

# SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS.

APRIL, 1902.

**General Summary.**—Over England the weather of April, though of a somewhat changeable character, was mainly fair and dry. In Ireland and Scotland the conditions were less settled, rain being of rather frequent occurrence, especially in the former country. Thunderstorms were experienced at some of our north-western stations on the 3rd, and similar phenomena, or thunder only, occurred in many isolated parts of the kingdom between the 19th and 24th. Pressure was a little above the average; temperature was below the normal in most places; the winds were rather variable over England, but were Easterly on our south-west coasts, and Southerly to Westerly over the northern parts of the kingdom; rainfall varied greatly in amount in different districts; bright sunshine was, as a rule, in excess of the average.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29.95 ins. and upwards over the central and south-eastern parts of England to between 29.85 ins. and 29.87 ins. on our extreme western and northern coasts. The general distribution and the mean gradient agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were slightly above the average\* on all but our south-west coasts. *Highest* readings were recorded either on the 7th or on the 28th or 29th; on the first of these dates the barometer rose to 30.3 ins. and upwards over nearly the whole of Great Britain, similarly high values being recorded on the later occasions over Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England. *Lowest* readings were observed in most places on the 22nd, when the barometer fell a little below 29.0 ins. in the west of Ireland, below 29.3 ins. in the western and northern parts of the United Kingdom generally, and below 29.6 ins. in most of the eastern and southern districts. In the extreme north of Scotland the lowest readings were recorded on the 1st, the barometer at Sumburgh Head falling to a minimum of 28.90 ins. *Range* was moderate.

**Depressions** were rather numerous and moved in various directions (*see* Map 2, Plate IV.). The only disturbances of noteworthy intensity were (1) a system which skirted the north of Scotland on the 1st and which occasioned a whole gale from the north-westward in Caithness; and (2) a depression which moved northwards outside our extreme western coasts on the 19th, a considerable increase of wind from the South-eastward and Southward taking place at the time in Ireland and the west of Scotland. The latter disturbance formed one of a series moving in very similar tracks between the 18th and the 23rd.

**Anticyclones.**—Two such systems were observed. The first spread over our islands from the north-westward on the 6th, and subsequently extended over the greater part of the Continent. After the 9th the southern portion of the system gave way, but for some days afterwards its central area remained almost stationary over Northern Europe. The second extended temporarily south-westwards from Scandinavia on the 24th and 25th, but gradually broke up on the 28th, the portion affecting our islands moving away in a south-westerly direction to the Atlantic.

**Winds** blew in conformity with the distribution of mean pressure, being mainly Easterly on our south-west coasts, but Southerly to Westerly over the northern parts of the United Kingdom; over England they varied greatly in direction. Gales were rare, excepting on our extreme north-west coasts, and were, as a rule, of little severity.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 49° and upwards in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 47° and upwards over the south-western and extreme western parts of the United Kingdom generally, as well as in some parts of the English midland and south-eastern counties, to 44° or less in the north and east of Scotland and to about 42° in the Shetlands. Over the country generally the mean values were below the average,\* but at several stations in the north and east of Great Britain they were above it. In each case the departure from the normal varied considerably in extent in different places, but in no instance was it very large. *Highest* readings occurred, as a rule, either between the 16th and 19th, or on the 24th or 25th, the thermometer on one or other of those occasions rising a little above 60° in most parts of Ireland, and above 65° at many of the English stations; in London and at Cambridge the maximum reading on the 19th was as high as 70°. *Lowest* readings were registered mostly between the 7th and 10th, when frost occurred in nearly all districts; at several places in the northern and central parts of the United Kingdom the sheltered thermometer fell to 25° or less, the lowest reading reported being 21° at Braemar and Cally (Gatehouse). *Range* was generally moderate for the time of year, but amounted to as many as 43° at Cambridge and 44° at Cally. *Vapour Pressure* ranged from 0.29 in. at Scilly, and 0.27 in. or more on most parts of our south and south-west coasts, to between 0.22 in. and 0.24 in. over central Ireland and the northern and central parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* varied from 90 per cent. at Portland Bill, 89 per cent. at Dungeness, and 87 per cent. at Donaghadee to only 76 per cent. in London and at Nairn and Aberdeen.

**Rainfall** varied considerably in amount in different parts of the kingdom. Over Ireland and at some stations in central England, North Wales, and the north and east of Scotland it was in excess of the average.\* In most other localities there was a deficit, the total amount in the south-east of England and at Glasgow and Killarney being less than half the normal. The largest aggregates for the month were 5.7 ins. at Laudale, 3.8 ins. at Valencia, and 3.5 ins. at Edenfel; the smallest being 0.4 in. at Dungeness, and 0.5 in. in London and at Clacton-on-Sea and Littlestone-on-Sea. Over England the number of days with rain was small, less than 10 being reported in several places and only 6 at Littlestone. The heaviest individual fall of anything like a general character occurred on the night of the 21st or early on the 22nd, when more than an inch was measured at several stations in the south of Ireland, and also at Falmouth. Snow fell in many parts of the northern and central districts between the 1st and 5th, and again in the west and north of Scotland on the 11th.

**Bright Sunshine** was in excess of the average\* over the country generally, but amounted to less than the normal in the south-west of England. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 63 at Aberdovey and 50 or more on several other parts of our western coasts, to 40 or less at many of our northern and south-western stations, and to only 30 in London and at Glasgow.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 30 years, 1871–1900; *Rainfall* for the 35 years, 1866–1900; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 20 years, 1881–1900. (The averages will be published shortly as an appendix to the "Weekly Weather Report.")