

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

AUGUST 1896.

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General Summary.—During the first week the weather over our islands was mostly fine and dry. Later on, however, it gradually became unsettled and thundery, the rainfall being at first partial, but afterwards fairly general, especially in the western districts. Waterspouts were seen on the 25th at some of the English Channel stations. Pressure was high, especially in Ireland; temperature was below the average; the winds were mostly from between West and North; rainfall was deficient in most places, but exceeded the average in the west of Scotland; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in the west and extreme north, but amounted to considerably less than the normal in the eastern and central districts.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·15 ins. and upwards in the extreme south-west of Ireland, and 30·1 ins. and upwards over the south-western parts of the kingdom generally, to a little above 29·85 ins. in the Shetlands. The actual values were in all cases above the average,* the excess being least in the east of England, and greatest in Ireland, where it amounted to over 0·2 in. *Highest* readings were observed very generally on the 10th or 11th, when the barometer rose to 30·4 ins. and upwards in the south of Ireland and the extreme south-west of England, and to 30·2 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred as a rule on the 25th, when the barometer fell to 29·5 ins. and less in the north of Scotland, and to 29·7 ins. and less over the northern and eastern districts generally. In the extreme north-west, however, the lowest readings were observed early on the 30th, the mercury falling below 29·4 ins. in most places, and to very nearly 29·1 ins. in the Hebrides. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The depressions observed over western Europe were often large, but of no great depth. Early in the month their centres moved in very irregular paths over Scandinavia, but later on they appeared off our own northern coasts and travelled eastwards, the main disturbances being accompanied in many cases by small secondary systems which advanced directly over the kingdom.

Anticyclones.—At the commencement of the month a large anticyclone spread over our islands from the Atlantic, the system, after a temporary withdrawal on the 3rd and 4th, ultimately extending over the whole of western and northern Europe. After the 12th it moved away to the south-westward, but on several later occasions it again spread eastwards either over our own western and southern coasts, or over the south-western parts of the Continent. These movements were as a rule of a very temporary character.

Winds were mainly from points lying between West and North, with occasional gales on our western and extreme northern coasts. In the north of Ireland the wind rose to a gale on four or five days, but at our eastern and southern stations it scarcely ever exceeded the force of a strong breeze.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 62° in the Channel Islands, and from 60° and upwards over the south of England generally to 55° and less over the northern parts of Scotland, and to very little above 52° in the Shetlands. The general distribution bore a closer resemblance to the autumn than to the summer type, and the actual values were in nearly all cases below the average,* the deficit amounting to over three degrees at some of the central stations in England and Ireland. *Highest* readings occurred at varying times in the different districts, but mainly between the 11th and 13th. At Southampton the thermometer touched 81°, but at many other stations in England it failed to exceed 75°, while on our western and northern coasts generally it did not reach 70°. *Lowest* readings also occurred at various times, but mostly between the 26th and 28th. In many of the inland districts the sheltered thermometer fell below 40°, the lowest readings of all being 33° at Braemar and Llandoverly, and 35° at Edenfel and Kilkenny. On the surface of the ground the thermometer fell below the freezing point in several places, and on more than one occasion during the month. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·42 inch and 0·43 inch at the English Channel stations to 0·35 inch and less in the Shetlands and the eastern parts of Scotland, and to 0·33 inch at Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* varied from between 90 and 94 per cent. in the north and east of Scotland, to 80 per cent. or less in the Channel Islands and the south-east of England, and to 75 per cent. or less in the east of Scotland.

Rainfall was deficient in most places, the only district with any general excess being the west of Scotland; at several of the western and northern stations the fall amounted to less than half the average.* The largest aggregates reported were 7·6 ins. at Laudale, 7·1 ins. at Stornoway, and 6·8 ins. at Glencarron; the smallest being 0·7 in. at Spurn Head, 1·1 ins. at Dublin, and 1·3 ins. at Kilkenny. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were reported at many western and northern stations, the heaviest of all being those which occurred in the extreme north and north-west on the 28th and 29th. On the former date 2·0 ins. fell at Stornoway, 2·4 ins. at Fort William, and 2·5 ins. at Glencarron; while on the latter occasion 1·6 ins. fell at Belmullet, and 2·1 ins. at Laudale.

Bright Sunshine was slightly in excess of the average* in the west and extreme north, but was below it elsewhere, the deficiency being rather large over the eastern and central parts of England. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 59 at Guernsey, and 50 or more on other parts of our south-west coasts to 25 or less at several of our northern and eastern stations, and to only 16 at Worksop.

* 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.