

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

## AUGUST 1901.

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**General Summary.**—Excepting in the week ending the 24th, which was remarkably fine, the weather of August was mostly changeable and showery, the conditions being, however, more favourable in the eastern and southern, than in the western and northern districts. Thunderstorms occurred in many parts of the kingdom between the 10th and 12th, in the east and south-east of England on the 15th, and in several parts of England on the 25th and 26th. Pressure was above the average; temperature was also above it in all but the Irish and north-western districts; the winds were rather variable in Ireland, but chiefly from West or South-west over Great Britain; rainfall exceeded the normal at many of our northern stations, but was deficient elsewhere; bright sunshine was generally in excess of the average.

**Pressure.**—*Mean* at 8 a.m. ranged from 30.05 ins. and upwards over the Channel, the south of England and the extreme south of Ireland to 29.85 ins. and less in the extreme north of Scotland, and to about 29.80 ins. in the Shetlands, the distribution over the country generally being fairly regular. The mean values were, however, above the average,\* and as the excess was greatest (0.10 in. to 0.14 in.) over the southern half of the Kingdom, the gradient was somewhat steeper than that shown by the chart of normal values. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 20th, when the barometer rose to 30.5 ins. and upwards over the north of England and the north-east of Ireland, and to 30.4 ins. and upwards in all other localities excepting the extreme south of England. *Lowest* readings were registered very generally on the 26th, when the barometer fell to 29.3 ins. and less in the north-east of England, and to 29.5 ins. and less in all but the south-western parts of the United Kingdom. *Range* was small in the last-mentioned regions, but about equal to the normal elsewhere.

**Depressions.**—These were few in number, and of no great depth. The most interesting cases occurred:—(1) On the 9th and 10th, when a depression travelled northwards from the north of Spain and the Bay of Biscay over nearly the whole of Great Britain, the system increasing in size and intensity as it passed across England, but gradually filling up on reaching Scotland; (2) between the 25th and 28th when a disturbance, also of increasing importance, advanced to the north of Scotland from the north-westward, and moved, firstly, in a south-south-easterly direction to the north-east coast of England, afterwards north-eastwards across the North Sea, and finally in a north-westerly direction to the westward of Norway.

**Anticyclones.**—Three such systems were observed. The first spread in from the Atlantic at the close of July and dominated a considerable portion of Western Europe until the 4th, when it decreased in size and moved southwards. The second appeared over the Bay of Biscay on the 15th, and subsequently moved north-eastwards, the system being reinforced on the 19th by a new one which extended over our islands from the Atlantic. The combined area embraced nearly the whole of Western, Central and Southern Europe until the 24th, when it quickly dispersed. The third spread from the westward over all the more southern parts of the Continent on the 28th and 29th, and was joined, on the 31st, by a new system which appeared in the first instance over our own north-west coasts, and which afterwards extended south-eastwards.

**Winds.**—Over the major part of Great Britain these were chiefly from West or South-west, the predominance of such breezes being very large on our north-east coasts. In Ireland and the west of Scotland the direction of the wind varied considerably from time to time. Gales were rather infrequent for the time of year, the only important case occurring between the 26th and 28th, when a fresh to strong gale from the North-westward blew on nearly all our coasts.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from a little above 64° in London and at Jersey, and from 63° or more over a considerable portion of the east and south of England to 58° and less over the north of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland, and to rather below 54° in the Shetlands. Over England the general distribution did not differ greatly from the normal, but in Ireland and Scotland the summer type (warm inland, but cool on coast) was less clearly marked than usual. At many stations in Ireland, the west of Scotland, and the north-west of England, the mean values were slightly below the average;\* elsewhere they were, as a rule, a little above it. *Highest* readings occurred at various times,—mostly between the 8th and the 10th in the east of England, but between the 21st and 25th in most other districts. In many parts of England the thermometer rose to 85° or more, and at Hillington it reached 91°; over Ireland and Scotland the absolute maxima were as a rule below 80°, but at Lairg that point was just reached, while at Killarney the thermometer rose to 81°. *Lowest* readings occurred on various dates in Ireland, but mostly on the 28th over England and on the 31st in the north of Scotland, the lowest values reported being 37° at Braemar and 38° at Ochertyre and Edenfel. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0.45 in. and upwards on most parts of our east, south and south-west coasts to between 0.36 in. and 0.38 in. in Scotland and the neighbouring portions of England. *Relative Humidity* varied from 95 per cent. at Pembroke, and 92 per cent. at Sumburgh Head to 77 per cent. in London and at Aberdeen, 75 per cent. at Leith, and 71 per cent. at Jersey.

**Rainfall** was less than the average\* over England and the south of Ireland, the deficit being in many cases very large. In Scotland and the north of Ireland the amounts varied greatly, some stations showing a small deficiency, and others a rather decided excess. The largest aggregates were 8.0 ins. at Glencarron, 6.8 ins. at Laudale and 5.3 ins. at Fort William; the smallest being 0.8 in. at Yarmouth, 1.0 in. at Geldeston, and 1.4 in. at Fulbeck. The number of days with rain was small in the east and south, less than 10 being reported in several places, and only 7 at Geldeston. In the west and north it was larger, especially on the Atlantic coasts; at Sumburgh Head, Wick, and Laudale there were as many as 26 rainy days. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded at many northern stations on the 9th or 10th, at several places in the west and south on the 13th and 14th, in the extreme north-western parts of the Kingdom on the 25th, and at a few places in the north of England on the 26th. The heaviest daily amounts reported were 1.9 in. at Scarborough on the 26th, 1.8 in. at Leith on the 10th, and 1.7 in. at Portland Bill on the 14th.

**Bright Sunshine** amounted to more than the average\* the excess being large at many of the English stations. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 61 at Bournemouth, 60 at Bognor, and 55 or more at several other places in the east and south of England, to less than 35 in the northern parts of Ireland and Scotland, and to only 25 at Fort William.

\* 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.”)