

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

## MAY 1900.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1900.)

ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; W. N. SHAW, F.R.S., SECRETARY.  
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**General Summary.**—The weather of May varied greatly from time to time, and in different parts of the country. As a rule it was rather cold and changeable, with sharp ground frosts about the middle of the month; snow showers fell in isolated parts of the northern districts on the 12th and 13th, and in Caithness and the Shetlands on the 17th. Thunderstorms occurred in the south-east of England on the 6th, at several of our western and northern stations on the 22nd and 23rd, and in the north and east of England on the 24th. Pressure and temperature were below the average; the winds were very variable; rainfall was in excess of the normal in the west, and at a few scattered places in the north, but was very deficient in the eastern and central districts; bright sunshine was mostly below the average, but showed an excess at several of our western stations.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·95 ins. and upwards over the greater part of England to a little below 29·9 ins. in the extreme north and north-west of our islands generally, and to about 29·85 ins. in the Shetlands. The general distribution agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were a trifle below the average\* in all districts excepting the south-east of England, where a slight excess was shown. *Highest* readings were observed between the 29th and 31st, when the barometer rose to 30·3 ins. and upwards over England, and to 30·4 ins. and upwards over nearly the whole of Ireland and Scotland. *Lowest* readings were recorded mostly on the 3rd, when the mercury fell to 28·9 ins. and less in the north-west of Ireland and the west of Scotland, to 29·1 ins. and less over Ireland and Scotland generally, and to 29·5 ins. and less over England. *Range* was somewhat large for the time of year in the extreme north and north-west, but moderate elsewhere.

**Depressions.**—The depressions observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands were few in number and, as a rule, of little depth. At the beginning of the month, and again at the close of the third week, several disturbances moved in a north-north-easterly direction along our extreme western coasts, the earlier series being attended by numerous small secondary systems which moved northwards from the Bay of Biscay and France directly over the United Kingdom. Between the 7th and 9th a depression, which had been originally formed over Germany, advanced westward to the south-east of England, and afterwards moved southward to the north of France, where it gradually dispersed.

**Anticyclones.**—Three such systems were observed. The first extended over our islands from the northward on the 9th and 10th, the central area remaining over our northern coasts until the 14th, when it receded westwards; after the 18th the system passed completely away to the southward. The second advanced over the Kingdom from the south-westward on the 25th, but soon moved eastwards to Central Europe and dispersed. The third extended from the Atlantic after the 28th, first over our islands, and eventually over nearly the whole of Europe, the central area being situated until the close of the month over the north of our islands and the west of Norway.

**Winds** varied greatly in direction, but were as a rule either from the Northward or North-eastward, or from the Southward or South-westward, the intermediate points being scantily represented. The gales experienced were slight and were confined mainly to our western and northern coasts; at Spurn Head and Blacksod Point they were recorded on 7 days, and at Aberdeen on as many as 9 days.

**Temperature** *Mean at sea level* ranged from 54° at Jersey, and 53° and upwards in several inland portions of the south of England and apparently of the south of Ireland also, to 49° and less in the western, northern, and eastern parts of Scotland generally, and to 45° and less in the Shetlands. The general distribution over our islands was not widely different from that shown by the chart of normal values, but the departures from the average at individual stations were very irregular. Over the Kingdom generally there was a deficiency of warmth, varying greatly in extent in different places, but on the north-east coast of Great Britain, as well as at many stations in the south of Ireland and the south-west of England there was an excess, showing also great variations in amount. *Highest* readings were observed at various times in the different districts, but mostly between the 26th and 29th. They were, however, low for the time of year, the thermometer in no case rising much above 70°. *Lowest* readings occurred on varying dates between the 12th and 19th, when slight frost was experienced in many places, the lowest values reported being 28° at Newton Reigny and Llandovery, and 29° at Loughborough. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·34 in. at Scilly and 0·31 in. and upwards on our southern coasts generally, to 0·28 in. and less over the northern and central parts of Great Britain, and to 0·25 in. at Aberdeen. *Relative Humidity* varied from 89 per cent. at Donaghadee, and 88 per cent. both at Sumburgh Head and at Pembroke and Portland Bill, to 70 per cent. at Leith.

**Rainfall** exceeded the average\* at most of the western, and also at a few of the northern stations, but was in defect elsewhere, the amount being less than half the normal at several places in the eastern and central parts of Great Britain. The largest aggregates reported were 7·2 ins. at Laudale, 6·0 ins. at Fort William, and 4·7 ins. at Blacksod Point; the smallest being 0·7 in. at Cranley and Dungeness, 0·8 in. at Alnwick Castle and Malin Head, and 0·9 in. at Leith, Scarborough and in London. The number of days with rain was mostly small; at several of the English stations there were less than 10 such occasions, and at Dungeness and Scilly only 7. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours occurred in the extreme northern and north-western parts of the Kingdom on the 4th, the 21st, and the 27th, the largest daily amount reported being 1·4 in. at Laudale on the 3rd and at Fort William on the 4th.

**Bright Sunshine** amounted to less than the average\* over the country generally, but showed an excess at several of the western stations. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 58 and upwards in the Channel Islands and 50 and upwards on most parts of our south-west coasts to 30 or less at our northern and many of our central stations, to 23 at Worksop and to 21 at York.

\* 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.")