

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

SEPTEMBER 1896.

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General Summary.—The weather of September was exceedingly wet and unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms during the earlier half of the month. Pressure was low; temperature differed but little from the normal; the winds varied considerably in direction in the west and north, but were mainly from the Westward in the south and east, with strong gales on the 22nd and 25th; rainfall was greatly in excess of the average, specially in the west and south of England; sunshine was very deficient.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·8 ins. and upwards over the English Channel, to very little above 29·6 ins. on our extreme north and north-west coasts, the values being as a rule from 0·20 in. to 0·25 in. below the average.* *Highest* readings were observed on the 30th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards over the south-western parts of Great Britain, to 30·4 ins. and upwards over England and the south and east of Ireland generally, and to 30·2 ins. and upwards in all but the extreme northern parts of Scotland. *Lowest* readings were recorded during the passages of the depressions of the 22nd and 25th. In the former case the barometer fell below 28·8 ins. over the more central parts of the United Kingdom, and below 29·0 ins. at all but our southern stations. In the latter case it fell below 28·7 ins. over the northern and central parts of England, and below 29·0 ins. over Ireland and England generally. *Range* was large for the time of year, especially in the more central districts.

Depressions.—Early in the month several shallow depressions were developed over our Islands, their movements being, however, as a rule, too irregular to permit of the tracks being shown on Map 2, Pt. IX. Later on disturbances of far greater intensity advanced from the Atlantic, the most important of these being observed on the 22nd and 25th, when the centre passed in each case directly across Ireland and England, and thence on to the continent, where the systems gradually dispersed.

Anticyclones.—Until quite the end of the period no definite anticyclones were observed in our immediate neighbourhood, the nearest systems being located at first over Northern, and afterwards over Southern Europe. On the 28th and 29th, however, a well-marked anticyclone spread in from the Atlantic, and by the close of the month this had extended over nearly the whole of Europe.

Winds were very variable in the west and north but mainly from West or South-West in the south and east. Gales were unusually frequent, especially in the west; at Malin Head, Roche's Point, and Jersey there were 9 days, at Holyhead 11 days, and at Pembroke 13 days, with a wind force of 7 or more. The North-Westerly gale of the 25th blew with considerable severity on our western coasts.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from a little below 61° at Jersey, and from 59° and upwards over the English Channel generally to very little above 51° in the extreme north of Scotland. The distribution in the intervening regions was somewhat irregular, but agreed very fairly with the normal, as also did the actual values recorded. *Highest* readings were observed as a rule between the 9th and 12th, but were somewhat low for the time of year, very few instances being reported in which the thermometer exceeded 70°. *Lowest* readings occurred mainly on the 21st, when the thermometer fell below 35° at many of the northern and inland stations; at Glencarron, Fort Augustus, and Llandoverly it sank to 32°, and at Braemar and Glenlee to 31°. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·40 in. and 0·43 in. on our south and south-west coasts, to 0·36 in. or less at many of our northern stations, and to 0·33 in. in the Shetlands. *Relative Humidity* varied from 99 per cent. at Stornoway, and 95 per cent. or more at several stations in the west of Scotland and the north-west of England, to 83 per cent. at Aberdeen, and to 81 per cent. at the North Foreland and Valencia (Ireland).

Rainfall.—Over the United Kingdom as a whole the rainfall was largely in excess of the average,* the only stations showing a deficit (and that a very trifling one) being Fort William, Shields, and Durham. At many stations in the west and south of England, and also at Dublin, the total amount was considerably more than twice as much as the normal, while at St. Aubins, Jersey, it was not far short of three times the average. The largest aggregates were 8·3 ins. at Hawes Junction, 8·1 ins. at Llandoverly, and 8·0 ins. at Arlington and Jersey, over 7 ins. being recorded at several other stations in England, as well as in the west of Scotland and the extreme west and south of Ireland. The smallest amounts were 2·2 ins. at Shields and Durham, 2·6 ins. at Scarborough, and 2·9 ins. at York. The number of rainy days was unusually large; at Markree Castle and Armagh there were as many as 28, while at Marchmont and Cheadle a measurable quantity was observed on every day but one. Amounts exceeding an inch in 24 hours were registered on various occasions, and in nearly all districts, the heaviest and most general falls occurring during the passages of the deep depressions of the 21st–22nd and the 24th–25th.

Bright Sunshine was less than the average* at all stations excepting Stornoway and Dublin, the deficit being in most places very considerable. The per-centage of the possible amount ranged from 40 at Scilly and 30 or more on many other parts of our south and south-west coasts, as well as at Stornoway, to 20 or less at several of the northern and central stations, and to only 15 at Fort Augustus and the two Manchester stations, Prestwich and Oldham Road.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 25 years, 1871–95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years, 1866–95; *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years 1881–95.