

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

AUGUST 1888.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.
PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, 6, NORTH BRIDGE, EDINBURGH; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

General Summary.—Weather of August was not so unseasonable as that of July had been, though the temperature still remained below its normal value. Several depressions passed over England, that of the 1st bringing very heavy rains and causing serious floods in the south-eastern counties. On the whole the rain was below the average. No serious gales were experienced.

Pressure.—*Mean for the Month at 8 a.m.* varied from about 30·05 ins. over the Channel to 29·81 ins. in the Hebrides. The total gradient for Westerly winds was therefore rather steep. The mean in England generally was considerably above the average,* for the isobar of 29·90 ins. passed through Ulster and the Lowlands of Scotland, or more than a degree to the northward of its usual position. In the extreme north the readings were very slightly below the average. *Highest* readings occurred at the end of the month, the maximum being 30·41 ins. at Valencia on the 31st; but readings about 0·1 in. lower were recorded in London on the 18th, and at Stornoway on the 16th. *Lowest* were reported on the 13th, when 29·33 ins. was the reading, and on the 23rd, when the absolute minimum, 29·04 ins., was registered at Belmullet. *Range* was not excessive for the month, amounting to 1·30 ins. at Belmullet and 1·20 ins. at Valencia. In Great Britain it was less.

Depressions were numerous, but not deep. Three passed over these Islands, viz., on the 4th and 5th, the 13th and 14th, and the 28th and 29th respectively. In addition to these, three passed from south-west to north-east outside our west coasts, and two others were noted over France.

Anticyclones.—The first of these lay either over the Bay of Biscay or south-western Europe from the 3rd to the 7th, when it moved eastwards to central Europe. On the 14th an area of high pressure moved northwards from the Bay of Biscay to our Islands, and on the 18th and 19th a new system moved eastwards and south-eastwards over the British Isles and France, and then passed southwards. At the close of the month the highest barometrical readings were obtained, when another anticyclone approached us from the westward. It was the persistence of anticyclonic conditions over the southern parts of our area which caused the mean pressure for the month to exceed the average over England.

Wind was very variable in direction. Southerly gales were felt in the west of Ireland on the 19th and again on the 23rd, when force 10 was reached at Mullaghmore. On the 28th and 29th a Westerly gale occurred in the Channel.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* varied from 60° in the south-east of England to 51° in Shetland. In the south of Ireland the mean was 58° and in central Scotland 57°. It was below the average,* but not to any very great extent, as the deficit did not exceed three degrees anywhere. *Highest* readings were recorded in England on the 9th or 10th and in the north of Ireland and in Scotland on the 25th. The absolute maximum was 85° in London and at Cambridge, but a reading of 84° was recorded at Hillington and Loughborough; at Sumburgh Head the maximum was below 60°. *Lowest* readings occurred at various dates. In the north of Scotland they were generally below 40°, and 32° was registered at Lairg on the 16th. At Scilly the minimum was 52°. *Range* was very variable, amounting to 48° at Hillington, while it was only 14°·0 at Scilly. *Vapour Tension* was highest, 0·442 in., at Hurst Castle, and exceeded 0·40 in. at all the southern coast stations of England and Ireland; it was least, 0·328 in., at Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* was 91 at Malin Head, above 90 per cent. on the west coast of Scotland, and also at Hawes Junction. It was least, below 80 per cent., on the east coast of Scotland and in London.

Rainfall varied from 8·88 ins. at Glencarron and 8·76 ins. at Laudale to 1·22 ins. (only one third of its average* amount) at Ardrossan. The fall was generally below the average, but was very irregular. At Ingatestone the amount was 5·08 ins., of which 3·20 ins. fell on the 1st. Very heavy floods were occasioned in the south-east of England by this fall. At Llandoverly the total fall for the month was 6·64 ins., of which 2·33 ins. fell on the 28th; amounts exceeding an inch were recorded at 21 different stations.

Bright Sunshine was more abundant than in July. It attained 49 per cent. of its possible duration in Jersey, and amounts of 40 per cent. or upwards were registered at Churchstoke, Hastings, Falmouth, Pembroke, and Valencia. The lowest records were 21 per cent. at Glencarron and 23 at Scarborough.

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