

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

APRIL 1901.

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General Summary.—The earlier half of April was extremely unsettled, with frequent falls of rain in all districts, and snow, sleet or hail in many places between the 1st and 5th, as well as on the 15th and 16th. Later on a decided improvement occurred over England, and in several parts of our southern counties there was no measureable quantity of rain after the 16th; in Ireland and Scotland, however, the weather remained somewhat changeable. During the middle portion of the month thunder and lightning were rather frequent, the phenomena being most general on the 8th and 9th, and on the 15th and 16th. Pressure was low, especially in the north; temperature was above the average; the winds were rather variable; rainfall was in excess of the normal in most places; bright sunshine was unusually abundant, especially in the eastern, central, and southern districts.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·85 ins. and upwards over the south-east of England and the eastern and central parts of the channel, to 29·70 ins. and less over the northern parts of Scotland generally, and to about 29·65 ins. in the Shetlands. The values were in all cases below the average,* and as the deficit was least in the south-eastern, and greatest in the northern and north-western districts, the uniformity in mean pressure usually observed in April was replaced by a rather decided gradient for South-westerly winds. The peculiar dip in the isobar of 29·8 ins., shown in Map 1, Pl. IV., appears to be due to the fact that in the earlier part of the month especially, several depressions, mostly small secondaries, advanced over our south-west coasts, and thus served to reduce the mean pressure in that locality. *Highest* readings were registered over England and Ireland on the 17th, but in Scotland on the 26th. On the former date the mercury rose to 30·2 ins. and upwards in most parts of England and Ireland, and to 30·3 ins. and upwards in the extreme south. Over the greater part of Scotland it was only on the 26th that the barometer exceeded 30·2 ins. *Lowest* readings were observed over the Kingdom generally on the 8th, when the barometer fell to 28·8 ins. and less in the Shetlands, to 28·9 ins. and less in the extreme north and north-west of our islands generally, and to 29·5 ins. and less in all districts excepting the south and east of England, where the lowest pressures (slightly above 29·4 ins.) were recorded on the 11th. *Range* differed but little from the normal for the time of year.

Depressions.—In the earlier half of the month these were rather numerous, the larger disturbances, which skirted our extreme north-western and northern coasts, being accompanied in many cases by secondary systems advancing eastwards directly across the United Kingdom. After the middle of the month the only depression of note was a large and shallow, but somewhat complex, disturbance which moved slowly north-eastward across Spain and France between the 25th and 28th, and which spread temporarily over England on the 29th.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclones observed in our immediate neighbourhood were:—(1) A system which travelled steadily eastwards across the United Kingdom between the 16th and 18th; and (2) A large area which extended from northern Europe over all the more northern parts of our islands between the 25th and 27th, but which afterwards receded in the direction from which it had originally sprung.

Winds varied considerably in direction, especially on our southern and extreme northern coasts. In the intermediate districts they were mainly from the South-westward. During the earlier half of the month gales were rather frequent, but in no case were they of any material severity.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 50·5° at Jersey, and 49° and upwards over a considerable portion of central and southern England, to 46° and less over the greater part of Scotland and the north of Ireland, and to a little below 44° in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The general distribution showed a nearer approach to the summer type than is usual in April, and the mean values were above the average* at all but our western and south-western coast stations, the excess varying, however, greatly in extent in different parts of the country. *Highest* readings occurred mainly at varying times between the 21st and 24th, when the thermometer rose to 70° and upwards in most parts of Great Britain, to 77° at Fulbeck and Hillington, and to 79° at Bawtry and Cambridge. *Lowest* readings occurred on very irregular dates, but at the majority of stations they were registered at some time between the 1st and 5th, when the thermometer fell below the freezing point in most places; the lowest readings reported were 23° at Braemar, 25° at Marchmont, and 26° at Lairg, Cirencester and Glenlee. *Range* was large at all inland stations, more than 45° in several places, and as much as 51° at Cambridge. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·28 in. and upwards on several parts of our extreme western and southern coasts to 0·24 in. and less over central England and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was high in the west and north-west (as much as 93 per cent. at Blacksod Point and 92 per cent. at Stornoway), but low over the east of Scotland and the central parts of England (only 72 per cent. in London).

Rainfall varied considerably in amount in different parts of the Kingdom, but was as a rule in excess of the average,* the only districts with any great deficit being the eastern and central parts of Ireland, and the northern and north midland counties of England. The largest aggregates reported were 6·6 ins. at Valencia, 6·3 ins. at Landale, and 5·6 ins. at Glenlee; the smallest being 0·9 in. at Dublin, 1·1 in. at Chester, and 1·2 in. at Bawtry. A heavy fall occurred over Ireland and Scotland on the 2nd, the largest amounts reported being 2·5 ins. at Glenlee, 2·0 ins. at Ochertyre (of which 1·3 in. fell in 8 hours), and 1·5 in. at Valencia. Snow or sleet showers were experienced in many districts between the 1st and 5th, and also on the 15th and 16th.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average*, especially over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England, where the duration amounted in many cases to more than 50 per cent. of the possible (at Hollesley Bay there was as much as 59 per cent.). At several of the Scotch stations less than 40 per cent. was recorded, and at Fort Augustus there was only 30 per cent. of the possible amount.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 30 years 1871–1900; *Rainfall* for the 35 years 1866–1900; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 20 years 1881–1900. (The averages will be published shortly as an appendix to the "Weekly Weather Report.")