

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

AUGUST 1892.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1892.)

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PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER ST., EDINBURGH, and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

General Summary.—The weather of August was cool and exceedingly unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms during the latter part of the month. Pressure and temperature were below the average in most districts; the winds were rather variable, but chiefly from the Westward. Rainfall was mostly in excess of the normal, especially over Ireland and the north-west of England, and bright sunshine was deficient in all but our eastern and midland counties. During the night of the 17th—18th sharp earthquake shocks were experienced at several of our south-western stations.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·95 ins. and upwards over the English Channel to a little below 29·7 ins. in the Shetlands. The general distribution was of a normal character, but the actual values were below the average,* and as the deficit was very slight in the south but rather large in the north, the mean gradient was somewhat steeper than usual. *Highest* readings were recorded mostly on the 2nd, when the barometer rose above 30·3 ins. in the west of Ireland, and above 30·1 ins. in all other parts of the United Kingdom. Over England, however, the pressures recorded were somewhat higher on the 10th than those of the earlier date. *Lowest* readings were observed during the passage of the depression of the 29—31st, when the barometer fell below 29·2 ins. in many parts of Ireland and Scotland, and below 29·5 ins. in nearly all other districts. *Range* was slight over England, moderate in Ireland and Scotland.

Depressions.—In the course of the month several depressions travelled along to the north-westward and northward of our Islands, and on one occasion (the 29th—31st) a well-marked system passed directly over our western and northern districts. Between the 16th and 19th, and again between the 22nd and 25th, several shallow disturbances advanced eastwards over the kingdom, but these systems were too ill-defined, and their paths too erratic, to admit of accurate delineation on Map 2, Plate VIII.

Anticyclones.—The anticyclones observed over Europe lay as a rule to the southward or south-eastward of our Islands. At the commencement of the month, however, a well-formed area spread temporarily over us from the westward, while from the 9th to the 11th an anticyclone of moderate size and height travelled steadily across the kingdom in an east-south-easterly direction.

Winds were rather variable, but mostly from some Westerly quarter. In the east and south-east of England the predominance of Westerly breezes was very marked, but on our western and northern coasts there was a considerable proportion of Southerly winds, while in the extreme north-west there was a fair admixture of breezes from the Eastward and North-eastward. Very few gales were reported on our western coasts, but in the east and south of Great Britain they were more numerous; at Aberdeen and Hurst Castle there were five, while at Spurn Head there were as many as eight.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 64° and upwards in the Channel Islands and 62° and upwards over the south-eastern parts of England to a little above 53° in the Hebrides and to about 52° in the Shetlands. The general distribution showed a fair agreement with the normal, but the actual values were below the average* in all districts excepting the extreme south and south-east of England and the eastern and central parts of Ireland, the deficit being slight in most places, but rather large (about one and a half degrees) on our extreme north and north-west coasts. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 21st and 23rd, when the thermometer rose to 70° or more in nearly all districts and to a little above 80° over the inland parts of England. *Lowest* readings occurred mainly on the 10th or 11th, but at some of the Scotch stations they were registered on the 29th; over the inland parts of Great Britain the thermometer fell in many cases below 36°, while at Braemar the minimum on the 29th was as low as 32°. *Range* amounted to between 35° and 40° at several of the English and Scotch stations—the largest values of all being 46° at Stamford and 44° at Geldeston. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·51 in. at the North Foreland and from between 0·46 in. and 0·48 in. in the extreme south and south-west of England generally to 0·36 in. or less in the north-east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was below 80 per cent. in the east of Scotland and below 85 per cent. over a considerable portion of England. At some of our south-eastern and north-western stations, however, the value was above 90 per cent. and at Stornoway it was as high as 96 per cent.

Rainfall was generally in excess of the average,* the only localities in which any deficit is shown being certain portions of the north of Scotland and the north-eastern and central parts of England with one or two of the Channel stations. In some parts of central Ireland and the north-west of England the total amount was more than double and at Roche's Point three times the average.* Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded at most of the English and Irish stations, the largest amount being 2·8 ins., which was observed at Roche's Point on the 23rd and at Falmouth on the 27th. The number of rainy days ranged from between 12 and 14 in the east of England to 25 at several of the Irish and Scotch stations and to 27 at Glencarron and Markree Castle.

Bright Sunshine amounted to less than the average* in all but the eastern and central parts of England, the deficit being slight in most places, but rather large at some of the Irish stations. The percentage of the possible duration was above 40 over the greater part of England, and reached 55 at Jersey and 58 at Guernsey. At many of the Irish and Scotch stations, however, there was less than 25 per cent., and at Fort Augustus only 17 per cent.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 29 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1865–90; *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.