

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

APRIL 1899.

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General Summary.—The weather of April was extremely changeable, with frequent falls of rain, occasional showers of snow or sleet, and sporadic thunderstorms. Pressure was low; temperature was a little above the average in England and Ireland, but below it in Scotland; the winds were chiefly from the Westward, and often strong in force; rainfall was in excess of the normal, especially in the north-western districts; bright sunshine was everywhere deficient.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29.90 ins. and upwards at Scilly and Jersey, and 29.85 ins. and upwards over the Channel and south-west of England generally to 29.70 ins. and less in the north of Scotland, the great uniformity of pressure shown in the chart of normal values being replaced by a rather decided gradient for Westerly and North-westerly winds. The actual values were in all cases below the average,* the deficit being greatest (0.15 in. and upwards) in the northern and north-eastern parts of Great Britain, and least (0.05 in. and less) on our extreme south and south-west coasts. *Highest* readings were recorded very generally on the 22nd, when the barometer rose to 30.2 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme northern coasts. Over England, however, the readings were equally high on the 30th. *Lowest* readings were observed mostly on the 13th or 14th, when the barometer fell to 28.9 ins. and less in the east and south-east of England, and to between 29.0 ins. and 29.1 ins. in most other parts of the kingdom. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—These were very numerous, the centres advancing in many cases across the more northern parts of the United Kingdom, and afterwards moving north-eastwards or northwards across the North Sea and Scandinavia. The depression which passed across our islands on the 6th and 7th was unusually deep for the time of year, and in its rear a strong North-westerly gale sprang up in many parts of our western and southern coasts.

Anticyclones.—The anticyclones observed in the neighbourhood of our islands were few in number and very transient. The first spread over England from the southward on the 20th, and was followed two days later by a second area, which drifted quickly across the country from the westward. At the close of the month a third system extended up from the south-westward, but this soon passed away to central Europe.

Winds.—Over England and Ireland the winds were mainly from some Westerly point (South-west to North-west). In the north of Scotland, however, they were more variable, and in Caithness and the Shetlands there was a large proportion of winds from the Northward and North-eastward. Gales were somewhat frequent, especially in the west and north, the number of days affected being as large as twelve at Aberdeen, nine at Roche's Point, and seven at Pembroke. The North-westerly gale of the 7th was severe on some parts of our west and south-west coasts, and on the following day violent squalls from the same quarter were experienced at several of the English stations, including London.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level*, ranged from about 50° in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 48° and upwards over the south of Ireland and a considerable portion of the south of England, to 43° and less in the north of Scotland, and to 40° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution over the country agreed very closely with the normal, the mean values being a little above the average* at most of the English and Irish stations, but below it in Scotland and the extreme north of Ireland. *Highest* readings occurred in the eastern and central parts of England on the 1st, but in other districts on various dates between the 26th and 29th. As a rule the absolute maxima were very little above 60°, and at many coast stations in the west, south, and extreme north the thermometer did not reach that level. In some parts of England, however, it touched or slightly exceeded 65°. *Lowest* readings were observed mostly between the 17th and 19th, when frost occurred in nearly all districts; at Glenlee the sheltered thermometer fell to 21°, and at Ochertyre and Loughborough to 25°. At many stations in Scotland a keener frost was experienced on the 22nd, the shade readings being then as low as 17° at Braemar and 20° at Lairg. *Range* was, as a rule, somewhat small for the time of year; at Braemar and Loughborough, however, it amounted to 41°, and at Lairg to 42°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0.30 in. or more in the Scilly and Channel Islands to 0.24 in. and less over the northern parts of Great Britain generally, and to 0.21 in. at Sumburgh Head and Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* varied from 94 per cent. at Malin Head, and 90 per cent. at Dungeness, to 79 per cent. in London, 77 per cent. at Leith and Liverpool, and 76 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall was almost everywhere in excess of the average.* In the eastern and central parts of Great Britain and Ireland the excess was not large, but in the western districts it was very considerable, the actual amount being in many instances more than twice as much as the average, and greater than in any April of the previous 25 or 30 years. The largest aggregates reported were 7.9 ins. at Glencarron, 5.8 ins. at Valencia and Llandovery, and 5.6 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 1.4 in. at Felixstowe and 1.7 in. at Scarborough and Stamford. The number of rainy days was mostly large, especially in the west and north; at Stornoway, Glencarron and Llandovery there were 26, and at Valencia 27 days with a measurable quantity. During the earlier half of the month showers of snow or sleet were somewhat frequent in the more northern districts, and on the 8th and 11th they extended to many of our southern stations.

Bright Sunshine amounted to less than the average,* and in some parts of England the deficiency was large. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 35 and upwards at most of the English Channel stations and at Deerness, Aberdeen, and Douglas (Isle of Man), to 21 at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Worksop, and to only 18 at Plumstead Common.

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