over south-western England being an inch, over southern England and southern Ireland 1·3 in., and over the English Channel 1·7 in. From the 22nd to the 28th formed a much less settled period, low pressure systems prevailing, one of them rather deep, but not producing so much wind as the depression of a fortnight earlier. The weather now became very rainy, with hail or snow daily at a number of stations in various parts of Britain and Ireland. As a rule the falls of hail or snow appear to have been of comparatively little importance. On the 24th, however, the snowfall at Rauceby was 3 ins. deep; on the 25th a heavy fall was reported at Temple Bruer; and on the 26th there was a ceaseless fall at Dunfanaghy, while the observers at Newton Rigg and Uldale described the day's fall as a "blizzard." The precipitation during this unsettled spell was considerably in excess of the normal in most localities, but it was not sufficient to obliterate the deficiency during the preceding period, so that regarded merely from the point of view of the quantity of rain November was, over a large part of the country, a dry month. In the two last days the pressure distribution reverted to a quiet, anticyclonic type.

There was a very marked falling off in the frequency of electrical phenomena, there being few reports even of lightning or distant thunder. On the 12th a thunderstorm was recorded at Kirkby Lonsdale, Morpeth, and at Laudale, and on the following day at Llandudno. Ten days later Llandudno was again visited, another storm passing over Colmonell the same day, and on the 26th a thunderstorm occurred at Ballinacurra and Cork. The thunderstorms of the 27th were the only ones experienced over an extensive area, a considerable number of stations in the southern and eastern counties, from Dorsetshire to Lincolnshire, and also Cronkbourne and Holyhead, in the Irish Sea region, reporting thunder and lightning, many places scattered over a still wider area either thunder or lightning. Next day there was a thunderstorm in various parts of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

The predominance of quiet and damp weather was favourable to the formation of fog, which was rather frequent both inland and on the coasts, the phenomena being reported locally or over an extensive area on as many as 26 days. On the 10th and 11th the fog extended from Yarmouth to Plymouth; on the 12th from Skegness to Dungeness; and on the 29th from Spurn Head to Dover. The fog of the 30th on the Irish Sea was exceptionally dense, necessitating the suspension of all shipping traffic in and out of Liverpool. Inland the fogs were frequently of considerable density, the most singular being the black canopy suspended at a moderate elevation above London on the 20th, the atmosphere in the streets being practically clear even of mist. As a result an intense darkness ruled, so that throughout the day artificial light was necessary in the streets, as well as indoors. In the most distant suburbs the fog was thick at the ground level, and on the next day appeared over the Midland Counties, very dense and occasioning much inconvenience and delay to traffic.

On the morning of the 30th the observer at Southport reported a "silver thaw."

For the month as a whole pressure was above its usual level; temperature was deficient in Ireland, and slightly so in the west of Scotland, generally in excess elsewhere; the winds were mainly from Southerly to Westerly directions, with a considerable proportion of Easterly breezes in the south; rainfall was deficient at the great majority of stations in all districts, and the duration of bright sunshine was rather irregular in its distribution.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·98 ins. at Jersey, and above 29·95 ins. over the southern and midland counties of England to below 29·85 ins. over western and northern Scotland, 29·81 ins. at Stornoway. The general distribution of mean pressure did not differ materially from the normal, but in all cases the actual values were above the average, only slightly, by 0·02 in., at several of the more southern stations, the excess increasing northward, to as much as 0·1 in. at Aberdeen and Sumburgh Head. *Highest* readings were registered on the 15th, 30·43 ins. at Scilly, and 30·42 ins. at Valencia and Roche's Point; on the 18th, 30·44 ins. at Liverpool, and 30·43 ins. at Donaghadee and Shields; on the 21st, 30·39 ins. at Oxford, and 30·38 ins. at Scilly, Jersey, Dover and Clacton-on-Sea; and on the 30th, 30·51 ins. at Donaghadee, and 30·49 ins. at Blacksod Point, Birr Castle and Liverpool. *Lowest* readings were observed on the 12th, 28·88 ins. at Stornoway, and 28·92 ins. at Sumburgh Head; and on the 26th or early on the 27th, 28·83 ins. at Donaghadee and Valencia. *Range* showed a very considerable increase as compared with that reported in several of the preceding months, from 1·1 in. at Jersey, and 1·2 in. generally over the more southern parts of England to 1·6 in. at Malin Head, Valencia and Birr Castle, and 1·7 in. at Blacksod Point and Donaghadee.

Depressions.—Most of the disturbances which came within the limits of observation made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Iceland, and in several instances they passed on north-easterly paths across the western portion of the island, disappearing beyond the Arctic Circle. Of the low pressure systems which visited the British Isles or came near our coasts the majority were comparatively shallow or were merely secondary irregularities of a "V"-shaped formation. The only deep ones were those of the nights of the 12th and the 26th. The former was indicated to the southward of Iceland on the morning of the 12th, and by the following morning its minimum of pressure had already passed Shetland and was nearing the Norwegian coast, eventually travelling away across the Baltic in another 24 hours. Both in Shetland and in the Hebrides the barometer dropped quickly below 29 ins. late on the 12th. The other important disturbance was the deepest of a number which appeared over the country in the fourth week, two of which seem to have coalesced in the night of the 26th-27th, the barometer descending below 29 ins. at a number of places in England, Scotland and Ireland. The progress of the system was very slow, and on the evening of the 28th it dispersed on reaching Cardigan Bay.

Anticyclones.—The principal high pressure systems of the month were found over some portion or other of the Continent—west, north, east and south-east—where they existed for several days in succession. By the evening of the 20th, in a great anticyclone covering eastern Europe, the barometer had risen above 31 ins. at Moscow, touched 31·07 ins., on the evening of the 22nd, then passed slightly below 31 ins. next morning. On the morning of the 22nd the barometer at Moscow read 31·06 ins., and at Seydisfjord, on the east coast of Iceland, 28·42 ins., a difference of 2·64 ins. The minor anticyclones whose central spaces visited the British Isles passed quickly across the country from the Atlantic. On the 6th, one, with the barometer at about 30·4 ins., appeared on the coast of Mayo, soon crossing the north of England. Another, of equal height, reached the south of Ireland on the morning of the 18th and travelled north-eastward to the North Sea. On the 29th one appeared off the north of Ireland, the barometer rising to about 30·5 ins., but by the evening of the 30th the system had been transferred to western Germany.

Winds.—As might be inferred from the distribution of mean pressure there was a marked preponderance of winds from between South and West over the western and northern portions of these Islands, but in the southern and south-eastern districts the direction was more variable, winds from South-Easterly, Easterly and North-Easterly points being frequently reported. Gales were, for the time of year, exceptionally rare over more than a very limited area. In the night of the 12th-13th a strong Westerly gale was felt at Castlebay and Holyhead,

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