

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

FEBRUARY 1888.

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General Summary.—The weather of February was dry and cold; the winds were mainly North-westerly to North-easterly and pressure was above the average value, except in the south-east of England. The depressions observed were neither large nor deep, and after the middle of the month they were confined to the more central and southern parts of the Continent.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month, at 8 a.m.*, varied from a little above 30·15 ins. over the extreme south-west of Ireland to 30·00 along a line passing from the Orkneys, down our north-east coast, through the south-east of Yorkshire and central England, to the neighbourhood of Portland, and to 29·25 ins. and rather less, over Norfolk, Suffolk, and the eastern parts of Kent and Sussex. It was above the average* for February, except in the south and south-east of England, the excess varying from a few hundredths of an inch in south-west of England to more than two tenths in the west of Ireland, and to nearly three tenths of an inch in the north of Scotland; in the south and east of England, however, it was a very few hundredths of an inch below the average.* *Highest* values recorded occurred very generally on the 28th and 29th, when the readings ranged from about 30·3 ins. in the south-east of England to 30·6 ins. in the north-west of Scotland. *Lowest* were recorded at the north-eastern stations on the 11th, and at the south-western stations on the 12th, when a depression in the north-east was spreading south-westwards over the kingdom. *Range* was moderate everywhere.

Depressions.†—These were not deep, nor were they numerous; before the 9th they passed from north-west to south-east over the north-eastern parts of our area; on the 13th one was developed over the south-east of Ireland, and travelled in an east-south-easterly direction across the south-west of England and the Channel to Belgium. After the 15th those observed appeared over central, south-eastern, or south-western Europe, and their secondaries moved westwards across North Germany and the north of France. The tracks of these cannot be drawn.

Anticyclones.—On February 1st an anticyclone of slight intensity appeared off our north-west coasts, then moved quickly to the south-eastward, and lay over France till the 4th, then moved westward to the Bay of Biscay and south-west of our Islands, and broke up after the 10th. A new high-pressure area appeared in the west on 14th and soon became united, by a col, to a second system over Northern Europe. From the 19th to end of the month high-pressure systems were continuously prevalent to the north-westward and north-eastward of our Islands.

Wind.—From the 1st to 13th Westerly and North-westerly winds were almost continuously prevalent, veering to North on the 14th, and to the North-eastward on the 19th; they continued North-easterly to Easterly during the remainder of the month. The North-westerly and Northerly winds were not strong, but those from North-east were, and caused gales frequently on our eastern and southern coasts.

Temperature.—*Mean, at Sea Level*, ranged from between 40° and 42° in the extreme west of Ireland, and from about 40° in the extreme south-west of England to rather below 34° over the inland parts of the north of Scotland, to rather below 35° over central Scotland, the eastern counties of England, Gloucestershire, and part of Wilts, and to a little below 37° over the inland counties of the northern half of Ireland. It was below the average* everywhere—by about four degrees in many places, but by five or six degrees over the southern and south-eastern counties of England and in the Channel Islands. *Lowest* readings occurred in most districts between 14th and 16th, but over the eastern, southern, and home counties on the 2nd or 3rd. Those in Scotland and the inland parts of Ireland North were very low. *Highest* occurred at most stations on the 5th or 6th, and in all places between the 4th and 9th, but were less high than such readings usually are in February. *Range* was very large in Scotland and North Ireland, small over the greater part of England. *Vapour Tension* varied from about 0·17 in. over the home and Midland Counties and over eastern and central Scotland to upwards of 0·20 in. in the Hebrides, the north and west of Ireland, the extreme south-west of England, and at Holyhead. *Relative Humidity* ranged from between 90 and 98 per cent. in the north and west of Scotland, and in the Hebrides, and from between 90 and 96 over the extreme north-west and south-east of England to less than 85 in the south-west of Ireland, and to between 85° and 90° over central England.

Rainfall was as slight as 0·26 in. at Roche's Point, 0·29 in. at Armagh, 0·49 in. at Braemar, and was less than an inch at Donaghadee, Glenlee, Llandudno, Parsonstown, and many other stations; it did not amount to quite 2·5 ins. at any station but Glencarron and Hastings. At the former station the fall was as much as 5·6 ins.; the fall at Hastings (2·9 ins.) was exceptional among those for the stations in that region, and was due to some heavy local falls of snow which occurred over the south of England on the 13th. Except in a very few isolated localities, the aggregate values were much below the average for February.

Bright Sunshine varied in amount from only 8 per cent. in London, from less than 20 per cent. of the possible duration over the south-eastern, eastern, and some parts of the Midland Counties of England, to more than 20 over our southern counties and the greater part of Ireland, as well as the eastern half of Scotland, and to 30 per cent. and more at several stations in the Irish Channel and the south-western parts of England and Ireland.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 20 years, 1861–80; *Rainfall* for the 20 years, 1866–85.

† See Map 2 plate ii.