

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

MARCH 1888.

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General Summary.—Weather of March was changeable, squally, and wet. Pressure was very low generally; several of the depressions were deep, advanced rapidly, and filled up quickly; Temperature was low,—very low on one occasion in Scotland East; Rainfall was excessive, especially in the north-east; the Winds were very variable, and gales frequent.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month, at 8 a.m.*—Was below 29·70 ins. everywhere and very uniform, ranging from 29·65 ins. and more in the Channel Islands, west of Ireland, Caithness, the Orkneys and Shetlands, to 29·60 ins. and less over the eastern counties of England. It was much below that of February in all districts, and below the average* for March by about three-tenths of an inch in the east and south of England, more than two-tenths in the west of Ireland, and from 0·10 to 0·15 in. in the extreme north of Scotland and the Orkneys. *Highest* readings occurred at the northern stations on the 1st, but in other regions very generally on or about the 19th. *Lowest* on the 11th or 28th, when deep depressions passed over the southern parts of our Islands; on the latter occasion the barometer fell to below 28·4 ins. on our extreme south-western coasts. *Range* large, especially in the extreme south-west, where it amounted to nearly two inches.

Depressions somewhat numerous; movements mainly from west to east, but varying greatly. Deepest were those of 10th—11th, and 28th—30th, when barometer fell very low. Between 22nd and 27th several minima were developed over our Islands and in their immediate neighbourhood, and moved so erratically that their tracks cannot be drawn on Map 2. Most of the systems filled up either over our Islands or over Europe.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems passed over our area during the month, one between the 1st and 5th, the other between the 17th and 21st. In both of them the height of the barometer near the centre of the system exceeded 30·5 ins.

Wind was extremely variable in direction—mainly South-westerly in the Channel and south-east of England; Westerly, Northerly and North-easterly in the Scilly Islands and at Yarmouth; chiefly North-easterly at the northern stations, but North-westerly at Aberdeen. Its force was moderate, as a whole, and the gales, though frequent, were not violent, except over the north-west of Ireland on the 28th.

Temperature.—*Mean, at Sea Level*, varied from about 43° in the Scilly Islands and 42° at Valencia and Jersey, to less than 38° over the inland parts of Ireland North, to about 36° at Yarmouth, Hawes Junction, and over the central and northern parts of Scotland. It was decidedly below the average* everywhere, the deficit amounting to between four or five degrees in most places. *Highest* readings occurred very generally between the 6th and 10th, but in some localities, chiefly in the west and north-west, there were higher readings between the 27th and 29th. *Lowest* readings occurred on very various dates, chiefly between the 1st and 3rd over England, on the 16th or 17th in Ireland and some parts of Scotland, and on the 27th or 28th at our north-eastern stations. *Range* was slight except in some localities in Scotland, where, the minimum on the 17th being exceptionally low, the range was large. *Vapour Tension* was less than 0·18 in. over central Ireland, the north-west of England, central Scotland, and the Shetland Isles, but exceeded 0·23 in. at Scilly. *Relative Humidity* exceeded 95 per cent., on our extreme northern coasts and over the north-west of England, and 90 per cent on our south-eastern coasts. In the south of Scotland, over central Ireland, and over the midland counties of England it was less than 90, and at Scilly and Jersey it was as low as 85.

Rainfall varied from less than 2 ins. at Sumburgh Head, Malin Head, and Leicester to more than 5 ins. at Belmullet, and to more than 6 ins. at Glencarron. It exceeded the average in all districts (excepting Sumburgh Head), and at some of our north-eastern stations the excess was very large, owing mainly to the heavy fall which occurred in those regions, with Easterly winds, on 28th and 29th.

Bright Sunshine was more than 40 per cent. of the possible duration at Valencia, and 30 per cent., or more, at Falmouth, Douglas (Isle of Man), and Stornoway. In all other places the per-centage was smaller, and was as low as 11 in London, 16 at Stowell, Ingatestone, and Braemar, 17 at Hastings, Leicester, and Armagh, 18 at Cirencester, and 19 at Geldeston and Cullompton. At Jersey the per-centage was 28.

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