

and December, the monthly means were relatively *high*. The depression ( $3^{\circ}.9$ ) in the temperature of May, was never exceeded in any May of former years, and was nearly approached only in 1849 and 1851, when in both cases the cold of May was succeeded by unusual warmth in June and July. The abnormal warmth of April served only to aggravate the evil, by hastening the vegetation that was thrown back by the frosts that followed in May. The bad effects of a generally low summer temperature may perhaps be modified, as regards some plants, by occasional bursts of heat, though they be necessarily balanced by unusually low temperatures at other parts of the season. No such mitigating circumstances occurred in 1861, as the warmest day and the absolutely highest temperature of the year were both considerably below the twenty-two years' average of these quantities.

The hygrometric condition of the summer was not favourable; the mean relative humidity of May, June, and July, being 70 against 74, the twenty-one years' average for these months. But as the temperatures were low, the foregoing numbers do not present so strong a contrast as do the tensions of vapour, which for the same three months were  $\cdot 359$  in 1861, and  $\cdot 393$  on the average of twenty-one years. The contrast in this respect between 1860 and 1861, was very conspicuous in May, the tension of vapour for this month being more than 41 per cent. greater in 1860 than in 1861.

May and June were 8 per cent. and 16 per cent. less cloudy than is usual in those months; while later in the season, when a bright sun is more in request, clouds were more than 20 per cent. in excess.

The depth of rain, which on the whole year was three inches in defect, was deficient in June and July to the extent of more than an inch and a half. In May, when rain is an hindrance to gardening and agricultural operations, it was rather in excess; while, as before stated, there was a want of that moisture *in the air* whose presence is favourable to the development of young leaves.

In the following summary, the chief meteorological elements relative to the year 1861, are compared with the average results derived from a series of years, as well as with extreme values that have occurred during the same series :