

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

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General Summary.—During the earlier half of the month the weather was mostly cool and very changeable, with frequent rain, and with snow in many of the northern and eastern districts between the 2nd and 5th. After the middle of the month the weather improved, and temperature rose steadily to an unusually high level for the time of year, the warmth of the 20th and 22nd being followed, however, by a brisk fall of temperature, and by a very gradual change to less settled weather. On the 16th a brief but very sharp thunderstorm, attended by fatal effects, moved (apparently southwards) over the east and south-east of England. Pressure was slightly below the average in the north, but considerably above it in the south; temperature was above the normal; the winds were chiefly from the Westward; rainfall was deficient at all but the north-western and extreme northern stations; bright sunshine was in excess of the average in Great Britain, but far less prevalent in Ireland.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·07 ins. at Jersey and from 30·0 ins. and upwards over the south of England generally to 29·8 ins. and less in the north of Scotland and to about 29·75 ins. in the Shetlands. Over the northern parts of the kingdom the mean values were slightly below the average, but in the south they were considerably above it, and as a result the gradient for westerly and south-westerly winds (normally very slight in April) was unusually well marked. *Highest* readings occurred on the 19th or 20th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards over England and the eastern and central parts of Ireland, and to 30·3 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed over the country generally on the 4th, when the barometer fell to 29·2 ins. and less in all the more northern districts, and to 29·4 ins. and less on all but our extreme southern coasts. In the north of Scotland, however, the lowest readings (29·0 ins. and less) were recorded on the 12th. *Range* was moderate for the time of year.

Depressions.—The depressions observed over western Europe were confined mainly to the earlier half of the month, and were, as a rule, of no great depth. The principal disturbances appear to have skirted our northern coasts between the 11th and 16th, and to have subsequently passed on to Scandinavia, their progress being attended by Westerly gales on many parts of our coasts.

Anticyclones.—During the earlier half of the month no well-defined anticyclone was observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands, the nearest high pressure systems being situated at first over northern, and afterwards over southern Europe. After the 16th, however, a large anticyclone spread from the south-westward, firstly over the western countries, and finally over nearly the whole of Europe. On the 21st the system began to break up, but this process was so gradual that it was not until the 28th that all traces of it had disappeared from our area of observation.

Winds were mainly from some Westerly quarter (South-west to North-west), but showed great variability in the north of Scotland. The prevalence of gales was rather large for the time of year; at many of the western and northern stations there were five or six days with a wind force of 7 or more, and at Aberdeen and Spurn Head there were seven.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 49° and upwards over the south and east of Ireland, the St. George's Channel, and the south-west of England, as well as in some parts of our southern counties, to 45° and less in the north of Scotland generally, and to 42° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution over our islands was in fair agreement with the normal, but the actual values were in nearly all cases above the average,* the excess being slight in most places, but, as a rule, greatest in the west and north. *Highest* readings occurred between the 20th and 22nd, when the thermometer rose to between 70° and 75° in many parts of the United Kingdom, to 77° at Hillington, and to 78° at Cambridge and in London. *Lowest* readings occurred over the major part of Great Britain on the 1st or 2nd, but in Ireland they were observed either on the 5th or 6th, or between the 26th and 28th. At the times specified frost was observed in nearly all districts, the lowest shade temperatures reported being 22° at Rothamsted and 23° at Hillington, Loughborough, Cirencester and Llandovery. *Range* was moderate generally but large over the inland parts of Great Britain; at Loughborough and Rothamsted it amounted to 52°, at Cambridge to 53°, and at Hillington to 54°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·31 in. at Scilly, and from 0·29 in. and upwards on many parts of our west and south-west coasts to 0·25 in. and less over the eastern and central parts of Great Britain generally, and to 0·23 in. at Aberdeen and Loughborough. *Relative Humidity* varied from 97 per cent. at Donaghadee and 92 per cent. at Pembroke to 80 per cent., or rather less over the east of Scotland and the eastern and central parts of England.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* over the north-western and extreme northern parts of the kingdom, largely so in the north-west of Scotland. Elsewhere the rainfall was deficient, and at many places in the eastern and central parts of England it amounted to less than half the average. The largest aggregates reported were 9·5 ins. at Glencarron, 5·9 ins. at Fort William, and 5·0 ins. at Laudale; the smallest being 0·5 in. at Cranley, 0·6 in. at Spurn Head and Dungeness, and 0·7 in. at Cambridge and in London. The number of days with rain was large in the extreme west and north, but agreed closely with the average in all other districts excepting the eastern and central parts of England; at Bawtry and Dungeness there were only nine such occasions, and at Spurn Head only eight. Snow or sleet fell in the north and east of England on the 2nd, in several parts of Scotland on the 3rd, and in the west of Scotland on the 5th.

Bright Sunshine.—Over the major part of Great Britain the duration was in excess of the average,* a slight deficiency being reported, however, in South Wales and at some stations in the north and west of Scotland. Over Ireland there was a very general deficiency. The percentage of the possible amount ranged from 56 at Guernsey, 51 at Eastbourne, and 45 or more at many stations in the east and south of England, to 29 at Fort William and Glasgow, 27 at Deerness, and 24 at Braemar.

* 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.—See Preface to the *Weekly Weather Report*, 1895