

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

APRIL 1888.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.
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General Summary.—Weather of April was finer than that of March. Pressure was nearly at its average value, and there were no serious depressions or important anticyclones. Temperature was rather low, especially in the south-east of England owing to the prevalence of Northerly winds. There were no severe gales. Rainfall was moderate, except in the Hebrides and West Highlands.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month, at 8 a.m.*—Was considerably higher than in March. The isobars ran from north-west to south-east, and the readings ranged from 29·96 ins. at Valencia to 29·83 ins. at Sumburgh Head. The mean values above 29·90 were confined to Ireland and the south-west of England. Generally speaking pressure agreed closely with its average* value, which ranges from 29·96 in the Channel to 29·85 in the Hebrides, but the isobars on the map of average values run from west-south-west to east-north-east. *Highest* readings occurred in the west of Ireland on the 26th, in Scotland on the 25th, and elsewhere about the 7th. *Lowest* on the 30th, when the barometer fell below 28·9 ins. at Valencia at 6 p.m. On no other occasion were readings below 29·3 recorded elsewhere, except on the 13th, in the north of Scotland. *Range* was accordingly slight owing to the absence of marked disturbances.

Depressions were rather numerous in the latter part of the month, but they were unimportant. None were noticed before the 10th. Three of the systems filled up over our area, two of these over south-east England. Two of the tracks lay quite outside the British Isles.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems made their appearance from the westward, but retired again without passing over us. The first, with readings above 30 inches, was noticed on the 1st and 2nd. The second, with readings at times above 30·3 ins. in the west, lasted from the 5th to the 7th. The third, similarly, did not extend over England; it was noticed from the 24th to the 28th, and during its continuance the highest reading for the month, 30·4 ins., was reported from Belmullet.

Wind was variable in direction. In the north and east of Scotland it was chiefly from North and North-east; at all the other stations, except Ardrossan and Mullaghmore, there was a predominance of the North-easterly component, but there was also a second maximum from South-west, especially in London. The force was moderate, and the only gales were from the Northward, and slight, at the opening of the month.

Temperature.—*Mean, at Sea Level*, varied from a little above 47° at Foynes to 40° in the Shetlands. It was decidedly below the average,* as had been the case in March, the deficit being two degrees in the west of Ireland, three degrees in Scotland, and as much as eight degrees in the south-east of England. *Highest* readings occurred at most of the stations on the 13th and 14th, but there was again some warm weather at the end of the month, the absolute maximum was 66°; this was recorded at Cambridge on the 15th, at Hereford on the 28th, and at Hillington on the 30th. *Lowest* readings occurred generally during the prevalence of Northerly winds during the first ten days of the month. *Range* was slight as the extreme readings were all moderate. *Vapour Tension* exceeded 0·26 in. at Stornoway, Valencia, and Scilly, and approached 0·21 in. in London and at Aberdeen. It varied between 0·23 in. and 0·25 in. over central Ireland and Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* exceeded 90 per cent. over south-west England and South Wales, as well as in the Lake District and the Hebrides, while it fell to 80 per cent. in London and Aberdeen.

Rainfall varied from about 0·86 at Hurst Castle and Dungeness, and about 1 inch at Hereford and Yarmouth, to 2·33 ins. at Loughborough. In the extreme west of Ireland the amount approached 3 inches, at Landale it was 4·14, and at Glencarron 5·10. The total, except in the west of Scotland, was generally below the average,* especially in Ireland. The only heavy falls occurred on the 29th and 30th, but none amounted to an inch.

Bright Sunshine was 40 per cent. of its possible duration at Jersey. Falmouth and Douglas came next with 39. The lowest amounts were 20 at Worksop, 21 at Stowell and Churchstoke, and 22 in London, at Ingatestone, and Durham.

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