

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

NOVEMBER 1897.

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General Summary.—The weather of November was somewhat changeable, especially in the west and north, where the rainfall was occasionally very heavy. Over the eastern and southern districts the month was upon the whole fair and dry, but with a good deal of cloud and fog at times. Thunder and lightning occurred in many parts of England and Ireland on the 28th and 29th. Pressure was considerably above the average; temperature was also high, but exhibited great daily variations, especially about the third week; rainfall was in excess of the normal in the south of Ireland and the northern parts of England and Wales, but very deficient in most other districts; bright sunshine amounted to less than the average.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·2 ins. and upwards over the south-eastern parts of England to 30·0 ins. and less in the Shetlands and Hebrides, the general distribution being again anticyclonic, and very similar to that observed in October. The mean values were considerably above the average*, the excess ranging between 0·28 in. and 0·30 in. in all localities excepting the western part of the English Channel, where it was scarcely so great. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 21st or 22nd, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and upwards over the central and south-eastern parts of England, to 30·6 ins. and upwards over England and Ireland generally, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards in the north of Scotland. *Lowest* readings occurred during the progress of the deep depression of the 28th and 29th, when the barometer fell to 28·7 ins. and less in the north and east of Scotland, to 29·0 ins. and less in the northern and eastern parts of our islands generally, and to 29·5 ins. and less on all but our extreme south-west coasts. *Range* was slight in the south-west, but rather large in most other districts.

Depressions.—Until very nearly the end of the month no depressions of any great importance were observed in our own immediate neighbourhood, the large Atlantic disturbances moving along far to the northward of these islands, and passing eastwards across the extreme north of Europe. On the 28th, however, a well marked depression appeared off the north of Scotland and travelled south-eastwards to Denmark, the system increasing greatly in depth as it passed across the North Sea; later on, however, the disturbance moved eastwards to the Baltic and Western Russia, and gradually dispersed. At the close of the month another large depression advanced to our extreme northern coasts and spread southwards over nearly the whole kingdom.

Anticyclones.—Throughout the entire month there was a strong tendency for anticyclonic conditions, many of the systems embracing not only our own islands, but nearly the whole of the Continent. As a rule the high pressure areas advanced either from the westward or northward, but on the 18th and 19th a well-defined system extended over us from the southward.

Winds varied greatly in direction from time to time, the only evidence of any predominating current being in the west of Ireland, where most of the winds came from the Southward. The gales experienced in the early part of the month were rare and of no great strength. On the 28th and 29th, however, a severe gale from West veering to North-west was experienced over the entire kingdom, the principal damage on our east and south-east coasts being due to the exceptional height of the tide forced up by the violent gale.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 53° at Scilly, and from 50° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts generally, to 45° and less over the inland parts of the east of England, and to 43° or less at inland stations in the north of Scotland. The general distribution over our islands showed no great departure from the normal, but the actual values were in all cases above the average*, the excess being greatest in the west and north; at some of the northern stations it amounted to over 4°, and at Llandale to more than 5°. *Highest* readings occurred either on the 1st, the 8th and 9th, or between the 12th and 14th, the thermometer rising in most places to a degree or two above or below 60°. *Lowest* readings occurred in the west and north mostly on the 15th and 16th, but in the south and east of England more commonly on the 26th or 27th, or on the 30th. The frost experienced in Scotland on the 16th was very keen, the sheltered thermometer falling to 12° at Braemar and 19° at Nairn. *Range* was, as a rule, somewhat small for the time of year. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·32 in. and 0·35 in. on our extreme south-west coasts to 0·26 in. and less over central England, and also in the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 96 per cent. at Ardrossan and Cambridge to 84 per cent. at Liverpool, and 83 per cent. at Valencia.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in the Hebrides, as well as in the south of Ireland and at many stations in the northern parts of England and Wales. Elsewhere there was a general deficiency, the amounts in the south and east of England being in many places less than half the normal. The largest aggregates reported were 9·3 ins. at Glencarron, 8·6 ins. at Gilcrux and 7·1 ins. at Valencia; the smallest being 0·9 in. at Cambridge and Rothamsted and 1·1 ins. in London and at Dungeness and Hurst Castle. The number of rainy days was, as a rule, somewhat small for the time of year. The heaviest falls of anything like a general character were those of the 11th and 12th and of the 30th. On the 12th more than an inch fell at several of the western and northern stations, as much as 2·7 ins. at Gilcrux, and still larger quantities in the English lake district. On the 30th an almost equally heavy fall occurred over the northern parts of England and Wales, the largest amounts reported being 2·4 ins. at Llandudno and 1·9 ins. at Blackpool. Snow or sleet occurred at many of the northern and eastern stations between the 28th and 30th.

Bright Sunshine was rather deficient over the country generally, but exceeded the average* at a few of the western and northern stations. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 36 at Jersey and 31 at Valencia to 11 at Thurstaston and 7 in London and at York.

* 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.