

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

MAY 1895.

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General Summary.—A spell of fine warm weather during the earlier half of the month was succeeded on the 15th or 16th by a sudden change to cold Northerly winds, with slight falls of snow in many places. After about the 20th, however, the thermometer again rose steadily, the concluding portion of the month being warm, but somewhat changeable, with thunderstorms and heavy showers locally. On the east and south-east coasts of Great Britain, where thick fogs were experienced between the 23rd and 28th, the weather remained cold for the time of year. Pressure and temperature were above the average; the winds were rather variable; rainfall was exceedingly deficient, especially in the west and south; bright sunshine was largely in excess of the normal.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* was above 30·1 ins. over the greater part of our islands, but a little below that point in the south-east of England as well as in the north-west of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland. The general distribution was distinctly anticyclonic, and the actual values were in all cases above the average,* the excess being greatest (0·15 in. or more) in the western and northern districts. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 2nd or 3rd, when the barometer rose to 30·55 ins. and upwards very generally, and to 30·60 ins. and upwards in all the more central parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed mainly on the 31st, and ranged from 29·4 ins. and less in the south-west of Ireland to 29·7 ins. and less over the western and northern districts generally. In the east and south-east of England, however, the lowest values (29·5 ins. to 29·7 ins.) were recorded on the 16th or 17th. *Range* was moderate in the extreme west, but slight elsewhere.

Depressions.—Very few depressions were observed in our immediate neighbourhood. The only system of any consequence appeared off our northern coasts on the 14th, and, after moving south-eastwards and southwards across Norway and Denmark, advanced across the North Sea to our east coasts, where it gradually filled up.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems were reported. The first of these advanced over our islands from the south-westward at the commencement of the month and remained with us till the 7th, when it moved away to the north-eastward. The second advanced from the Atlantic on the 12th, and, after spreading over the whole kingdom, receded to the westward under the influence of the depression of the 14th to 17th. The third pursued a course very similar to that taken by the first, the system appearing in our neighbourhood on the 25th, and moving away to the north-eastward on the 29th.

Winds were rather variable, but mainly from the Southward on our extreme western coasts, and from points between North and East in the south and south-east. Scarcely any gales were experienced in the west, but in the north and east they were rather frequent, as many as 5 being reported at Aberdeen and at Spurn Head.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 57° and upwards at one or two stations in the south of England, and from 55° and upwards over the western, central, and southern parts of England generally, to 50° and less in Caithness and the Shetlands. The general distribution bore a stronger resemblance to the summer type than is usual in May, and the mean values were everywhere above the average,* the excess varying in many parts of Great Britain between three and a half and five degrees. *Highest* readings were recorded mostly on the 30th, when the thermometer exceeded 80° at many of the English and Welsh stations, and reached 87° at Cambridge. *Lowest* readings were registered mostly between the 1st and 3rd in the western, central, and southern districts, but on the 17th and 18th in the north and east; at the majority of stations the thermometer did not go much below 35°, but at Braemar and Glenlee it fell to 30°, and at Llandovery to 28°. *Range* was large at many of the inland stations; at Cambridge it amounted to 52°, at Strathfield Turgiss to 53°, and at Llandovery to 55°. *Vapour Tension* was above 0·30 in. at nearly all stations, and as high as 0·34 in. on some parts of our south and south-west coasts. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 70 per cent. in London, 71 per cent. at Liverpool, and 73 per cent. at Oxford and Jersey, to 87 per cent. at Pembroke, and 89 per cent. at Sumburgh Head.

Rainfall was exceedingly deficient, especially in the more western and southern parts of the kingdom, where the fall amounted to a very small fraction of the average* amount. At several stations in these districts the total for the month was less than a quarter of an inch, the smallest values of all being 0·05 in. at Hastings, 0·07 in. at Pembroke, and 0·10 in. at Dungeness. The number of rainy days was also very small, less than 5 being reported at many of the English and Irish stations; at Hastings there was only one day with a measurable quantity. On the 16th and 17th snow showers were experienced in many places, even as far south as London and Bristol.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* in nearly all places, and especially over the central and southern parts of England. At several of the Channel stations more than 60 per cent. of the possible amount was recorded, and at Falmouth as much as 67 per cent. The smallest per-centages of all were 28 at Fort Augustus, 36 at Stornoway and Glasgow, and 37 at Manchester (Oldham Road).

* 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.