

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

AUGUST 1895.

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General Summary.—The weather of August was exceedingly changeable, especially during the earlier half of the month, when thunderstorms and heavy rains occurred in nearly all districts. Later on some improvement took place over the eastern and southern parts of the kingdom, but thunderstorms were again experienced at intervals, those of the 22nd being very severe in places. Pressure was rather low; temperature was above the average, excepting in the south; the winds were mainly Westerly or South-westerly; rainfall was in excess of the average in most localities; bright sunshine was abundant, but less than the normal in Ireland and Scotland.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·0 ins. at Jersey and 29·9 ins. and upwards over the south of England generally to a little below 29·7 ins. in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The general distribution was in close agreement with the normal, but the actual values were in all cases below the average,* the deficit being slight in the south, but rather large over Scotland and the northern parts of Ireland. *Highest* readings were observed between the 15th and the 17th, when the barometer rose to 30·1 ins. and upwards over the United Kingdom generally, and to 30·2 ins. and upwards over the south-east of England. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 3rd or 4th, when the barometer fell to 29·4 ins. or less in all districts, and to about 29·2 ins. at many of our northern and eastern stations. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—During the early part of the month several shallow depressions advanced over our islands from the westward or south-westward, their movements being, however, in many cases too irregular to admit of the tracks being shown on Map 2, PL. VIII. Towards the close of the period the depressions moved along much further to the northward, and in one or two instances the centres passed close to our extreme north-western and northern coasts.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems were observed. The first of these appears to have been formed on the 14th by a junction of high-pressure areas lying respectively over northern and south-western Europe. The resulting system embraced the greater part of the Continent for a time, but after the 18th it moved away gradually to the southwards. The second anticyclone advanced over our islands from the Atlantic on the 24th, but soon receded southwards to France and Germany.

Winds were chiefly from the Westward or South-westward. Scarcely any gales were reported on our north and east coasts, but at most of the western and southern stations there were two or three, at Scilly five, and at Pembroke as many as seven.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from a little above 63° in London and at Southampton and Jersey, and from 62° and upwards over the greater part of our southern and south-eastern counties, to 58° or less in some parts of central Ireland, and to very little above 55° in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed fairly with the normal, but the actual values were above the average* in all but the south-western and extreme southern parts of the kingdom, the excess being greatest over Scotland and the north-east of England. *Highest* readings were observed on the 17th or 18th, excepting in the eastern, central, and southern parts of England, where they occurred mainly on the 22nd; in the latter districts the thermometer rose slightly above 80°, but in some parts of Ireland and the west of Scotland it did not exceed 70°. *Lowest* readings occurred at many of the western stations on the 8th, but over the kingdom generally on the 25th; in some of the more central districts the thermometer fell slightly below 40°, and at Llandoverly on the 25th it touched 35°. *Range* was moderate generally, but rather large (40° and upwards) at some of the inland stations. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·45 inch or more at several of the English Channel stations to 0·40 inch at Liverpool, Malin Head, and Parsonstown, 0·39 inch at Aberdeen, and 0·38 inch in the Shetlands. *Relative Humidity* varied from 92 per cent. at Donaghadee, and from between 85 and 90 per cent. on many parts of our western and extreme northern coasts, to 78 per cent. at Liverpool, Yarmouth, and in London, and to 77 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall amounted to rather less than the average* over central England, as well as at one or two stations in our northern and southern counties; elsewhere there was an excess, the divergence from the mean being large in many places. The largest aggregates were 9·1 ins. at Fort William, 8·0 ins. at Glencarron, and over 6 ins. at many stations in the west of Scotland and the north of Ireland. The smallest amounts were 1·4 ins. at Bawtry, and 1·8 ins. at Hereford, Strathfield Turgiss, Dungeness, Liverpool and Llandudno. At various times in the month falls of an inch or more in 24 hours were experienced at several of our stations, the heavy rain occurring in many cases during the prevalence of thunderstorms. The most general example of this was reported on the 10th and 11th, when large quantities fell over all our western districts, the amount at Holyhead on the former day being as much as 2·7 ins.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* over eastern, central, and southern England, but was deficient in nearly all other districts. More than 50 per cent. of the possible amount was experienced at many of the Channel stations, and as much as 56 per cent. at Jersey. Over the northern parts of Ireland and Scotland, however, there was, in most cases, less than 20 per cent., the smallest amount of all being 13 per cent. at Fort Augustus and Fort William.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.