

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

OCTOBER 1895.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.

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General Summary.—The weather was very changeable,—mild during the early part of the month, with heavy rains, then very cold for the time of year, with frequent showers of snow, hail, or sleet. Between the 24th and 28th thunder and lightning were observed nightly in nearly all parts of our western and southern districts. Pressure and temperature were below the average; the winds varied as a rule between West and North; rainfall was deficient at the more central stations, but in excess of the normal elsewhere; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in most places.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·90 ins. in the south of Ireland, to a little above 29·65 ins. in the Shetlands, the general distribution being favourable for winds from the north-westward rather than from west or south-west, as is usual in October. On our extreme western coasts the values were a trifle above the average,* but in all other districts they were below it, the deficit being greatest in the south-east of England. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 17th or 18th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme northern, western, and south-western coasts; in the south-west it scarcely reached 30·4 ins. *Lowest* readings were observed over the country generally on the 3rd, when they ranged from between 28·9 ins. and 29·0 ins., on our north and north-east coasts, to a little below 29·3 ins. in the southern parts of the kingdom. In the south of England, however, the lowest readings (29·1 ins. and less) were recorded on the 8th. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—Early in the month several depressions appeared in our neighbourhood, the most important being those of the 2nd and 3rd and of the 8th-10th. Later on the larger disturbances kept well away to the northward of our islands, but in the closing week, when a depression advanced from the eastward over the south of Norway, several secondary systems passed southwards across the kingdom, their movements being too irregular to be shown on Map 2, Pl. X.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems were observed. The first extended over our islands from the Atlantic on the 11th, but soon moved away to the southward. The second spread over us from the north-westward on the 16th and continued in force until the 20th, when it quickly dispersed. The third spread in from the westward on the 29th, and after a temporary withdrawal on the 30th, was again making up at the close of the month.

Winds were chiefly Northerly in Ireland and Scotland, but North-westerly and Westerly over England. Gales were rather frequent in the west and north, the number of days being as large as 12 at Scilly, 11 at Donaghadee, and 8 at Aberdeen. As a rule, however, the gales were of very little severity.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 52° and upwards, in the Scilly and Channel Islands, to 45° and less over all the more central parts of Ireland, 43° and less in the north of Scotland, and 42° and less in the extreme south of Scotland. The general distribution was of a more wintry character than is usual in October, and the mean values were everywhere below the average,* the deficit being greatest in the northern and central districts. *Highest* readings were observed very generally on the 1st, when the thermometer rose to between 70° and 75° at many of the inland stations in Great Britain, to 76° at Stamford and to 77° at Hillington. *Lowest* readings were recorded either on the 23rd or 24th, or between the 28th and 30th, when sharp frost prevailed in most districts. In the screen the thermometer fell to 18° at Llandovery, 19° at Churchstoke and Blackpool, and 20° at Stonyhurst and Manchester; while on the surface of the grass it went as low as 13° at Worksop, 16° at Loughborough, and 18° at Gilcrux (Carlisle). *Range* was large, especially at the inland stations, where it amounted in many places to over 50°; at Hillington it was as much as 55°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·33 in. at Scilly to 0·24 in. and less over central Ireland and the greater part of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 90 per cent. and upwards over central England and the north of Scotland to 83 per cent. at Sumburgh Head and Aberdeen, 79 per cent. at Valencia, and 77 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall was rather deficient over central England, the western and central parts of Scotland, and the central and southern parts of Ireland. Elsewhere the fall was more than the average,* the excess being greatest at our extreme north-eastern stations. The largest aggregates for the month were 11·2 ins. at Glencarron, 8·9 ins. at Arlington, 7·4 ins. at Belmullet, and 7·3 ins. at Jersey; the smallest being 1·7 ins. at Stamford, 2·1 ins. at Ochtertyre and Cambridge, and 2·2 ins. at Spurn Head and Hereford. The heaviest falls in a short period were—(1) on the 1st and 2nd in the western and northern districts generally; (2) on the 5th in the south of England; (3) on the 8th and 9th at our north-eastern and extreme south-western stations; (4) on the 11th in the west and north-west of Scotland; and (5) on the 14th and 15th in the south of Scotland and the northern parts of Ireland and England. Between the 22nd and 29th snow or sleet fell in nearly all parts of the kingdom—frequently in the west and north.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average,* at all but a few of our southern stations, where there was a slight deficit. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 42 at Dublin, and 40 at Aberdeen and Jersey, to 20 in London and at Prestwich, and to only 13 at Manchester (Oldham Road).

* 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.