

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

AUGUST 1894.

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General Summary.—The weather of August was exceedingly cloudy and unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms, and with heavy falls of rain, especially in the northern and extreme southern parts of the kingdom. Pressure was rather low in all but the south-western districts; temperature also was below the average; the winds were chiefly Westerly; rainfall varied greatly in amount in different localities, but was in excess of the average; and bright sunshine was very deficient, especially in Ireland.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·0 ins. in the Channel Islands, and 29·95 ins. and upwards in the south of Ireland and the south-west of England, to 29·80 ins. and less over the northern parts of Scotland generally, and to 29·71 ins. in the Shetlands. In Ireland and the south-west of England the values were slightly above the average,* but in other districts there was a trifling deficit, and, as a result, the mean gradient over our islands was favourable for winds from the northward rather than from the southward of west. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 27th and 30th, when the barometer rose to 30·3 ins. and upwards in Ireland, to 30·2 ins. and upwards over England, and to 30·1 ins. and upwards in all but the extreme northern parts of Scotland. *Lowest* readings were observed on the 14th or 15th, when they ranged from 29·2 ins. and less in the north of Scotland to 29·7 ins. and less in the extreme south of our islands. In the latter districts, however, equally low readings were recorded on several other occasions during the early part of the month. *Range* was moderate generally, but slight in the south.

Depressions.—During the earlier half of the period the depressions (which were rather numerous for the time of year) passed mainly over the northern parts of our islands, and on to the Scandinavian Peninsula. Later on, however, our southern districts were affected by disturbances, which advanced northwards from Spain and the Bay of Biscay, the movements of these systems being in many cases too irregular to permit of their tracks being shown on Map 2, Plate VIII.

Anticyclones.—On the 10th and 11th, and again on the 17th and 18th, an anticyclone spread temporarily over our islands from the westward, the system in each case passing away quickly to the southward. During the 26th and 27th, however, a more permanent area was developed over the United Kingdom, and by the close of the month this had extended over the greater part of the Continent.

Winds.—The prevailing winds were Westerly, excepting in the extreme north and north-west, where they were chiefly from the North-westward or Northward. The gales reported were few in number, and, as a rule, of very little strength. On the 14th and 15th, however, fresh gales were experienced on many parts of our coasts—from the Westward in the west and south, but from the North-westward or Northward in the extreme north and north-west.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 63° and upwards in the Channel Islands and 61° and upwards in the south-east of England to 57° and less in the central and north-western parts of Ireland, and to 55° and less in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The general distribution was fairly normal, but the actual values were in nearly all cases below the average,* the deficit amounting to between two and two and a half degrees at many of the English and Irish stations. *Highest* readings were observed at various times during the month, but in the south of England they occurred mostly on the 31st, when the thermometer rose to 78° at Southampton, to 79° in London, and to 80° at Dungeness. At a large majority of our western and northern stations the absolute maxima were below 70°, and on our extreme north and north-west coasts the thermometer did not reach 65°. *Lowest* readings were registered mainly on the 21st or 22nd, but the lowest of all were observed in Scotland on the 25th or 26th, when the sheltered thermometer fell to 33° at Braemar and to 36° at Nairn. *Range* was slight. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·44 in. and 0·46 in. at the Channel stations, to between 0·35 in. and 0·37 in. in the east of Scotland and the north-east of England. *Relative Humidity* was below 80 per cent. in the east of Scotland, and below 85 per cent. in many parts of England, as well as in the west and south of Ireland. At Ardrossan, however, the per-centage was as high as 90, and at Stornoway it reached 91.

Rainfall varied considerably in amount in the different districts, but was upon the whole in excess of the average* over Great Britain, and below the normal in Ireland. In Scotland and the north-west of England, as well as in the Channel Islands, the excess was large. The highest aggregates for the month were 8·6 ins. at Glencarron, 8·4 ins. at Stonyhurst, and 7·1 ins. at Fort William; the smallest being 1·3 ins. at Dungeness, 1·4 ins. at Spurn Head, and 1·8 ins. at Bawtry and Yarmouth. The number of rainy days was large, exceeding 20 in many places, and reaching 28 at Stornoway and 29 at Markree Castle. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were somewhat frequent, especially in the northern districts, the largest amount of all being 2·0 ins. at Glenlee on the 2nd and at Fort William on the 13th.

Bright Sunshine was very deficient, especially in Ireland; at Parsonstown the amount recorded was less than half the average. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged between 41 and 44 in the Channel Islands, and between 33 and 38 on the south coasts of England, but was below 20 at several of the Irish and Scotch stations. The smallest proportions of all were 11 per cent. at Fort Augustus, 15 per cent. at Manchester (Oldham Road), and 16 per cent. at Fort William and Parsonstown.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.