

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

MAY 1893.

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General Summary.—During the early part of the month the weather was mostly fine and dry, especially in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. After the middle of the period, however, the conditions became less settled, with decided falls of rain in most districts, and with thunderstorms in places. Pressure and temperature were above the average; the winds were variable; rainfall was fairly abundant over the central parts of England and Ireland but very deficient over our eastern and southern counties; and the amount of bright sunshine, though large in the south and south-east, was below the normal in most of the western and northern districts.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 30·05 ins. and 30·08 ins. over England, Wales, and the Channel, to a little below 30·0 ins. on our extreme north-west coasts, the general distribution showing, as in April, a marked anticyclonic tendency. The actual values were in all cases above the average,* the excess being greatest (0·10 in. to 0·14 in.) over the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain, and least (0·05 in. to 0·06 in.) in the extreme south-west of our Islands. *Highest* readings were observed as a rule between the 7th and 9th, when the barometer rose above 30·3 ins. on all but our extreme southern coasts, and above 30·5 ins. in the north-eastern parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest* readings were recorded on the 17th or 18th, when the mercury fell to below 29·4 ins. in Ireland and below 29·6 ins. in nearly all parts of Great Britain. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The only depressions observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our Islands were two systems of moderate depth which approached the Irish coast between the 18th and 20th. In each case the advance of the disturbance in a north-easterly direction was quickly checked, the system ultimately travelling away again in a north-westerly course over the Atlantic.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems were observed. The first was gradually formed over Europe on the 2nd and 3rd, and remained in existence until the 13th, its central portion being situated for the most part over Scandinavia and Northern Russia. The second, a smaller system, advanced over our Islands from the Atlantic on the 25th and remained with us until the close of the month.

Winds were very variable, and a large proportion of calms prevailed at some of the western and northern stations. An entire absence of gales was reported on many parts of our coasts, and in very few places was there more than one. At Wick, however, there were three such occurrences, and at Valencia four.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 58° and upwards in the Channel Islands and some portions of the south of England, and 56° and upwards over the southern half of Ireland to 53° or less on the east coasts of Great Britain and to 48° or less in the Shetlands. The general distribution was of a more pronounced summer type than usual, and the actual values were everywhere above the average,* the excess being greatest (four to five degrees) over the central and southern parts of England and Ireland. *Highest* readings were recorded on various dates in the different districts, but mostly between the 4th and 6th, or between the 11th and 14th. At the Irish stations the thermometer did not get much above 70°, but over the inland parts of Great Britain the highest reading exceeded 75°, and at Cambridge, Strathfield Turgiss, and Llandoverly it was as high as 80°. *Lowest* readings were registered over Great Britain either on the 1st or 2nd or between the 7th and 11th, but in many parts of Ireland they occurred at the close of the month. Frost was experienced in Scotland, and absolute minima, of very little above 32°, were observed at many inland stations in Ireland and England. *Range* was large,—over 40° in many of the central districts, and as much as 48° at Bawtry and 47° at Cambridge and Strathfield Turgiss. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·30 in. and less in the extreme north and north-east of Scotland to 0·38 in. and more in the Scilly Islands and the south-west of Ireland. *Relative Humidity* amounted to less than 80 per cent. over the central and southern parts of England, the lowest value being 69 per cent. in London. The highest values were 90 per cent. at Stornoway and 88 per cent. at Malin Head.

Rainfall was a little in excess of the average* at some of the central stations in England and Ireland, and also at Glasgow. Elsewhere a deficiency was shown, the weather being again driest in the eastern and southern parts of England, where the total fall amounted as a rule to less than half the average. The largest aggregate amounts were 3·8 ins. at Glencarron and 3·1 ins. at Glasgow, the smallest being 0·4 in. at Dungeness, 0·5 in. in London, and 0·6 in. at Scilly and Hastings. Less than ten rainy days were reported in many parts of our eastern, central, and southern counties, but in our western districts the falls were more frequent, and in the west and north of Scotland the number ranged between 15 and 20.

Bright Sunshine was considerably less than the average* in Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England, but was in excess elsewhere. The percentage of the possible duration was above 50 at several of the Channel stations and as high as 65 at Guernsey and 62 at Jersey. The lowest values were 17 per cent. at Fort Augustus, 25 per cent. at Fort William, and 26 per cent. at Markree Castle, Armagh, and Arley Cottage (County Cavan).

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 20 years 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years 1866–90; *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years 1881–90.