ABNORMALLY MILD.

In all parts of the British Isles the abnormal mild weather which set in just before Christmas was continued nearly throughout the whole of January. At South Kensington (roof station) the temperature was above the freezing point for 33 days, December 26th to January 25th, and there were some heavy falls of rain up to February 3rd. During the month the type of weather was persistently cyclonic, so that the unusually high temperatures which were so widely recorded were accompanied nearly everywhere by much precipitation. It is no day in the district of, for instance, at Sheepstor (Devon), 749 ft. above mean sea level, no snow fell throughout the month, an experience unique for January in the history of the station. Sleet and snow were not infrequent, however, in some parts of Scotland, and on the 24th a heavy snow-storm was experienced at Aberdare.

The only really cold weather experienced generally during the month occurred between the 11th and 16th, and it was during this brief wintry spell that the falls of snow of any significance occurred. On the 10th a very decided fall of temperature occurred in England and Ireland, the 7th readings at some stations showing a decrease of as much as 8-3° as compared with the previous day. This change appears in some cases to have been initiated by a line-squall which swept across south-east England late in the afternoon of the 9th. During the night of the 15th-16th the influence of relatively high pressure over England and France there were several degrees of frost inland, and a dense fog in some parts of London. Apart from this interlude there was no cold weather at all, and day after day the temperature rose to abnormal levels, the maximum temperatures recorded at numerous stations throughout the month. Even the mild conditions which set in last week were not infrequent, however, in some parts of Scotland, and on the 24th a heavy snow-storm was experienced at Aberdare.

The mean monthly temperature was above the normal in all the districts, the excess ranging from 3-8° in the south-west to 8-3° in the north-east. For the week which ended on the 29th the mean temperature at Hawarden Bridge and Hereford was as much as 5-7° above the normal.

Precipitation. - Except in Ireland South and in the English Channel where there was a slight deficiency of 1 and 4 mm. respectively, the total rainfall for the month was above the normal in most districts (see Table I p. 2). Over the British Isles as a whole in accordance with previous experience in abnormal mild winters the rainfall was high. It failed to reach the normal over small areas in the east and north, but on the 24th there was no cold weather at all, and day after day the temperature rose to abnormal levels, the maximum temperatures recorded at numerous stations throughout the month. Even the mild conditions which set in last week were not infrequent, however, in some parts of Scotland, and on the 24th a heavy snow-storm was experienced at Aberdare.

For the month as a whole the deficiency ranging from 0-70 hr. per day in England south-west to 0-04 hr. in Scotland west.

Temperature. - The mean monthly temperature was above the normal in all the districts, the excess ranging from 3-8° in the south-west to 8-3° in the north-east. For the week which ended on the 29th the mean temperature at Hawarden Bridge and Hereford was as much as 5-7° above the normal.

Precipitation. - Except in Ireland South and in the English Channel where there was a slight deficiency of 1 and 4 mm. respectively, the total rainfall for the month was above the normal in most districts (see Table I p. 2). Over the British Isles as a whole in accordance with previous experience in abnormal mild winters the rainfall was high. It failed to reach the normal over small areas in the east and north, but on the 24th there was no cold weather at all, and day after day the temperature rose to abnormal levels, the maximum temperatures recorded at numerous stations throughout the month. Even the mild conditions which set in last week were not infrequent, however, in some parts of Scotland, and on the 24th a heavy snow-storm was experienced at Aberdare.

For the month as a whole the deficiency ranging from 0-70 hr. per day in England south-west to 0-04 hr. in Scotland west.