

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

NOVEMBER 1901.

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General Summary.—The weather of November was mostly fair and dry in the opening and concluding weeks, but very changeable in the middle portion of the month, with severe gales and heavy rains in many districts on the 12th and 13th. Fog appeared over England at frequent intervals, and in London and some other large urban centres it was often dense and protracted. Pressure was considerably above the average; temperature was low, especially over central and southern England; the winds were chiefly from the Westward; rainfall was very deficient in the southern districts, and also in some parts of Scotland, but exceeded the average in all the intermediate regions; bright sunshine was in excess of the normal in most places.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·21 ins. at Jersey, and from 30·15 ins. and upwards over the southern parts of England and Ireland generally, to 30·05 ins. and less in the north of Scotland, and to a little below 29·95 ins. in the Shetlands. The distribution of pressure was abnormal, being favourable mainly for winds from the North-westward, but with a peculiar southerly dip in the isobars over the St. George's and Bristol and the mouth of the English Channel. The mean values were considerably above the average,* the excess being greatest (0·3 in. or rather more) over Ireland and the west of Scotland. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 25th or 26th, when the barometer rose to very nearly 30·7 ins. over central England, to 30·6 ins. and upwards over England and Ireland generally, and to 30·5 ins. and upwards in Scotland. *Lowest* readings were recorded in most places on the 12th, when the barometer fell below 28·8 ins. in North Wales, and below 29·0 ins. over nearly the whole of England and Ireland. In the north of Scotland the lowest readings were observed on the 19th, the mercury falling below 29·4 ins. in most places, and below 29·1 ins. in the Shetlands. *Range* was large, excepting in the extreme north; over Wales and central England it amounted to nearly 2 ins.

Depressions.—Very few depressions appeared in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands, the large Atlantic disturbances passing as a rule far to the northward, and ultimately traversing the extreme north of Scandinavia. An important exception occurred, however, on the 12th, when the centre of a very deep system moved in an easterly direction across the south of Ireland, Wales, and the north of England, the system afterwards travelling slowly east-north-eastward across the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic to Finland, where it apparently dispersed on the 15th.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems were observed. The first spread over Europe from the northward at the close of October, and afterwards moved very slowly southwards, its central area passing across Denmark, Germany, and Austria. The western portion of the system remained, however, over our islands until the 8th, when it receded to France, and eventually to Southern Europe. The second spread over the United Kingdom from the Atlantic on the 16th, but soon moved away to the southward. The third advanced over these islands from the north-westward on the 22nd, and eventually spread over nearly the whole of Europe, its central portion being situated directly over our islands between the 23rd and 26th. After the 27th it moved gradually south-westwards and southwards, and by the close of the month had reached the Bay of Biscay.

Winds were chiefly from the Westward, excepting on our extreme northern and south-western coasts. In the former region there was a rather large proportion of breezes from the Northward and North-westward, while in the latter the direction varied considerably from time to time. The gales experienced were not especially numerous for the season, and were as a rule of little severity. The storm of the 12th blew, however, with considerable strength on all coasts, and especially in the north of Ireland, the wind being from the Southward and South-westward in the southern parts of the Kingdom, but from the Eastward and North-eastward in the north.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 49° at Scilly, and from 46° and upwards on our extreme west and south-west coasts generally, to 43° and less over central Ireland, 41° and less in some parts of northern and central Scotland, and to a little below 40° in several parts of western and central England. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the mean values were below the average* in all districts excepting the north of Ireland and the west of Scotland, the deficit being large over our midland and inland portions of our southern counties. *Highest* readings were recorded at various times during the first ten days of the month, the thermometer rising to 55° or more in most places, to 60° at Cambridge and Valencia (Ireland), and to 61° at Dungeness. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule between the 15th and 17th, when sharp frost occurred over nearly the whole Kingdom. At many of the inland stations the sheltered thermometer fell below 20°, the lowest readings reported being 6° at Braemar, 10° at Lairg, and 15° at Hereford. *Vapour Tension* exceeded 0·25 in. at most of our west coast stations, but was less elsewhere; at some places in the north-west and south-west of England it was below 0·20 in. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 90 per cent. or rather more over the northern and central parts of England and Ireland to 82 per cent. and less on our extreme south-west coast, and to only 77 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall was very deficient in all the more southern parts of the Kingdom, the total amount at many places in the south and south-west of England being smaller than in any November of the previous 35 years. A considerable deficiency was also reported at some of the Scotch stations, but in all the more northern parts of England, Wales, and Ireland the amount was more than the average,* the excess in those districts being due to heavy falls which occurred on the 11th and 12th of the month. The largest monthly aggregates reported were 9·3 ins. at Glencarron, 8·2 ins. at Stonyhurst, and 6·3 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 0·4 in. at Clifton and Portland Bill, and 0·5 in. at Oxford, Hastings, Shaftesbury, and Plymouth. On the 11th as much as 2·7 ins. of rain fell at Holyhead and Parsonstown, and 2·1 ins. at Stonyhurst; while on the following day 2·9 ins. was recorded at Durham, 2·4 ins. at Shields, and 2·2 ins. at Douglas (Isle of Man). Heavy falls occurred also at many of our northern stations on the 9th, and between the 18th and 21st. Snow or sleet was experienced in all but the extreme southern parts of the Kingdom between the 12th and 15th.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* over the country generally, but was deficient in London (where much fog prevailed) and also in many parts of Ireland. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 44 at Felixstowe and Hastings, and 40 or more at several of the English Channel stations, to 14 at Glasgow, 10 at Birmingham, and only 8 in London.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 30 years 1871–1900; *Rainfall* for the 35 years 1866–1900; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 20 years 1881–1900. (The averages will be published shortly as an appendix to the "Weekly Weather Report.")