

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

DECEMBER 1892.

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General Summary.—The weather was mild for a few days about the middle of the month, but at other times cold, with snow or sleet showers during the opening week, and a good deal of fog over the inland districts towards the close of the period. Pressure was a little above the average; temperature was low, especially in the north; the wind was rather variable in the southern districts but mostly Westerly, on our northern coasts; rainfall was very deficient, and bright sunshine was in excess of the average, the departure from the normal being very large at some of the English stations.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·00 ins. and upwards over the central parts of the Channel and the south of England to about 29·70 ins. in the Shetlands. The general distribution was therefore of a fairly normal character, but the actual values were in all cases slightly above the average,* the excess varying from about 0·02 in. in the extreme south-east of England to 0·06 in. or more in some parts of Scotland and the north of Ireland. *Highest* readings were recorded in the western parts of the kingdom on the 7th or 8th, but in the eastern districts on the 27th; in the former localities the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·4 ins., but in the latter regions it did not get much above 30·2 ins. *Lowest* readings were registered on the 11th, when the barometer fell below 29·0 ins. in Scotland, below 29·5 ins. in the western and northern parts of the United Kingdom, and below 29·7 ins. on all but our extreme south-west coasts. *Range* was small for the time of year.

Depressions.—The tracks of the depressions lay as a rule well to the northward of our Islands, but in some cases the centres passed close to our extreme northern coasts. On the night of the 8th a well-marked and somewhat deep system advanced rapidly across the Kingdom in a south-easterly direction, the disturbance afterwards moving slowly across the Netherlands to the south of Germany, where it gradually dispersed.

Anticyclones.—The anticyclones observed in our immediate neighbourhood were few in number and of a very transitory character, their duration in no case exceeding two or three days. In one instance the system spread temporarily over our Islands from the Atlantic and in another it extended south-westwards from the Scandinavian peninsula, while in a third the anticyclone was developed immediately over the United Kingdom, whence it moved away to the eastward.

Wind.—On our northern coast the winds were chiefly from some Westerly point but in the extreme south and south-west greater variability is shown, the Southerly current being perhaps the most frequent. Very few gales were experienced in the east and south east of England, but a fair quantity in other parts of the Kingdom, the largest numbers being 13 at Mullaghmore and 10 at Aberdeen and Valencia.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from about 46° at Valencia and Scilly to between 38° and 39° over many of the inland parts of the north of Ireland, to 35° or less over several parts of the English midland and northern counties and to 34° or less over the inland districts of Scotland. The general distribution was therefore of a marked wintry type and the actual values were below the average* in all parts of Great Britain, as well as at some of the Irish stations, the deficit being large (3° to 4°) in most of the northern districts. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 15th and 18th, when the thermometer rose to between 50° and 55° in most places, to 57° at Nairn, and to 58° at Laudale and Foynes. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule between the 26th and 28th, when the thermometer fell below 20° in nearly all parts of the Kingdom and to between 10° and 15° at many of the northern and inland stations in Great Britain. The lowest reading of all (8°) was recorded at Braemar on the 10th. *Range* was large,—over 40° in many places, and as much as 45° at Nairn and Loughborough. *Vapour Tension* ranged from about 0·28 in. on our extreme south-west coasts to 0·22 in. or less over Central Ireland, and to 0·18 in. or less over the east of Scotland and the northern and central parts of England. *Relative Humidity* was above 95 per cent. at some of our north-western stations and above 90 per cent. over the greater part of England and the west of Scotland. The lowest per-centages were 78 at Jersey, 80 at Aberdeen, and 83 at Mullaghmore.

Rainfall was very deficient, the aggregate fall amounting to less than half the average,* on a considerable portion of Great Britain, as well as at some of the Irish stations. The largest totals were 7·6 ins. at Glencarron, 5·5 ins. at Fort William, 4·9 ins. at Arlington, and 4·7 ins. at Killarney, the smallest being 0·4 in. at Bawtry, 0·6 in. at York, 0·7 in. at Braemar and Spurn Head, and 0·8 in. at Dublin. The number of rainy days was rather large (20 to 25) on our extreme western and northern coasts, but very small over the eastern parts of the kingdom. At Bawtry there were only 7, and at Cambridge and in London 9 days with rain.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* in most places, the difference being large at many of the English stations. At Thurstaston, Newton Reigny, and Llandudno the total amount was more than twice as much as the average. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 33 at Jersey, 30 at Hastings and 29 at Eastbourne and Southampton to 9 at Fort William and in London, to 8 at Stornoway and to only 2 per cent. at Fort Augustus, the total amount recorded during the month at the last-mentioned station being less than 4 hours.

* 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.