

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

OCTOBER 1894. (C)

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General Summary.—The early part of October, though cloudy and misty in places, was mostly fair and dry. After the middle of the month, however, the conditions gradually became very unsettled, with heavy rains in the western and southern districts, and with frequent thunder and lightning on our south and south-west coasts. Snow or sleet was reported over the northern parts of the kingdom on the 18th and 19th. Pressure was mostly above the average; temperature was low in Scotland, but fairly high elsewhere; the winds were variable; rainfall was very deficient in the west of Scotland, but in excess of the normal in most parts of England and Ireland; the amount of bright sunshine was small generally.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 29·92 ins. and 29·94 ins. in the east of Scotland and the central parts of England to 29·85 ins. and less in the south-west of Ireland, the gradient being unusually slight for the time of year. On our south and south-west coasts the readings were a little below the average,* but in all other districts they were above it, the excess being greatest (0·12 in. to 0·20 in.) in the north and north-east of Scotland. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 1st, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and upwards over the northern, eastern, and central parts of England, and to 30·3 ins. and upwards in all other districts. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 24th or 25th, when the barometer fell below 28·7 ins. in Ireland and Scotland, and below 29·0 ins. in all but the extreme southern parts of England. *Range* was moderate in the east and south, but rather large elsewhere.

Depressions.—During the earlier part of the month no depressions of importance were observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our Islands, although large disturbances passed in one or two cases across Scandinavia and Denmark. After the 20th, however, several depressions advanced over us from the south-westward, the most important one of all being the deep system which travelled across Ireland and Scotland on the 24th and 25th, and which afterwards passed on to Scandinavia and northern Russia.

Anticyclones.—Early in the month a large anticyclone lay over Europe, its central area being found mostly to the northward or north-eastward of our Islands. After the 7th the system partially dispersed, but on the 13th a new one spread over the United Kingdom from the north-westward, and remained in force until the 17th, when it passed away to the Atlantic. During the remainder of the time the conditions over our Islands were cyclonic, the nearest high-pressure system being located over Southern Europe.

Winds varied greatly in direction, the North-easterly current being in many cases unduly prevalent for the time of year. Gales were rather frequent on our southern coasts, the number being as large as 10 at Prawle Point and 8 at Dungeness and Scilly; in the north there were only 3 or 4.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 55° and upwards in the Channel Islands and 52° and upwards on our south and south-west coasts generally to 48° and less in some parts of Central Ireland, and to 44° and less in the northern part of Central Scotland. Over England and Ireland the values were in most cases a trifle above the average and the general distribution was fairly normal. In Scotland however, where there was a deficiency, amounting in some cases to over two degrees, the distribution of temperature was of a more wintry type than is usual in October. *Highest* readings occurred in the north of Scotland on the 2nd, but in other districts mostly between the 10th and 12th; in very few places, however, did the thermometer exceed 65°, and at some of the coast stations it failed to reach 60°. *Lowest* readings were observed on the 22nd or 23rd, when sharp frost occurred in most districts; at Markree Castle the sheltered thermometer fell to 21°, at Glenlee to 20°, and at Braemar to 18°. *Range* was moderate generally, but amounted to over 40° at some of the northern and central stations, and to 44° at Braemar, Markree Castle, and Loughborough. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·26 in. and less over the eastern and central parts of Scotland, and 0·28 in. and less over Central Ireland to between 0·34 in. and 0·38 in. on our extreme south and south-west coasts. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 82 per cent. at Jersey, and 83 per cent. at Holyhead, Liverpool, and Prawle Point, to 95 per cent. at Cambridge and Pembroke.

Rainfall was considerably less than the average* in the western and central parts of Scotland, and slightly deficient in the west of Ireland, and at isolated stations in the north-western, central and eastern parts of England. Elsewhere there was an excess,—slight in many places, but large at some of the southern stations and also in the north-east of England. The heaviest amounts were 7·4 ins. at Holyhead and Arlington, 7·2 ins. at Roche's Point, and 7·1 ins. at Hawes Junction; the smallest being 1·7 ins. at Fort Augustus and Malin Head, and 1·8 ins. at Cambridge. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded in various parts of England and Ireland on the 20th, 23rd, 24th, and 30th. At Westbourne 2·1 ins. fell on the 24th between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.

Bright Sunshine was generally deficient, especially over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England, where the per-centage of the possible amount was in most cases below 20. The highest per-centage values were 38 at Jersey, 37 at Newquay, and 36 at Falmouth.

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