

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

OCTOBER 1888.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1888.)

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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 over Great Britain and Ireland was, for the most part, anticyclonic and dry, but in the extreme north the rainfall was very heavy. Pressure was high; temperature was rather low, but did not vary much from the average; winds were on the whole light for the season, and there were no serious gales.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* varied from 30·10 ins. over the Channel Islands, and about 30·08 ins. over the southern counties of England, to 29·78 ins. in the Shetlands. It was above the average* everywhere, but more so in the south than in the north: the excess on the Channel coast being 0·3 in. while at the northern stations it was 0·2 in. *Highest* readings occurred on the 21st, when 30·54 ins. was recorded in the Shetlands and 30·53 ins. at Aberdeen. *Lowest* were registered at the beginning of the month, when 29·10 ins. was noted at Wick and Aberdeen, and 29·11 ins. at Sumburgh Head. The absolute maxima and minima were consequently both recorded at the Scotch stations. *Range* was therefore greatest in the north, and amounted to 1·43 ins. both at Sumburgh Head and Aberdeen. In the south of England it only attained half that amount.

Depressions were very few, and unimportant, for the time of year. One, between the 1st and 4th, took an unusual course in a southerly and south-westerly direction from central Sweden through Great Britain to the Bristol Channel and finally died out off Cherbourg. The tracks of the others all lay outside our north-western and northern coasts.

Anticyclones.—Between the 8th and the 11th a slight anticyclone lay outside our south-west coasts, its eastern side spreading in over our Islands and France; on the 13th another made its appearance off the west of Ireland, and for the next ten days we remained under its influence as it moved very slowly to the eastward; it finally passed off over Germany on the 23rd.

Wind was variable in direction. Along the east and north-east coasts a predominance of Westerly winds were noted. No severe gales were experienced, owing to the long prevalence of anticyclonic conditions of pressure.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* varied from 53° at Scilly to 44° at Sumburgh Head. It was at its average* value along the south-west coast, but elsewhere was generally below it, to the extent of 3° in Shetland and in the eastern counties of England. In the west of Scotland, however, the mean was somewhat above the average. *Highest* readings occurred generally on the 26th or 27th. The absolute maximum was 70° in London, but 69° was reached at Cambridge and Loughborough, and 68° at Ingatestone, Hillington, and Southampton. *Lowest* readings were noted at very various dates for the most part during the first few days of the month. The absolute minimum was 23°·0 at Llandovery on the 22nd but 24° was recorded at Hawes Junction and Bawtry on the same day. *Range* exceeded 40° in the neighbourhood of London, but was as low as 20° at Ardrossan. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·34 in. at Valencia and 0·33 in. at Scilly, to less than 0·24 in. over the Midland Counties of England, 0·23 in. at Loughborough. *Relative Humidity* was 90 per cent. over the last-named district, but it was higher over the north-west coast of Scotland, being 95 per cent. at Stornoway. In the extreme south it was low, 79 per cent. in Jersey and Scilly.

Rainfall varied from less than an inch over eastern and central England, (0·39 in. at Loughborough, 0·54 in. at Bawtry, 0·56 in. at Hereford, 0·68 in. at Durham, 0·69 in. at Shields, 0·72 in. at Oxford, 0·77 in. at Spurn Head, and 0·80 in. at Hillington, Cambridge, and Cirencester), to 5·18 ins. at Killarney, 7·54 ins. at Laudale, and as much as 12·09 at Glencarron. In Ireland generally it was less than half its average,* but on the north coast of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland the fall was above the normal amount. In England and the Scotch lowlands the month was a very dry one.

Bright Sunshine.—The per-centages of possible duration varied from 48 at Hastings, 46 in Jersey, and 42 at Southampton, to 19 at Glasgow, 10 at Braemar, and as low as 7 at Glencarron, where, as above stated, the rainfall was over 12 inches.

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