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

MARCH 1899.

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General Summary.—During the earlier half of the month the weather was mostly fair and dry, the only important exception occurring between the 7th and 9th, when rain or snow fell in most districts. Later on the conditions became very inclement, with cold Northerly winds, sharp frost, and frequent falls of snow, especially in the north and east. Towards the close of the month the weather though still unsettled, was milder and somewhat finer; much fog was, however, reported on our south and south-west coasts on the 30th and 31st. Pressure was above the average; temperature was below the normal in the eastern and southern districts, but above it elsewhere; the winds were chiefly Westerly; rainfall was in excess of the average in the north and north-west, but very deficient in the south; bright sunshine was abundant in all districts excepting the north of Scotland.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·10 ins. and upwards over the Channel, the south of England and the extreme south of Ireland to 29·85 ins. and less in the Shetlands, the general distribution over our islands being in fair agreement with the normal. The actual values were, however, above the average,* and as the excess was greatest in the west and south, and least in the north, the gradient for Westerly winds was somewhat steeper than usual. *Highest* readings occurred over the country generally on the 1st, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and upwards in the south-western districts, and to 30·3 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme northern coasts. In the latter regions the highest readings (30·3 ins. to 30·4 ins.) were observed between the 16th and 18th. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 8th or 9th, when the barometer fell to 28·9 ins. and less in some parts of Scotland, and to 29·1 ins. and less in all other parts of the kingdom. *Range* was somewhat large for the time of year, especially in the south-west, where it amounted to about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Depressions.—These moved along, as a rule, in a track lying far to the northward of our islands, the centres travelling in many cases eastwards or south-eastwards across Scandinavia. In the rear of a deep depression, which passed across northern Europe on the 17th, shallow secondary systems were developed over the southern parts of Scandinavia, one of these moving southwards down the North Sea between the 20th and 22nd and afterwards travelling away eastwards to the Baltic.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems were observed. The first was in existence at the commencement of the month, but soon moved away to the south-westward and broke up. The second advanced from the Atlantic on the 4th, and passed quickly away to central and south-eastern Europe. The third extended eastwards over France and the south of our islands on the 10th and 11th, and subsequently spread over nearly the whole of Europe, the system moving away to the westward after the 17th.

Winds, though chiefly from the Westward, were rather variable on our south-western and extreme northern coasts. Gales were rather frequent at some of the western and northern stations, the number of days affected being as large as nine at Aberdeen, six at Holyhead and five at Roche's Point. Their strength was, however, at no time very great.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level*, ranged from a little above 47° in the Scilly Islands, and from 45° and upwards over our extreme south-west coasts generally, and on the shores of the St. George's Channel, to 40° and less in the east of England and at many stations in the north of Scotland, and to 38° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, the actual values being a little below the average* in the eastern, central and southern parts of England, but above it elsewhere. *Highest* readings occurred as a rule on the 16th or 17th, when the thermometer rose to 65° and upwards in many parts of the United Kingdom, and to 68° at Ochtertyre and Killarney. *Lowest* readings were recorded between the 21st and 24th, when sharp frost occurred in nearly all districts; at many stations the sheltered thermometer fell below 20°, the lowest readings of all being 3° at Braemar, 9° at Lairg, 11° at Geldeston and 13° at Glenlee and Llandovery. *Range* was very large,—amounting to between 45° and 50° in many places, to 54° at Llandovery, 57° at Lairg and 60° at Braemar. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·27 in. at Scilly, and from 0·25 in. and upwards on our extreme south-west and north-west coasts generally, to 0·20 in. and less over central England and the eastern and central parts of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 96 per cent. at Ardrossan, 94 per cent. at Parsonstown, and 90 per cent. or more at several of the English and Irish stations to 82 per cent. at Aberdeen and 80 per cent. at Valencia.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* over nearly the whole of Scotland, and also at some stations in the north-west of England. Elsewhere there was a deficiency, the amount at many stations in the south of England being considerably less than half, and in some cases less than one-fourth, of the normal quantity. The largest aggregates recorded were 9·3 ins. at Glencarron, 8·5 ins. at Fort William and 6·4 ins. at Stornoway; the smallest being 0·3 in. at Oxford and Cranley, 0·4 in. in London and at Dungeness, and 0·5 in. at Cirencester and Cullompton. In the south of England the number of rainy days was also very small, only five being reported at Cranley and six at Oxford, London and Hurst Castle. Snow or sleet occurred at several northern stations during the opening week, and in nearly all parts of the Kingdom in the latter half of the month, the fall being heavy in some of the eastern districts between the 20th and 24th, and in Scotland on the 25th.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* at nearly all stations, and especially over the central and southern parts of England. In the north of Scotland there was, however, as a rule a slight deficiency. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 57 at Jersey, 55 at Guernsey and Bognor, and 50 or more on several other parts of our southern coasts, to 24 in London, 23 at Fort William and 19 at Fort Augustus.

* 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.