

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

MARCH 1895.

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General Summary.—The early part of March was very cold and changeable, with frequent snow showers. Later on temperature rose steadily, the weather being fair about the middle of the month, but rough and unsettled during the concluding week, with thunder and lightning in many parts of Ireland and England. On the 13th a brilliant aurora was seen over a considerable portion of the United Kingdom. Pressure was low, especially in the north and east; temperature was mostly in excess of the average; the winds were rather variable, but mainly from the Westward in the eastern districts, with a very destructive gale over the inland parts of England on the 24th; rainfall was, as a rule, in excess of the normal; bright sunshine was deficient at all but a few of our eastern and southern stations.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·8 ins. and upwards in the Channel Islands, and 29·75 ins. and upwards on the south coasts of England generally, to 29·55 ins. and less in the extreme north of Scotland. The general distribution agreed fairly with the normal, but the actual values were everywhere below the average,* the deficit being greatest in the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom, where it amounted in many places to more than a quarter of an inch. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 15th or 16th, when the barometer rose to 30·4 ins. and upwards in the south of England, and to 30·1 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme northern coasts. *Lowest* readings were observed very generally on the 28th, when the barometer fell to between 28·5 ins. and 28·7 ins. over the Irish Sea and the north of England, and to 29·0 ins. and less in nearly all other parts of the kingdom. *Range* was moderate generally, but rather large in some of our central districts.

Depressions were rather numerous, and travelled, as a rule, in a north-easterly direction. The most important systems were:—(1.) A well marked secondary disturbance which travelled with unusual rapidity across Ireland, England, and the North Sea on the 24th, and which occasioned severe gales from South-west and West over the inland parts of England; (2.) A rather deep depression, with minimum readings below 28·6 ins., which advanced north-eastwards to the Irish Sea between the 27th and 28th. After moving eastwards across the north of England, the latter system passed very slowly southwards down our east coasts and gradually dispersed.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclone observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands spread in from the south-westward on the 13th, and ultimately became united with another system over northern Europe. On the 19th, however, the system moved away in a south-westerly direction to the Atlantic.

Winds were extremely variable in the west, but mostly from some Westerly quarter in the eastern parts of the kingdom. Gales were rather frequent on our western coasts, the number being as large as 10 at Holyhead, and 9 at Malin Head and Scilly.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 45° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts, to 40° and less over the northern and central parts of Scotland, the distribution in the intervening regions being somewhat irregular. The actual values were in most cases in excess of the average,* but on the Irish coasts, as well as in Wales, the north-west of England, and isolated portions of Scotland, there was a slight deficit. *Highest* readings were recorded, as a rule, on the 21st and 22nd, when the thermometer rose to 60° and upwards at several of the English stations, and to 66° at Hereford, Strathfield Turgiss, and Southampton. *Lowest* readings were registered mostly between the 2nd and 4th, when sharp frost prevailed very generally; at the northern and inland stations the absolute minima were in nearly all cases below 25°, the lowest readings of all being 14° at Braemar and 16° at Llandoverly. *Range* was moderate as a whole, but large in some of the inland parts of England and Wales; at Hereford it amounted to 46°, and at Llandoverly to 49°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·27 in. at Scilly and 0·24 in. and upwards on our extreme west and south-west coasts generally, to 0·22 in. over the eastern and central parts of Great Britain, and to 0·20 in. at Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* varied from 97 per cent. at Stornoway, and 96 per cent. at Dungeness, to 83 per cent. at Valencia, and 82 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall was slightly deficient in the central and western parts of Scotland, and also at some of the southern English stations. Elsewhere, however, the amount was more than the average,* the excess being rather considerable in the west. The largest aggregates for the month were 8·9 ins. at Glencarron, 6·4 ins. at Hawes Junction, and 5·7 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 0·8 in. at the North Foreland, 1·2 ins. in London, and 1·3 ins. at Strathfield Turgiss. The heaviest fall in 24 hours occurred at our western stations on the 23rd, when over an inch was recorded in many places, and as much as 1·9 ins. at Llandoverly. During the early part of the month the precipitation consisted mainly of snow showers.

Bright Sunshine amounted to less than the average* in most places, but was slightly in excess in the east and south-east of England, and largely in excess at Falmouth. More than 40 per cent. of the possible quantity was recorded at several of the English Channel stations, and as much as 47 per cent. at Falmouth. In many parts of our northern and north-western districts, however, there was less than 20 per cent., the smallest proportion (12 to 13 per cent.) being recorded at the two Manchester stations, Prestwich and Oldham Road.

* 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.