

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

APRIL 1898.

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General Summary.—The weather of April was mostly fair and dry over England, especially in the south, but very changeable in Ireland and Scotland. Towards the end of the month, however, rainy weather set in over the whole kingdom. Thunderstorms occurred in many parts of England on the 9–10th, the 15–16th, and the 29th; on the 15th some of the Irish stations were also affected, while on the 29th the storms extended over the south of Scotland. Bright aurora was seen in the northern parts of Great Britain on the 12th. Pressure was high over England, but low elsewhere; temperature was above the average; the winds varied a good deal in direction; rainfall was in excess of the normal, excepting in the east and south of England; bright sunshine was fairly abundant over England, but deficient in Ireland and Scotland.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·90 ins. and upwards in the south and east of England to 29·70 ins. and less in the Hebrides. In the former regions, and also over our midland counties, the values were above the average,* but elsewhere they were below it; and as the deficit was greatest (0·1 inch or more) in the extreme north and north-west, the gradient over our islands for South-westerly winds was unusually decided for the month of April. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 24th or 25th, when the barometer rose to 30·2 ins. and upwards in the west of Ireland and the northern, eastern, and central parts of England, and to 30·1 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed mostly on the 10th or 11th, when the mercury fell to between 29·0 ins. and 29·2 ins. in Scotland, and to between 29·3 ins. and 29·5 ins. in most parts of Ireland and England. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—In the course of the month several large, though somewhat shallow, depressions moved northwards or north-eastwards outside our western and northern coasts, while small secondary systems advanced in similar directions across our islands. Among the latter the most important was a well-marked disturbance which moved quickly northwards over the St. George's Channel, the Irish Sea, and the west of Scotland on the 30th, and which eventually passed away to the north-westward.

Anticyclones.—Two only were observed in our immediate neighbourhood. The first advanced from the Atlantic on the night of the 4th, but soon moved away to the south-eastward. The second spread over from Northern Europe on the 20th, and remained in existence until the 25th, when it gave way in the face of a complex low pressure system which extended over our islands from the southward.

Winds varied a good deal in direction, especially on our southern coasts. In the west and north they were mainly from some Southerly point. On the Irish and Scotch coasts gales were rather frequent for the time of year, the number of days affected being as large as 8 at Roche's Point, 7 at Wick, and 6 at Donaghadee.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 50° and upwards in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 48° and upwards over Ireland and many of the western and southern parts of Great Britain, to a little below 46° at several of our east coast stations, and to about 43° in the Shetlands. Owing to the prevalence of Southerly winds the warm air from the Atlantic extended more completely over our western districts than is usual in April, but in other respects the distribution of temperature differed but little from the normal. The actual mean values were, however, in nearly all cases above the average,* the excess amounting to between 2° and 3° at several of our more northern stations. *Highest* readings occurred over Great Britain on the 8th, but in Ireland more commonly between the 20th or 22nd, or on the 26th. On many parts of our western and northern coasts the thermometer scarcely touched 60°, but at most of the inland stations in Great Britain it exceeded 65°, though in no case did it reach 70°. *Lowest* readings occurred very generally on the 5th, when sharp frost was experienced in most districts, the lowest readings by the sheltered thermometer being 21° at Glenlee, 22° at Cirencester, and 23° at Braemar. *Range* was moderate generally, but large at some of the inland stations,—as much as 45° at Bawtry and 44° at Loughborough. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·30 in. and upwards at Malin Head, Scilly, and Jersey, and 0·28 in. and upwards on many parts of our western and southern coasts to 0·25 in. and less over the east of Scotland and the central parts of England. *Relative Humidity* varied from between 90 and 95 per cent. on our extreme north-west coasts, to 81 per cent. at Nairn, Aberdeen and Leith, 80 per cent. at Belmullet and Valencia, and 77 per cent. in London.

Rainfall.—With a few local exceptions the rainfall was in excess of the average* in all but the eastern and southern parts of England, where a deficiency was reported. In some of the northern districts the excess was very considerable, the amount at Aberdeen, Braemar, and Ochertyre, being more than twice as much as the normal. The largest aggregates collected were 7·2 ins. at Killarney, 6·7 ins. at Fort William, and 6·1 ins. at Valencia; the smallest being 0·9 in. in London and at Yarmouth and the North Foreland, 1·0 in. at Hastings, and 1·1 in. at Cranley, Dungeness, and Hurst Castle. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded in the south of Ireland on the 12th, and in some parts of Scotland on the 13th; again in the south of Ireland on the 17th, and at one or two isolated stations in the northern parts of Great Britain on the 28th. Showers of snow or sleet occurred in Scotland between the 2nd and 4th.

Bright Sunshine.—Over the greater part of England the duration was in excess of the average, but in Ireland there was a slight deficiency, while at many stations in the northern parts of Great Britain the deficiency was large. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from between 53 and 57 on the Cornish coasts and in the Channel Islands, to 25 or less at several of our northern stations, and to 22 at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

* 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.