

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

JANUARY 1900.

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General Summary.—The weather of January was extremely changeable, with frequent falls of rain in all districts, and occasional snow or sleet. Thunder and lightning occurred on several occasions in the west and north of Scotland, an aurora being also seen in those districts and at Donaghadee on the night of the 19th. Pressure was slightly below the average, but temperature was above it, with an entire absence of severe frost; the winds were chiefly from the South-westward or Westward; rainfall was in excess of the normal; bright sunshine was rather deficient in the east and south, but fairly abundant in the west and north.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29.99 ins. at Jersey and 29.93 ins. and upwards over the southern parts of England and Ireland generally to 29.65 ins. and less in the Shetlands and Hebrides. The general distribution over our islands agreed very closely with the normal, but the actual values were below the average* in all localities excepting the extreme south of Ireland, the deficit being everywhere slight, but greatest in the south and east of England. *Highest* readings were recorded in most places on the 11th, when the barometer rose to 30.4 ins. and upwards over the whole of England and the south of Ireland, and to 30.2 ins. and upwards in all localities excepting the north-west of Scotland. Over the southern parts of England and Ireland, however, the readings were as high, or even a little higher, on the 25th. *Lowest* readings occurred over the northern parts of the Kingdom mostly on the 15th, when the barometer fell below 29.0 ins. in the Shetlands and Hebrides, and below 29.2 ins. over the northern parts of the Kingdom generally. In the southern districts the lowest readings (29.3 ins. and less) were recorded on the 28th. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—At the beginning of the month a well-defined, though somewhat shallow, depression moved slowly eastwards across the south of our islands and thence to Germany, where it gradually dispersed. Later on several large disturbances skirted our extreme north-western and northern coasts, while secondary systems (often of a "V-shaped" character) passed eastwards directly across the country. On the 27th some shallow depressions were developed over England, these systems afterwards moving away over the Continent in a south-easterly direction.

Anticyclones.—During the greater part of the time barometrical pressure was highest over north-eastern Europe, a second anticyclone being found at times over or to the south-westward of the Spanish peninsula. On some few occasions one or other of these areas spread temporarily over a portion of the United Kingdom, but with these exceptions the only anticyclone indicated in our own immediate neighbourhood was a large system which extended over western Europe from the Atlantic on the 10th, and dispersed gradually on the 11th and 12th.

Winds were mainly from the South-westward or Westward, excepting in the south-eastern parts of England, where they varied considerably in direction. Gales were somewhat frequent in the west and north; at Aberdeen and Scilly they occurred on 12 days; at Stornoway on 15; and at Blacksod Point on as many as 18. With the exception, however, of a heavy North-westerly gale at the mouth of the Channel on the 28th, they were of little severity, and on our east and south-east coasts they were also rare for the time of year.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 48° and upwards in the Scilly islands, and from 45° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts generally to 41° and less over central Ireland, and to 39° and less in the east and north-east of England and the northern and central parts of Scotland. The general distribution over our islands was of quite a normal character, but the mean values were above the average,* the excess being upon the whole greatest over England, where it amounted in many places to between two-and-a-half and three-and-a-half degrees. *Highest* readings at individual stations occurred at very irregular times in Ireland, but mostly between the 22nd and 24th over Great Britain, the thermometer rising to between 50° and 55° at nearly all stations, and to 56° at Dublin. *Lowest* readings occurred in the western and southern districts mostly on the 5th or 6th, but in other places either on the 21st or on the 27th or 28th. Frost occurred at one or other of these times in most districts, but was nowhere severe, the lowest temperatures reported being 22° at Braemar and Killarney, and 23° at Rothamsted, Hereford, and Cirencester. *Range* was small for the time of year. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0.26 in. and 0.29 in. on our south west coasts to 0.20 in. and less over central England and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* varied from 96 per cent. at Malin Head and 95 per cent. at Donaghadee and Spurn Head to 83 per cent. at Valencia and Jersey, and 81 per cent. at Blacksod Point.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* in nearly all places, the only locality showing a general deficit being the extreme south of Ireland. At many stations in Great Britain the excess was considerable. The largest aggregates recorded were 12.8 ins. at Glencarron, 11.4 ins. at Laxdale, and 10.0 ins. at Fort William; the smallest being 1.9 in. at Durham, 2.2 ins. at Wick, and 2.3 ins. at Oxford. The number of rainy days was very large, especially in the west and north, where it generally exceeded 25; at Fort Augustus rain fell every day, and at Blacksod Point there was only one day without a measurable quantity. The heaviest falls occurred (1) in the south of Ireland on the 1st, when 1.8 in. was measured at Kilkenny and 1.4 in. at Parsonstown; (2), over eastern and central Scotland on the 2nd, when 1.5 in. fell at Ochertyre; and, (3) over a considerable portion of England and Wales on the 6th, when 2.8 ins. fell at Scilly and 1.5 in. at Liverpool.

Bright Sunshine was slightly in excess of the average* at most of our western and northern stations, as well as at Oxford and London, but was rather deficient elsewhere. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from between 24 and 28 over Ireland and the south-west coasts of England to only 9 at Fort Augustus, 8 at Manchester (Prestwich), and 7 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.")