

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

FEBRUARY 1892.

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General Summary.—The weather of February was very changeable. Pressure was considerably below the average; temperature, as a whole, slightly below, but extremely low between the 17th and 19th, when the values were lower than during any other part of the winter, the minima being 3° below zero, Fahr., in some places. The winds were extremely variable; the rainfall very irregularly distributed, but bright sunshine was in excess of the mean.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* varied from 29·8 ins. and more over the Channel and southern counties of England (29·83 ins. at Jersey), to 29·7 ins. and less in the north of Scotland and the Shetland Islands (29·67 ins. at Sumburgh Head). It was therefore below the average* everywhere, the deficiency varying from 0·21 in. on the extreme east coast of England to about 0·11 in. in the north of Scotland, and to only 0·08 in. at Stornoway. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 13th, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and more in the west of Ireland and to between 30·7 ins. and 30·5 ins. over the other parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* were recorded—at the northern stations on the 1st, when the readings were below 28·1 ins. over the Shetlands, but at the eastern stations on the 18th, when the readings there were below 29·0 ins., and at the south-western stations on the 19th and 20th, when values below 28·9 ins. were registered. *Range* was very large, especially in the extreme north, where it amounted to 2·5 ins.

Depressions.—These were numerous, and varied greatly in intensity as well as in the directions in which they moved. For several of those which appeared over the eastern parts of our area of observation it has been found impossible to draw trustworthy tracks, on account of the suddenness with which the systems were developed and filled up again. The movements of the systems which appeared off our south-western coasts between the 19th and 22nd, also, are not sufficiently well-defined to be shown on Map 2, Plate II. The deepest was that of February 1st-2nd, which skirted our extreme northern coasts.

Anticyclones.—No anticyclone advanced directly over the kingdom, but the system whose eastern parts spread over us from the Atlantic between the 11th and 14th was noteworthy for its intensity; other systems of minor importance appeared, viz., (1) over the Bay of Biscay and south-western Europe during the earlier part of the month, (2) over northern Europe and Russia in the later part of the month.

Winds were extremely variable in direction. In the Shetlands and Hebrides they were mainly Northerly, but the Northerly current drew round to North-west and West on our north-east coasts and to North-east and East in the north-west. At the more southern stations no particular direction preponderated. Gales were somewhat numerous, there being seven to nine recorded at stations on our south and west coasts, eight at Spurn Head, nine at Aberdeen, and ten at Stornoway.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from about 45° at Jersey and Scilly and 43° in the south and south-west of Ireland, to rather below 37° over the eastern and northern counties of England, and to less than 36° over the inland parts of the north of Scotland. It was below the average* by a few degrees, the greatest deficiencies being 3° at Nairn and 2°·0 to 2°·3 at several northern and western stations, the least 0°·1 at some southern stations. *Lowest* readings were recorded very generally between the 17th and 19th, while a cold and variable Northerly current of wind was prevalent, and the thermometer went down to - 2° Fahr. at Braemar and Newton Reigny, to 0° at Loughborough and Ketton Hall, to + 3° at Lairg, 4° at Durham, 6° at Nairn and Glenlee, and 9° at Hillington. *Highest* were recorded in most places between the 7th and 10th; they exceeded 50° in most places, and touched 57° at Ochtertyre and Loughborough, and 56° in several other localities. *Range* was therefore very large—amounting to 57° at Loughborough, 56° at Ketton Hall, and more than 50° at Braemar and Newton Reigny. At Scilly, however, the total range was only 24° and at Sumburgh Head 27°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from a little below 0·18 in. over the midland counties of England and the east of Scotland to nearly 0·20 in. along our east coasts, to 0·22 in. in the south of England, to 0·24 in. in the Channel Islands and west of Ireland, and to 0·27 in. at Scilly. *Relative Humidity* was high, varying from 85 per cent. in the east of Scotland and 86 in the south-west of Ireland to 90 or more in all other districts, to 96 in the south-east coast of England, and to 98 at Stornoway.

Rainfall was very irregularly distributed, considerably below the average* in some regions and above it in others. The largest deficits were 2 ins. and more at Douglas and at Glenlee, and 5·7 ins. at Fort William, while the largest excesses were 2·6 ins. at Scilly, 1·0 at Kilkenny and Wick, and 0·7 in. at Ketton Hall, Stamford.

Bright Sunshine.—The amounts of bright sunshine recorded during the month were much more uniform than is usual during the winter. The largest number of hours were 89 at Pembroke, 87 at Tenby and Falmouth, 86 at Plymouth, 82 at Westbourne, 78 at Southampton, and 74 at Stornoway; the highest per-centages of the possible duration were 31 in South Wales, 30 at Falmouth and Plymouth, 29 at Westbourne, 28 at Newquay and Stornoway. The values are nearly all in excess of the averages* for February, especially as, owing to an absence of calms, there was very little fog.

* 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.