

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

APRIL 1892.

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General Summary.—The weather was fine, warm, and dry during the early part of the month, but afterwards changeable and unsettled. Pressure was high, especially in the north-west; temperature slightly below the normal; the winds rather variable, though mostly from some northerly point; rainfall very deficient; and the amount of bright sunshine unusually large. Brilliant aurora was seen in nearly all parts of the United Kingdom on the night of the 25th, and in Scotland on many other occasions. Thunderstorms occurred at some of the English stations between the 6th and the 10th.

Pressure.—Mean for the month at 8 a.m. ranged from 30·05 ins. and upwards, over the central and south-western parts of Ireland, and from 30·0 ins. and upwards, over nearly the whole of Ireland, England, and the Channel, to a little above 29·9 ins. in the Shetlands. The general distribution was anticyclonic, and the mean values were everywhere in excess of the average,* the difference amounting to between 0·10 in. and 0·15 in. over the greater part of England and Scotland, and to as much as 0·20 in. in the north-west of Ireland. *Highest* readings were observed as a rule on the 1st, when the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·5 ins. in all but the extreme northern parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were registered either on the 15th, 16th, or 27th, the mercury falling on one or other of these dates to 29·5 ins. or less in most districts. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions were not at all numerous, the most important being those of the 15th—18th, and the 27th—30th. In the former instance a small system of increasing intensity travelled eastwards along the English Channel, and subsequently north-eastwards to the south of Sweden; in the latter a well-marked disturbance advanced over the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain from the north-westward. On reaching the southern part of the North Sea it changed its course, and ultimately travelled northwards across Norway.

Anticyclones.—Four such systems were observed. The first of these lay directly over our Islands at the beginning of the month, but soon passed away to the eastward and dispersed. The second extended over our northern districts from Scandinavia between the 7th and 10th, and then moved south-eastwards, across Europe, and disappeared from our area. The third advanced over the United Kingdom from the Atlantic on the 18th and 19th, and after lying for a time off our south-west coasts ultimately passed away again over the ocean. The fourth also advanced from the westward on the 29th, and was found at the close of the month over Ireland, England, and France.

Winds.—At the northern and eastern stations the prevailing winds were from some northerly point, but on our southern coasts there was great variability, a rather large proportion of breezes from the eastward being reported at Scilly and Jersey. Gales were rare, the number ranging from one or two in most districts to four at Wick and Aberdeen. On the north-west coasts of Great Britain there were none.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from nearly 50° at Jersey and from 48° and upwards over the south of Ireland and a considerable portion of the south of England to between 43° and 44° on the east coast of Great Britain, and to very little above 41° in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The mean distribution agreed fairly with the normal, but the actual values were in most regions rather below the average,* the departure being least (0·2° to 0·5°) over the southern parts of England and Ireland, and greatest (1·5° or more) at some of our northern and eastern stations. *Highest* readings were registered on irregular dates during the first week, when the thermometer rose to 70° or a little above in many parts of Great Britain. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule between the 15th and the 17th, when sharp frost occurred in most places; at Braemar the thermometer fell to 11°, at Newton Reigny to 14°, and at Glenlee to 17°; minima below 20° were recorded at several other northern stations. *Range* was large, especially over some of the inland parts of our northern districts, where it amounted to 50° or more; at Braemar it was as much as 56°. *Relative Humidity* varied from 90 per cent. or more in the Shetlands and Hebrides, and from 85 per cent. or more in some parts of the south of England to 71 at Liverpool, and to only 68 at Aberdeen. *Vapour Tension* exceeded 0·25 in. on the south coasts of Ireland and England, and was as high as 0·28 in. at Scilly. At Aberdeen and Hawes Junction it was below 0·20 in.

Rainfall was very deficient, especially over Ireland and the central and southern parts both of England and Scotland, where the fall amounted to less than half the average,* and in some places to less than one fourth of the normal quantity. The only localities in which there was any excess were—the county of Norfolk, isolated portions of the north of Scotland, and the stations at Arlington, and Jersey. The largest aggregates for the north were 4·4 ins. at Glencarron, and 3·2 ins. at Arlington; the smallest were 0·5 in. at Ardrossan and 0·6 in. at Ochtertyre and Glasgow. A heavy fall of snow occurred in the south-east of England on the 15th and 16th.

Bright Sunshine was largely in excess of the average,*—more than 50 per cent. of the possible amount being recorded at most of the English stations, as well as in isolated parts of Ireland and Scotland. At Torquay the per-centage was as high as 61, and at Southampton, Tenby, and Cullompton, 58°. The lowest values were 36 per cent. at Fort Augustus, and 38 per cent. at Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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