

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

MARCH 1892.

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General Summary.—The weather of this month was of a decided character; sometimes distinctly anticyclonic for days together, at others decidedly cyclonic and complex; the former condition predominating at the early and latter parts of the month, the latter about the middle. Temperature was below the average, and the range was exceedingly large in the north, where the minima on the 16th were unusually low. Rainfall was very deficient, and bright sunshine in excess, especially in the west and south-west.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* varied from 30·05 ins. and more over the Irish Sea and north-east of Ireland to about 30·0 ins. over the Channel and south of England, and to 29·96 ins. at Sumburgh Head. It was, therefore, above the average for March in all districts, the excess varying from 0·21 in. at Sumburgh Head and Aberdeen, and from 0·16 in. at Mullaghmore and Belmullet to 0·08 in. over our eastern counties, and to 0·03 in. at Scilly and Jersey. The distribution was altogether anticyclonic, and gradients were very slight. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 22nd, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and more, in the north and west of our Islands, and to rather above 30·7 ins. in the extreme north-west of Ireland. *Lowest* values were registered on the 15th, when the barometer fell to 29·1 ins. and less in a depression which travelled quickly from the westward over Ireland and England. *Range* was not very large anywhere.

Depressions.—The movements of the principal systems are shown on Map 2, Plate III., and are very interesting; most of them advanced from the north-westward and westward, and the movements of that of the 15th–16th were rapid. One system, however, appeared first over Austria, on the 11th, and moving northwards and north-westwards reached the central parts of the North Sea on the 13th, and finally disappeared off the west of Scotland on the 15th. During the latter part of its progress, in a north-westerly direction, another system was observed over the Bay of Biscay, moving south-eastwards.

Anticyclones.—An anticyclonic system was prevalent over northern Europe early in the month, and between the 3rd and 5th lay immediately over the northern parts of our Islands, when the barometer rose to 30·4 ins. and more in those regions. Towards the 22nd a system of greater intensity appeared off our north-western coasts for a time. Still nearer to the end of the month another anticyclone spread over the kingdom from the Atlantic, and the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and more in many places between the 29th and 31st.

Winds varied greatly, but were chiefly from between West and North at our northern stations, from the South-eastward in the north-west of Ireland, and from between East and North-east over the southern halves of that country and of England. Gales were not of frequent occurrence, though more common in the English Channel than elsewhere. Calms were reported very frequently at Parsonstown, Sumburgh Head, and Nairn.

Temperature.—*Mean for the Month at sea level* ranged from between 41° and 42° in the extreme south-west of England and Ireland, to 35° in the extreme east of Norfolk, to less than 36° over the inland parts of the north of Scotland, and to a little below 38° over the low-lying parts of Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim, as well as over all the northern and inland parts of England. It was below the average* in all parts of the kingdom—the deficiency ranging between 4° and 6° in most districts, but to a smaller extent in the northern parts of Ireland and Scotland. *Lowest* readings were recorded in different districts on very various dates. They were very low in Scotland on the 16th (3° at Braemar, 6° at Nairn), and in many parts of England and the southern half of Ireland, between the 9th and 13th, while in the north of Ireland and west of Scotland the cold was sharp on the 28th and 29th. *Highest* were registered in Scotland and the west of England on the 18th or 19th, but in the north and east of England and over Ireland on the 31st. *Range* was large generally, especially in the north: as much as 58° at Nairn, 52° at Llandoverly, 51° at Glen Carron, 50° at Lairg, and above 40° in many places; at Scilly, however, it was only 22°, and at Yarmouth and Spurn Head 29°. *Vapour Tension* varied from only 0·14 in. over Lancashire and west Yorkshire, and from 0·16 in. in the east of Scotland and over Wiltshire, to 0·19 in. at Yarmouth, to 0·21 in. in the Hebrides and the west of Ireland, and 0·23 in. at Scilly. *Relative Humidity* was lowest, 80 per cent. and less, in the east of Scotland, the Channel Islands, and at Liverpool, and 81 per cent. at Valencia and over our west Midlands; highest, 97 per cent., in the Hebrides, and 90 at several of our western stations and on the extreme south-eastern coasts of England.

Rainfall was very deficient; the aggregate falls varying from 0·4 in. at Braemar, and less than an inch at many of our northern, midland, and Irish stations, to less than 2 ins. at many of the western Scotch stations, to 2 ins. and more in the west of Ireland, and to 3·5 in. at Glen Carron.

Bright Sunshine was in excess, especially at our south-western and western stations. At Newton Reigny, Stonyhurst, Pembroke, and Jersey the hours recorded exceeded the average* by more than 40 hours, or from 11 to 13 per cent. of the possible duration. The largest number of hours registered was 197 at Jersey, 171 at Pembroke, 166 at Valencia, 165 at Newquay.

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