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MONTHLY AND ANNUAL MAPS OF AVERAGE TEMPERATURE
OVER GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, 1921-50

The accompanying maps are based on data given in "Averages of Temperature for Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1921-50", M.O.571. The statistics are derived from daily readings of maximum and minimum thermometers exposed in Stevenson screens over short grass, and bulbs of the thermometers being approximately 4 ft. above ground level. Averages for the period 1921-50 were available for 206 stations. The publication gives monthly averages of the daily maximum and daily minimum temperatures and of the mean temperature which has been taken as half the sum of the average maximum and minimum values. The monthly averages of the daily range of temperature is taken as the difference between the average daily maximum and minimum values. Before plotting the values of the average daily maximum, average daily minimum and average mean temperature the usual correction was applied for the height of the station above mean sea level at the rate of 1°F. for every 300 feet of elevation. The maps show therefore the temperature at sea-level.

Similar maps, but for the period 1901-30 selected by the International Meteorological Organization, are available in the Climatological Atlas of the British Isles, 1952, M.O.488, published by H.M.S.O. price £2 12s. 6d. net. This atlas also gives full details of the temperatures experienced over the British Isles together with a bibliography.

For the year as a whole the recent period 1921-50 was warmer than 1901-30 generally by about half a degree. There was little difference for the two periods in the temperatures during January, February, May, October and December, while the remaining months were warmer during 1921-50. The winter of 1921-50 was somewhat colder, especially in England, than in 1901-30, the spring and autumn somewhat warmer and the summer appreciably warmer.

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