

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

SEPTEMBER 1900.

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General Summary.—The weather of September was generally fine and dry over England, but less settled in Ireland and Scotland, and especially in the extreme northern and north-western districts. Towards the close of the month unsettled rainy weather became general. A good deal of fog prevailed on our western and southern coasts on the 6th and 7th, on our north-east and north-west coasts between the 12th and 17th, and in the St. George's and Bristol Channels on the 22nd and 23rd. Lightning was seen over England on the 16th; there was thunder also in a few places. Pressure and temperature were above the average; the winds were chiefly Westerly or South-westerly; rainfall was very deficient in all districts excepting the west and north of Scotland; bright sunshine was in excess of the normal.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·15 ins. and upwards over the English Channel and our extreme southern counties to 29·85 ins., or rather less, in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the mean values were above the average,* and as the excess was nearly twice as great in the south as in the north, the gradient for Westerly and South-westerly winds was unusually steep for the time of year. *Highest* readings were recorded between the 11th and 13th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards over Ireland and England, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest* readings were registered on the 27th, when the mercury fell to 29·1 ins. and less in the north of Scotland, to 29·3 ins. and less over our northern districts generally, and to 29·6 ins. and less at all but the English Channel stations. *Range* was somewhat large in the north, but small for the time of year in the south.

Depressions were few in number and, as a rule, of little intensity, the larger Atlantic disturbances passing mostly well to the northward of our islands, some in tracks shown approximately by the lines A and B in Map 2, Pl. IX., and others in paths lying still further north. Towards the close of the month, however, the depressions came further south and affected the whole kingdom, the most important case being that of the 26th and 27th, when the centre of a deep disturbance travelled east-north-eastwards directly across the north of Scotland.

Anticyclones.—Four such systems were observed. The first spread over our islands from the north-westward on the 2nd and ultimately embraced the whole of Western and Central Europe, but moved southwards after the 4th and gradually dispersed. The second advanced from the south-westward on the 9th and spread quickly over all but the extreme northern and eastern parts of Europe, the central portion being directly over our islands between the 11th and 13th; after the latter date the entire system moved away very slowly to the eastward. The third spread from the south-westward over all but the northern parts of our islands on the 19th, but passed away eastward on the 23rd. The fourth advanced from a similar direction on the 25th, but soon moved away to the southward.

Winds were chiefly Westerly or South-westerly, but showed greater variability in the extreme south; at Jersey there was a large proportion of winds from the Eastward or North-eastward. Very few gales occurred, the only case of any importance being that of the 26th and 27th, when the wind blew very hard from the South-westward over Ireland and England, and still harder from the South-eastward in Scotland.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from a little above 61° in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 59° and upwards in the east and south-east of England, to 55° or less over the greater part of Scotland and the north of Ireland, and to 52° or less in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The general distribution, though very irregular in the south of England, was in fair agreement with the normal over the country generally, but the mean values were nearly everywhere above the average,* the excess being mostly slight, but varying greatly in amount in different places. *Highest* readings occurred, as a rule, between the 13th and 16th, when the thermometer rose to 75° and upwards in many parts of Great Britain, to 82° in London and at Cambridge, and to 84° at Lairg. *Lowest* readings were registered at the northern stations mostly on the 3rd, but in other places at various times during the month; slight frost occurred at a few inland stations, the lowest reading reported being 30° at Braemar. *Range* was generally moderate, but large in places; at Lairg it amounted to as much as 51°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·42 in. and 0·45 in. on the south coast of England to 0·34 in. and less on the north and east coasts of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 91 per cent. at Sumburgh Head, Donaghadee, and Parsonstown to 80 per cent. or less in the east of Scotland, and to only 71 per cent. at Jersey.

Rainfall was less than the average* in all districts excepting the west and north of Scotland. At most stations in England and the south of Ireland the total amount was less than half the average, and at many places in England it was less than one-fourth. The largest aggregates were 9·5 ins. at Laudale, 8·7 ins. at Glencarron, and 7·9 ins. at Stornoway; the smallest being 0·4 in. at Spurn Head, Cambridge, Oxford, and Cirencester, and 0·5 in. at Scarborough, Loughborough, and Churchstoke. At Liverpool the amount (0·6 in.) was the smallest September fall shown by records extending back to the year 1866. The number of days with rain was generally small, but was large in the extreme north and north-west; at Sumburgh Head there were 24 days, and at Stornoway and Laudale 23 days with a measurable quantity. Towards the end of the month repeated heavy falls occurred in the west and north of Scotland, the total amount at Stornoway and Laudale for the week ending the 29th being as much as 5½ inches.

Bright Sunshine exceeded the average* in most places, the excess being large in the west and south. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 67 at Jersey, and 60 or more at several of the English Channel stations, to less than 30 in the north and west of Scotland, and to only 23 at Fort William.

* 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 "Weekly Weather Report, 1895," and preface to "Daily Weather Reports, July–December, 1896.")