

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

AUGUST 1898.

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General Summary.—In the southern and south-eastern districts the weather of August, though changeable at times, was mostly fair, warm, and dry. In the west and north, however, it was far less settled, with occasional heavy falls of rain in most places. Thunderstorms were rather frequent, the most important of these occurring on the night of the 17th or on the 18th, when the whole of the south-western districts were visited by a storm of unusual severity, accompanied in many places by very heavy falls of rain and hail. Pressure and temperature were in excess of the average; the winds were chiefly Westerly or South-westerly; rainfall was deficient in the eastern and southern parts of the country generally, but exceeded the normal elsewhere; bright sunshine was abundant in all but the western parts of Great Britain and in the west of Ireland, where there was a slight deficiency.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·06 ins. at Jersey, and 30·0 ins. and upwards over the entire southern half of England and the extreme south of Ireland, to 29·8 ins. and less in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The mean distribution over our islands agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were in all cases above the average,* the excess being greatest over England, where it amounted to between 0·08 in. and 0·10 in. *Highest* readings were observed over the country generally on the 24th or 25th, when the barometer rose to between 30·2 ins. and 30·3 ins. in all but the extreme northern districts, where readings of equal height were recorded on the 18th or 19th. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule either on the 27th or 30th, when the barometer fell to between 29·3 ins. and 29·7 ins. at all but the southern stations. In the south of England the lowest readings (29·7 ins. or rather less) were registered on the 6th or 7th. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions were rather numerous for the time of year, their centres advancing as a rule in a north-easterly direction over various parts of north-western Europe. The most important disturbances were those which passed across Scotland respectively on the 5th and the 30th, the former system occasioning a slight South-westerly gale in the English Channel, and the latter a somewhat general gale from points between South-west and North-west. On the 17th and 18th a shallow and rather complex depression advanced over our south-west coasts from the southward, and produced the severe thunderstorms already noticed. The movements of this system were too irregular to be shown on map 2, pl. VIII.

Anticyclones.—In the course of the month several high pressure areas spread over western Europe from the westward, but in no case did the system remain long in our neighbourhood, its departure being usually in a southerly direction. On the 16th a large anticyclone extended over our islands from the northward, and after a temporary interruption on the 18th, remained with us until the 21st, when it moved away to the eastward.

Winds were chiefly from the Westward or South-westward, and frequently strong in force, especially on our western coasts. At Ardrossan a gale was reported on 6 days, and at Malin Head, Holyhead and Pembroke on as many as 8.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from very little below 66° in London, from 65° and upwards in the Channel Islands, and from 64° and upwards over a considerable portion of the south and south-east of England to 56° and less in the extreme north of Scotland, and to 53° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution over our islands was in fair agreement with the normal, but the values were in nearly all cases above the average,* the excess being greatest (2° to 3°) over the central and southern parts of England. *Highest* readings were recorded as a rule either on the 12th or on the 21st or 22nd, when the thermometer rose to between 80° and 85° in many parts of Great Britain; on the 22nd it reached 87° at Hillington and Cambridge and 89° in London. *Lowest* readings were recorded on various dates in the different districts, but mostly either between the 7th and 9th, on the 24th or 25th, or on the 29th. On one or other of these occasions the sheltered thermometer fell below 45° in nearly all parts of the kingdom, and below 40° at some of the northern stations, the lowest readings of all being 32° at Braemar and 35° at Glenlee. *Range* was rather large for the time of year, especially over the inland parts of Great Britain; in London it amounted to 44°, and at Hillington and Cambridge to 45°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·47 in. and 0·50 in. at the English Channel stations to 0·38 in. and less over the northern, eastern, and central parts of Scotland generally, and to 0·36 in. at Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 91 per cent. at Holyhead and 90 per cent. at Sumburgh Head and Malin Head to 78 per cent. in London, and to 70 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* at the western and extreme northern stations generally, and also over the northern parts of England. In the eastern and southern parts of Great Britain, however, the amount was mostly deficient, and at some stations in the south of England was less than half the normal. The largest aggregates recorded were 9·3 ins. at Glencarron, 8·8 ins. at Hawes Junction, and 7·5 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 1·0 in. in London and at Cranley, 1·1 in. at Rothamsted and the North Foreland, and 1·2 in. at Hereford and Southampton. In the extreme north-western parts of the kingdom the number of rainy days was large, as many as 28 being reported at Laudale and 25 at Belmullet, 26 at Stornoway, Londonderry, and Markree Castle. Amounts exceeding an inch in 24 hours were experienced at many of the western and northern stations, the largest of all being 2·8 ins. at Hawes Junction on the 5th, 2·4 ins. at Glencarron on the 1st, and 1·6 in. at Stonyhurst on the 9th.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient in the western districts generally, though not in the eastern and central parts of Ireland: elsewhere the duration was in excess of the average.* The percentage of the possible amount ranged from 61 at Jersey, 57 at Hastings, and 45 or more at several stations in the south and east of England to 26 at Fort Augustus and Fort William and to 25 at Markree Castle.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 25 years 1871–95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years 1866–95; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years 1881–95.