

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

## JULY 1896.

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**General Summary.**—During the early and latter parts of the month the weather was in an unsettled state generally; there were smart thunderstorms in places, and heavy falls of rain in many of the western and northern districts. The middle portion of the time was, however, mostly fine and warm, the rainfall being slight, and confined, as a rule, to the extreme northern and north-western stations. Pressure and temperature were above the average; the winds varied greatly, both in direction and force; rainfall was in excess of the average in most parts of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, but was deficient over England; bright sunshine was fairly abundant, excepting in Ireland and the west and north of Scotland.

**Pressure.**—*Mean* at 8 a.m. ranged from 30·05 ins. and upwards over the western parts of the English Channel to very little above 29·90 ins. in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The mean distribution of pressure agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were above the average,\* and as the excess was greatest (0·12 in. to 0·14 in.) in the extreme north, the gradient for Westerly winds was slighter than usual. *Highest* readings were observed on the 16th or 17th, when the barometer rose to 30·2 ins. and upwards over the entire kingdom, to 30·3 ins. and upwards in all our more western and northern districts, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards over the southern half of Ireland. *Lowest* readings were recorded on the 25th or 26th, the mercury falling below 29·5 ins. at most of our western and northern stations, and below 29·7 ins. in nearly all other parts of the kingdom. *Range* was moderate.

**Depressions.**—During the first week or so the depressions observed, though somewhat numerous for the time of year, were shallow, and too irregular in their movements to admit of the tracks being laid down on the accompanying map. Towards the close of the month, however, two systems of a more definite character were observed. The first of these advanced from the south-westward, and after passing in a northerly direction over our western coasts, moved eastwards across the northern parts of Scotland to the south of Norway. The second appeared off our extreme north-west coasts, and subsequently travelled south-eastwards across Ireland and the south-west of England to the north-west of France, where it quickly dispersed.

**Anticyclones.**—The only anticyclone of anything like a lasting character was that which spread over western Europe from the Atlantic on the 10th. With the exception of a slight break in the north on the 14th, this system remained in force until the 18th or 19th, when it moved southward and dispersed. On the 5th an anticyclone spread over us from the southward, while on the 27th a similar extension took place from the westward, but in each case the system quickly broke up.

**Winds** were very variable over the United Kingdom generally, but at the English stations there was a slight preponderance of breezes from the Westward. On isolated parts of our north and north-west coasts gales were rather numerous for the time of year; at Aberdeen and Belmullet they occurred on four days, and at Malin Head on as many as seven.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 66° in London and 64° or more at several inland stations in the south and east of England to 56° or less in the north of Scotland generally, and to a little below 54° in the Shetlands. The general distribution over our islands was fairly normal, but at the English stations the actual values were above the average,\* the excess being greatest in the south. In many parts of Scotland and the north of Ireland there was a slight deficit. *Highest* readings occurred at various times in the different districts, but mostly between the 11th and 13th, or between the 19th and 21st. Over the western parts of the kingdom the absolute maxima were, as a rule, below 75°, but at nearly all the more eastern, central, and southern stations the thermometer exceeded 80°, while in London and at Cambridge it reached 88°. *Lowest* readings occurred mostly on the 28th or 29th, when the sheltered thermometer fell below 40° at several inland stations in the north, and reached a minimum of 35° at Braemar. *Range* was moderate generally. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·48 in. at Scilly, and 0·45 in. or more on our southern coasts generally, to 0·40 in. or less over the northern parts of Great Britain, and to 0·36 in. at Stornoway and Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* varied from 92 per cent. at Sumburgh Head and 91 per cent. at Malin Head, to 72 per cent. at Jersey, and to only 66 per cent. in London.

**Rainfall** was in excess of the average\* in most parts of Ireland and Scotland, as well as at neighbouring English and Welsh stations, the amount over the Irish Sea and the north of Ireland being in several cases more than twice the normal. Over England, however, there was a deficiency,—again largest at the central and southern stations, where the total fall was, as a rule, less than half the average. The highest aggregates recorded were 7·4 ins. at Edgeworthstown, 7·2 ins. at Donaghadee, 7·1 ins. at Armagh, and 7·0 ins. at Glenlee; the smallest being 0·6 in. at Dungeness, 0·7 in. at Cirencester and Southampton, and 0·8 in. at Yarmouth, Cambridge, and Hereford. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were registered on various occasions in the west and north, the heaviest of all being 2·4 ins. at Edgeworthstown, and 2·1 ins. at Armagh (both on the 8th), and 2·0 ins. at Dublin (on the 24th).

**Bright Sunshine** was rather deficient in Ireland and the west and north of Scotland, but exceeded the average\* in all other parts of the kingdom. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 59 at Guernsey and 50 or more at the English Channel Stations generally, to 25 or less in many parts of Ireland and the west of Scotland, to 18 at Stornoway, and to 16 at Fort Augustus.

\* 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.