

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS.

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AUGUST, 1925: DULL AND UNSETTLED.

General.—With the exception of a spell of fair to fine weather between the 14th and the 19th, the weather of August was mainly dull and unsettled. The mean temperature, however, was above normal in most districts, due partly to the nights being cloudy and warm. Rainfall was below normal in Ireland and Scotland; in England considerable areas had a decided deficiency, but an excess, mainly in the south of England, brought the total rainfall for the country as a whole to about normal.

During the first two days of the month, shallow secondaries crossed the British Isles; rain or showers fell generally and thunderstorms occurred at a number of places in southern England on the 1st. During the next few days, further rain in Ireland and the southern districts of England and Wales was associated with Atlantic depressions; a secondary to one of these depressions, which moved across the southern part of the British Isles on the 5th, gave rise to thunderstorms and heavy rain in the south-western districts, where precipitation amounted to 31mm. at Falmouth and Plymouth, 28mm. at Cattewater and 27mm. at Torquay. The passage of further secondaries maintained dull and overcast weather with varying amounts of rain and occasional fair periods over the British Isles. At Manchester 34mm. (1.34 ins.) of rain fell on the 10th, 39mm. (1.54 ins.) at Blacksod on the 11th, 41mm. (1.61 in.) at Eskdalemuir on the 12th.

With the advance eastwards of an Atlantic anti-cyclone on the 14th, conditions began to improve. Quiet anti-cyclonic conditions with fair to fine weather prevailed over the British Isles up to the 17th. Good sunshine records were obtained on the 15th, 16th and 17th, and maximum temperatures of 80°F. and above were recorded at a few stations.

On the 18th the anti-cyclone had receded northwards, and an ill-defined belt of relatively low pressure extended from Iceland to Southern France; mainly cloudy or dull weather accompanied by an appreciable fall in temperature was general over the British Isles. A deep depression centred off the south-west of Ireland on the morning of the 21st moved up the English Channel and on the morning of the 22nd was centred over the Channel Isles. Thunderstorms occurred locally accompanied by heavy rain or showers. A secondary to a shallow depression over Northern France was responsible for heavy rain on the 23rd; 44mm. (1.73) were recorded at Calshot and 35mm. (1.38 in.) at Guernsey.

The weather continued unsettled with alternating rainy and fair periods until the 28th, when the Azores anti-cyclone spread north-eastward, causing fairer weather over the greater part of the British Isles with considerable sunshine in the more southerly districts.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport.—Except during the closing days, calmer conditions than usual prevailed almost continuously; but these were accompanied by a good deal of cloud and temperature was exceptionally equable. The air was humid. Visibility varied a good deal. No gales occurred, and the grass thermometer never fell below 40 degrees. Huddersfield.—Warm and slightly cloudy, with a rather high humidity. Skegness.—Driest and dullest August since 1920. The extreme screen minimum temperature for the month was the highest in any August since 1918. Ipswich.—A very dull month, the total sunshine equalling the previous worst record of the memorable August, 1912. Mean temperature slightly above normal owing to the high range of night temperatures due to cloudy skies. In contrast to the gales of 1912, winds have been light and westerly in direction. Walton-on-Naze.—Harvest operations prolonged by rains, and not yet completed. Teignmouth.—The month has been mainly fair. Although the total sunshine was slightly below the average, only 1.53 inch rain was recorded, this amount being only just over half the average (2.58 inch) for August. Mean temperature was slightly above the average. Torquay.—On the whole the weather was unsettled with a good deal of cloud, but temperatures were above normal, and except for the heavy downpour during the night of the 5th, the days were comparatively dry. Dublin.—A showery month but favourable and warm, in fitting character with the summer of 1925. The showery feature was marked during the first thirteen days of the month, rain falling on as many as eleven of those days, and on and after the 20th, which was also the day of the heaviest rainfall—0.215 inch (5mm.).

Pressure.—At the majority of stations, the mean pressure at fixed hours was above the normal, the deviations varying from +0.8mb. at Greenwich to -1.1mb. at Southampton. The isobars of mean

pressure were irregular, but trended roughly from west to east over England and Wales, Ireland and the West of Scotland, so that the prevailing winds were westerly. Over eastern Scotland they trended from south-west to north-east. Winds were light to moderate. At no anemometer station did the wind exceed a speed of 38 m.p.h. for the duration of an hour, whilst the highest number of days of strong winds was seven at Lerwick. Strong winds occurred widely on the 12th and from the 29th onwards. The track chart shows the paths followed by fifteen main depressions, eleven of which passed in the vicinity or across the British Isles.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of districts 1-10 was 59.0°F. In all Districts, with the exception of England S.E. and the Channel Isles, the mean temperature was above normal, but the deviations were small, the greatest excess, 1.0°F., occurring in England N.E. and N.W., and the greatest defect, 0.4°F., in the Channel Isles. The warmest period coincided generally with the sunniest period and extended from about the 14th to the 17th. High temperatures were also recorded on the 8th, 9th, and 31st. Low screen minima were rare, and at most stations ranged between 45° and 50°F. At several stations, the screen minimum thermometer never fell below 50°F. In Scotland it was the warmest August since 1918 and the fourth in succession with a mean temperature above the average.

The extreme screen temperatures for the month were (England and Wales) 84°F. at Sutton-Bonington on 17th and 35°F. at Comondale on 26th. (Scotland) 77°F. at Perth on the 16th and 33°F. at West Linton on 26th. (Ireland) 76°F. at Mountmellick on 15th, Killarney on 16th and Waterford on 31st and 38°F. at Newtownforbes on 25th.

Except for one or two at high level stations, there was an absence of ground frosts. At Southport the grass thermometer never fell below 40°F.

Precipitation.—Precipitation was below normal in all Districts except England S.W., England S.E., England E. and the Channel Isles. This excess of rain in southern England brought the total for the month for England and Wales as a whole to slightly above normal; in many parts of England and Wales, however, there was a decided deficiency. Over the greater part of Scotland there was a deficiency of rain which was most pronounced towards the north-east, where Grantown-on-Spey and Aberdeen had only 40 per cent. of the normal. In Midlothian and some Border and Southern districts there was a moderate excess. Eskdalemuir had 20 days of 1mm. or over. In Ireland rainfall was deficient except over a small area in the south-east, where there was moderate excess. Over Central Ireland and parts of Co. Down and Co. Antrim less than half the normal amount of rain fell. Amongst the heavy falls recorded during the month were 54mm. at Portsmouth and Ventnor and 51mm. at Sandown (Isle of Wight) on the 23rd. At Portsmouth the rain persisted from 19h. on the 23rd to 6h. on the 24th; it was the greatest total in 24 hours since June 5th, 1905, on which date 60mm. fell.

The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal was 89; the values for the several countries were:—England and Wales 101, Scotland 81, Ireland 69.

There were few stations which were entirely free from thunderstorms during the month; at Sheffield and Hutton (Lancs.) thunderstorms occurred on 7 occasions. There were few observations of hail.

Sunshine.—Except in Ireland N. the mean daily duration of sunshine was deficient in all Districts, the greatest deficiency occurring in the Channel Isles. The sunniest period generally was from the 15th to the 17th, when records ranging between 12 hrs. and 14 hrs. were obtained at several stations. Good sunshine records were also obtained on various days during the first week of the month, and during the last few days of the month.

Fog.—The majority of stations were free from fog, the highest number of morning fogs, viz., six, occurring at Oundle and Waterford. Fog was experienced at a few stations in the Midland Counties and on the south-east coast of England on the 17th, and at several stations on the mornings of the 22nd, 23rd and 24th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were of frequent occurrence. Parhelia were observed at Oxford on four occasions and at Aberdeen on the 7th. A beautiful lunar rainbow was seen from Bray and Grey-stones (Co. Wicklow) on the late evening of the 31st. Aurora was observed in Orkney on the 22nd, 25th and 26th.