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Thompson

City of Peterborough.

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1902.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. According to the usual calculation, based upon the decennial increase between the Census of 1891 and the Census of 1901, the population of Peterborough was estimated to be 31,450 on the 1st April, 1902; but whether the city will keep on growing at the rate of 569 persons per annum, remains to be seen.

Birth Rate. The total number of births registered was 827, equal to a birth rate of 26.29, rather below the average of the seven preceding years, 27.55.

Death Rate. The total number of deaths registered was 417, equal to an uncorrected death rate of 13.26. From the gross total, however, must be deducted the 51 deaths of persons dying in Public Institutions not residents of the Borough, and to it the 3 deaths of residents dying in the Sanatorium added. The corrected rate of mortality for Peterborough is then only 11.73 per 1,000, the lowest death rate since the incorporation of the city.

Zymotic Mortality. The deaths in this category comprise: Measles 12, Whooping Cough 6, Diphtheria 5, Typhoid Fever 1, Epidemic Influenza 2, Diarrhoea 8, total 34; equal to a death rate of 1.08 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality. There were 89 deaths of children under one year of age, premature birth being responsible for 24, equal to 107·62 deaths per 1,000 births registered, or in other words, one child out of every ten born dies before reaching the age of twelve months.

The comparative statistics of the four Wards, into which the City is divided, are respectively, according to the population, shown by the appended table :—

	Population, 1902.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.
NORTH WARD	6424	187	29·1	54	8·4
WEST WARD	10921	259	23·34	130	11·9
EAST WARD	10270	273	26·58	144	14·01
SOUTH WARD	3835	108	28·16	38	9·5

Since the redistribution of the Borough into four Wards, it will be noticed from the above table, that the North Ward now takes the premier position with the highest birth rate and the lowest death rate, a distinction which was formerly always upheld by the South Ward.

As a means of reference the Vital Statistics of 75 of the largest provincial towns for 1902 are given below :—

Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate,	Infantile Mortality.
31·1	17·6	2·10	14·6

In only four towns can a lower death rate than that recorded in Peterborough be found.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Small Pox. After having been free for ten years, one case of Small Pox occurred in Star Road, in January, contracted in London. Every precaution was at once taken to arrest the further spread of the disease. The patient was promptly removed to the Small Pox Hospital, police being stationed in the street to prevent any one approaching within 100 yards of the ambulance during the process of removal. All moveable furniture, including bedding, in the room occupied by the sufferer was burnt, and the house thoroughly disinfected. The contacts, seven in number, were at once re-vaccinated, and kept under observation for sixteen days, besides which all Corporation employes whose duties were likely to bring them within the area of infection, were also re-vaccinated. In this way the disease was stamped out without any further cases. During the year I have received three notices of persons arriving in Peterborough, who had been in contact with Small Pox, but as they had all been re-vaccinated, they were simply kept under observation.

It seems to me high time that some means were taken to insist upon the re-vaccination of all vagrants; at the present moment they are carrying Small Pox all over the north of England, causing disease, suffering and death, to say nothing of the pecuniary loss and the dislocation of trade which inevitably follows an outbreak of Small Pox.

Scarlet Fever. 126 notifications, 2 deaths. Early in the year this disease threatened to become epidemic in the West Ward, chiefly amongst children attending the Cobden Street British School. However, by recommending the removal of the children affected to the Sanatorium, closing and disinfecting the school, the further spread of the exanthem was considerably checked, and it has not since appeared in any epidemic form. It is the very mild and often unsuspected cases of Scarlatina which prevent it being entirely suppressed.

Diphtheria. 71 notifications, 6 deaths. The continued prevalence of Diphtheria in the town is the only disquieting feature which I have to record. One of the chief predisposing causes is certainly defective house drains, which are often in the first instance badly constructed, especially as regards the joints, the result being that sewer gas finds its way into the houses, more especially in cold weather. All D traps, too, should be abolished, as they are bound sooner or later to permit an escape of sewer gas; moreover being moveable they are generally removed bodily when the yards are being flushed, and thus all sorts of miscellaneous articles find their way into and block the drains. After being replaced, too, people rarely remember to fill them up with water, and they, therefore, remain unsealed. Fixed earthenware gullies should be substituted for these obsolete and useless relics of a bygone age. I regret that more cases of Diphtheria are not removed to the Sanatorium, slightly over 25 per cent. The reason often given is that "it is only a mild case," but it must be remembered that each patient may easily be the centre of infection for many other children, especially if allowed to return to school too early, and that such children may have a very severe attack, particularly if they are of tender age.

Infantile Diarrhœa. 8 deaths all under one year. This is a very great reduction on former years, and very satisfactory; but last summer was a cool one, and it has been clearly proved that increased soil temperature is in some way related to Infantile Diarrhœa.

Measles and Whooping Cough. 12 and 6 deaths respectively. There is no doubt that deaths from Measles form a large proportion in the Zymotic class, but whether any considerable reduction would be effected by making it a notifiable disease is open to question, owing to the fact that the most infectious period is just before the rash appears, and therefore before it could possibly be notified.

Typhoid Fever. 8 notifications, 1 death. This is one of the most satisfactory features with regard to the health of the City that I

have to comment upon. One case was doubtful, six were contracted away, and no possible cause could be discovered for the remaining one. Seeing that Typhoid is chiefly a water-borne disease, the above facts point very strongly to the excellence and purity of the Braceboro' water. The Typhoid germ may also be introduced into the system by such common articles of food as milk, oysters, and other shell fish, celery, lettuces and watercress, when eaten in an uncooked condition. I only mention this to show how difficult it often is to trace every sporadic case of Typhoid.

Phthisis. 28 deaths. It will be noticed that the majority of deaths occurred in the West and East Wards. On the death of a person suffering from Phthisis, the rooms and bedding are thoroughly disinfected before being again used.

Cancer. 39 deaths. The increase of Cancer is becoming a question of National importance, and it does seem passing strange that Parliament has not voted one single shilling to the Cancer Research Fund in the cause of suffering humanity. One is forcibly reminded of the old lines :

Their lofty souls have telescopic eyes,
Which view afar the faintest speck of distant pain,
Whilst at their feet a world of agony
Unseen, unheard, unheeded, writhe in vain.

Alcoholism. 12 deaths.

Subjoined is a monthly record of the Incidence of Notifiable Diseases for the year:—

Month.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerper- al Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Totals.
January ...	1	22	16	...	1	1	41
February	16	9	1	...	2	28
March	29	9	...	...	1	39
April	11	9	2	...	...	22
May	12	11	...	...	3	26
June	8	1	2	...	2	13
July	6	4	...	...	3	13
August	2	1	2	...	1	6
September	4	2	...	...	1	7
October	3	3	1	1	2	10
November	7	4	...	...	1	12
December	6	2	...	...	2	10
Totals ...	1	126	71	8	2	19	227

School Exclusion. The following schools were closed on account

of outbreaks of Infectious Disease, thoroughly disinfected and cleaned during the period of closure :—

Cobden Street British School, 14 days, Scarlet Fever.
 St. Mark's Infants' School, Gladstone Street N., 14 days, Measles.
 St. Mark's Infants' School, Cromwell Road, 14 days, Measles.
 St. Mary's Infants' School, 14 days, Measles.

House Accommodation. The houses in Marriott's Yard and Smith's Yard, City Road, having been found to be in a dilapidated condition, the owners were called upon to put their property in a thorough state of repair, and the work is being carried out.

Sewage and Drainage. Complaints as to smells from the man-holes are much less frequent than formerly, but owing to the level character of the locality, the gradients in the sewers are very slight, and the main drains have to be constantly cleared with scoops to remove the accumulation of silt, particularly the one in Bishop's Road. The drains of newly-erected houses should all be submitted to the water test before being passed; and I would again recommend that a proper certificate should be signed by the official who carries out the test, and that such certificate be preserved for future reference.

House Refuse. The collecting carts are now covered by tarpaulins. Some bye-laws are also necessary to prevent the removal of all kinds of manure after a certain hour in the morning. One afternoon I saw a pathway simply smothered by foul-smelling pig manure in course of removal.

Water Supply. A practice which should certainly be stopped, is the common one of cutting off the supply of water to W.C's. If, during the winter a pipe bursts, it is very often simply knocked together instead of the leak being repaired, consequently proper flushing of the closets is impossible, may be for months, unless a complaint is made or the defect discovered when on a round of inspection. In this way many house drains become blocked. Legal proceedings had to be resorted to in one instance, to compel the owner to provide a supply of Braceboro' water for domestic purposes.

Lodging Houses. These are all registered and duly inspected, but I am afraid there are some houses which come under the designation of Common Lodging Houses still unregistered.

Dairies and Milkshops. These are all in good order, and a great improvement has been effected in the drainage of the Cowsheds. More attention might with advantage be devoted to the cleanliness of the udder, and to the hands of the person engaged in milking the cows. I have not been able to trace a single case of Infectious Disease due to contaminated milk.

Slaughter Houses. Mostly clean and well lime-washed, but some butchers are inclined to be lax in the latter respect unless carefully watched.

Bakehouses. There are no underground bakehouses in the City, nor have any sanitary defects been discovered in any bakehouse.

Nuisances. No serious case of nuisance was reported, except in the one instance of a tripe boiler, who was also found manufacturing gut, giving rise to a very offensive smell; the nuisance was at once abated on a notice being served. Pigs are not now allowed to be kept within 60 feet of a dwelling house, and this wholesome regulation has had a most salutary effect. Dense volumes of black smoke are emitted from several chimneys in the town; in this respect I think the Corporation are themselves the greatest offenders, as residents in the immediate vicinity of the Electric Supply Station can testify from practical experience.

Diachylon Plaster. I would again suggest that a strong representation upon the sale of this article in bulk be made to the Home Office, with a view to its being scheduled under the Poisons' Act. A recent case in the Police Court strongly emphasized the necessity of some stringent measures being taken to prevent the wholesale vending of this preparation for the manufacture of pills, to be used for illegal purposes. 3 cases came under my own notice last year, and I know from other medical men that the pernicious practice is largely on the increase. On referring to Table IV. it will be seen that premature births were responsible for more than 25 per cent. of the deaths under one year. Whilst every case of lead poisoning occurring in connection with any trade must be reported to the Home Office, it does seem an anomaly that no notice is taken in other instances.

Cruelty to Children. Inspector Davis, of the N.S.P.C.C., has given me much useful information with reference to dirty and neglected homes, and one woman was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for neglecting her children, and allowing them to get into a deplorably disgusting condition, in fact, covered with vermin. I hope this conviction will have a salutary effect for the future, and serve as a warning to careless and negligent parents.

Ambulance. A hand Ambulance is very necessary for the conveyance of people attacked by sudden illness, or meeting with an accident in the streets. It might be kept at the Police Station, or by arrangement with the Governors of the Infirmary at that institution.

Public Health Committee. May I again venture to draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of forming a Public Health Committee. All sanitary business could then be thoroughly discussed in private, all the officials concerned being present to give any infor-

mation on the question at issue with regard to their own special department. In this way a much more satisfactory decision would be arrived at than under the present regime.

Summary. The health of the town last year was generally very good in most respects, the only exception being the prevalence of Diphtheria, to which I have already directed attention. In conclusion I hope that some points in my report upon which I have for several years laid particular emphasis, may receive the careful consideration of the Council.

Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901. Under this Act a large amount of additional responsibility and work is thrown upon the Medical Officer of Health, without, too, any provision for extra remuneration. The Act is so comprehensive that almost any place where two or more people are at work comes within its provisions. A complete register was only obtained late in the year, so that it was impossible to visit the 168 different establishments contained in that register. The chief industries are railway works of all descriptions, carriage building, mineral water manufactories, elastic webbing, wholesale clothing, cycle works, and other industries common to every town. All the places visited were found in good order, except one case of overcrowding in a dress-making and millinery establishment; defective means of escape in case of fire in a clothing factory; and general neglect and dirty premises in a restaurant. Warnings were given and the defects at once remedied. There are no offensive trades within the confines of the City.

SANATORIUM REPORT.

Accommodation. This institution, for the treatment of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever, is situated just outside the confines of the City, about three-quarters of a mile from the Market Place. There is accommodation for 26 patients, viz.: Scarlet Fever, 16 beds; Diphtheria, 5 beds; Typhoid Fever, 5 beds. During the year 92 patients were admitted, as against 65 in 1901.

Analysis. The analysis of Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, &c., during 1902, is shown in the subjoined Table:—

	Remaining in Sanatorium Dec. 31st, 1901.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	Remaining in Sanatorium Dec. 31st, 1902.
DIPHTHERIA.....	...	18	1	17	...
SCARLET FEVER	13	70	2	74	7
TYPHOID FEVER	...	3	...	3	...
OTHER CASES ...	...	1	...	1	...
TOTALS...	13	92	3	95	7

The other case mentioned was that of a man suffering from Phlegmonous Erysipelas, admitted from the Peterborough Infirmary in order that the work on the surgical side of that excellent institution might not be brought to a standstill.

Mortality. The case mortality was again very low, only 3·26 per cent., 2 deaths being due to malignant Scarlet Fever, and the other to Diphtheria; a young girl who was admitted in a moribund condition, and only lived for 24 hours. Antitoxin is used in all cases of Diphtheria, and there is no doubt it has effected an immense reduction in the mortality from this dreaded disease, but everything depends upon its early use. The operation of Tracheotomy was performed twice, both patients returning home perfectly cured. Of all the different diseases admitted, cases of Diphtheria give the best results, there were no second admissions from any house, and even those suffering in a severe form, made very rapid and satisfactory recoveries.

Admissions. The percentage of admissions to notifications was a great improvement on the first year, 44·3 per cent., showing that the benefits of the Sanatorium are becoming better known and more appreciated.

Stay in Sanatorium. The average duration of stay in the Sanatorium of the 98 completed cases was 33·84 days. Scarlet Fever, 37·54 days; Diphtheria, 18·14 days; Typhoid Fever, 33·84 days.

Staff. The permanent Staff is as follows:—Matron, 5 Nurses, Cook, Laundress, 2 Ward Maids, Porter and Gardener, who also acts as Ambulance Attendant, and resides close at hand. One Nurse contracted Diphtheria and one Scarlet Fever; both recovered. The cost of extra nursing was only £1 6s.

Improvements. Various improvements have been carried out during the year; a discharging block completed, and the erection of a large coal-house, and a shed for the van used in removing infected linen. The old coal-house has been added to the laundry, so that the linen now makes a complete circuit in process of washing.

Remarks. The results of the second year's working of the Sanatorium were eminently satisfactory, more patients were admitted, the percentage of admissions to notifications was higher, and yet despite the fact of there being many severe types of disease, the death rate was remarkably low. Moreover, the extreme utility of the institution was proved by the fact that from the various business houses in the centre of the town where patients were removed, there were no second admissions.

Conclusion. In conclusion, I beg to thank the Members of the Sanatorium Committee for the generous support they have afforded me in carrying out my duties. The very satisfactory results in the way of recoveries are largely due to the deep interest in their work evinced by the Nursing Staff. Miss Thomas, the Matron, has, as usual, been most assiduous in her care for the sick, and for the kindly personal interest she takes alike in patients and their friends. Mr. Walshaw, the Borough Surveyor, is always willing to assist in any way that lies in his power.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

Small Pox Hospital. For the reception of cases of Small Pox only, situated on the Sewage Farm, about 1½ miles from the Market Place, in the Rural District. Accommodation is provided for 8 patients, the Rural District Council having a claim upon 4 beds by payment of a yearly sum of £30. The Hospital is in charge of a man and his wife. There was only one case admitted, and she was detained for six weeks.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT WILLIAM JOLLY,

March 10th, 1903.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents regis- tered in Public Institutions in the District.				Deaths of Resi- dents registered in Public Insti- tutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Deaths of Resi- dents registered in Public Insti- tutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents regis- tered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Resi- dents registered in Public Insti- tutions beyond the District.	Number.		Rate.*	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1895.	27298	764	27.99	123	161.00	418	15.31	15	30	...	388	14.02			
1896.	27693	743	25.38	76	102.30	363	13.11	9	18	...	345	12.45			
1897.	28088	734	26.13	103	140.33	470	16.38	9	45	...	425	15.13			
1898.	28500	812	28.49	125	153.94	473	16.60	12	29	...	444	15.57			
1899.	28900	837	28.95	114	136.00	481	16.64	18	28	...	453	15.67			
1900.	29266	814	27.78	121	148.00	456	15.56	19	25	...	431	14.71			
1901.	30870	868	28.12	96	110.60	422	13.61	68	36	2	388	12.57			
Averages for years 1892-1901.	28659	796	27.55	108	136.02	440	15.31	21	30	2	411	14.30			
1902.	31450	827	26.29	89	107.62	417	13.26	62	51	3	369	11.73			

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres
(exclusive of Area
covered by Water). } 1818.

Total population at all ages 30870 } At
Number of inhabited houses 7028 } Census of
Average number of persons per house 4.39 } 1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1902 and Previous Years.

Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

Names of Localities.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				NORTH WARD.				WEST WARD.				EAST WARD.				SOUTH WARD.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	27298	764	418	123	14938	396	185	61	...	...	...	...	9332	251	128	45	3028	101	44	13
1896	27693	743	363	76	15157	414	147	32	...	...	...	...	9464	225	136	36	3072	98	41	8
1897	28088	734	470	103	15376	373	202	56	...	...	...	...	9596	267	149	38	3116	85	34	9
1898	28500	812	473	125	15600	445	211	60	...	...	...	...	9736	260	156	52	3164	101	45	12
1899	28900	837	481	114	15823	454	210	69	...	...	...	...	9870	267	144	29	3207	110	46	11
1900	29296	814	456	121	16043	459	206	63	...	...	...	...	10002	249	147	44	3251	103	37	10
1901	30870	868	422	96	6306	206	68	26	10714	263	128	24	10086	284	143	32	3764	115	47	14
Averages of Years, 1892 to 1901				108	14178	392	176	52	10714	263	128	24	9726	258	143	39	3228	102	42	11
1902	31450	827	417	89	6424	187	54	21	10921	259	130	28	10270	273	144	33	3835	108	38	7

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.													
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	North Ward.	West Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.	North Ward.	West Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.
Small Pox	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	71	18	32	7	13	1	11	27	23	10	...	...	...	8	2
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	19	...	1	...	12	6	2	6	7	4	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	126	22	83	14	5	...	21	40	41	24	...	...	...	27	13
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	8	...	1	3	4	...	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	1	1
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	227	2	40	117	24	37	7	36	77	76	38	6	32	37	16

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Death in or belonging to Localities. (At all Ages).				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	North Ward.	West Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.	
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	12	5	7	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	...	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	6	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Diphtheria & Mem- branous Croup...	5	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	1
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever {	Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	Other ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	...
Enteritis	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	5	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	2	1	5
Phthisis... ..	28	...	...	...	7	18	3	2	10	13	3	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	5	1	2	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	39	...	...	...	1	24	14	5	12	12	10	8
Bronchitis	37	8	6	1	...	9	13	6	12	16	3	2
Pneumonia	20	10	2	...	...	2	6	7	5	7	1	1
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Alcoholism	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	5	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	6	2	...	...	...	4	...	2	3	1	...	1
Venereal Diseases	24	24	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	7	1	1
Premature Birth... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	5	1	...	...	...	4	...	1	2	2	...	...
Heart Diseases	39	...	...	2	3	18	16	5	17	14	3	7
Accidents	9	2	1	2	...	3	1	2	5	2	...	5
Suicides... ..	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	1
All other causes	103	24	2	1	4	21	51	16	36	44	7	24
ALL CAUSES...	366	89	25	13	20	113	106	54	130	144	38	62

CITY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

PETERBOROUGH,

9TH MARCH, 1903.

SANITARY REPORT.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

During the year which ended on the 31st December last, 1,394 Sanitary inspections were made in the Borough.

Generally speaking, the Sanitary condition of the Borough was found to be very satisfactory; occasionally defective arrangements were found, but the whole of them, with one exception, were remedied without much trouble, and it was seldom found necessary to report the cases to you, with a view to the issue of notices. The exception referred to was with respect to a house which was without a proper supply of water. The occupant declined to permit your officials to enter his premises for the purpose of making an examination. The matter was taken before the Justices on two occasions, and the necessary orders were obtained; eventually the requirements of your Authority were complied with.

108 houses in which cases of infectious disease had been notified to your Medical Officer of Health were inspected. 102 of these were disinfected by your Inspector and 6 by the occupants under the direction of their medical man. The cases disinfected after were 84 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Typhoid, 16 of Diphtheria, and 1 of Small Pox.

In addition to the above, 17 houses were disinfected where deaths from Phthisis had occurred.

4 of the Public Schools were temporarily closed in consequence of the prevalence of Measles and other diseases amongst the children attending them. The schools were thoroughly disinfected.

9 cases of overcrowding were dealt with.

8 dirty houses were inspected. They were at once thoroughly cleansed, and put into a satisfactory condition.

3 samples of drinking water (1 of them before referred to) were taken from private wells, and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The whole of them were declared to be unfit for drinking purposes; a proper supply of water was forthwith provided.

88 earthenware gullies have been fixed in place of iron D traps.

The removal of house and trade refuse has been duly attended to, 6,215 loads having been dealt with. Since the closing of the Albert Place Meadow against the receipt of this material, the cost of removal has greatly increased. Just now the places of deposit are fairly convenient, but frequently difficulties are experienced in finding situations in which a material, often of a very offensive nature can be safely placed.

Drainage. The drains throughout the Borough have received careful and constant attention; the nature of the gradients of the sewers will render this at all times necessary. The intercepting sewer extending from Narrow Street to Fengate was cleansed, and although not 12 months had elapsed since it was previously done, 108 loads of sediment were removed. Sewers were also cleansed at Midgate, City Road, Wellington Street, and from Fengate to the Sewage Farm.

Since the adoption of the new sewer cleansing appliances, the work has been carried out much more expeditiously and at less cost.

Complaints with respect to the manhole and surface ventilators were few in number. This is due to the improved condition of the sewers, rendered so (1) by the better system of cleansing, (2) the efficient working of the automatic and other flushing arrangements, and (3) the erection of ventilation shafts in suitable situations. Many sanitarians object to this method of dealing with the gases which generate in the sewers. I think, however, it must be admitted that its adoption here has been highly satisfactory.

During the year 11 additional ventilating shafts varying in diameter, from 6in. to 9in. have been fixed, making a total of 115.

A new sewer has been put down in St. Leonard's Street, to take the place of an old one which was in a defective condition. With the construction of new sewers in a part of Westwood Street, Nelson Street and Wood Street, the whole of the streets in the Borough will have been re-drained.

During the year the water closets of 17 houses have had a supply of water laid on to them.

23 ventilating pipes have been fixed on house drains previously unventilated. All house drains are inspected before being covered up, and occasionally the water test has been applied to them. I am of opinion that this test should be applied to all drains, and that no dwelling house should be allowed to be occupied until a certificate has been given to the effect that the test has been applied, and the Sanitary arrangements generally are in proper order.

The slaughter houses, dairies, cow-sheds, milk shops, and the bakehouses have been systematically visited, and were generally found to be in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

It has been noticed that black smoke is frequently emitted from certain chimnies in the Borough. Cautions have been given, and promises of amendment made.

The inhabitants of the Borough have reason to congratulate themselves upon the healthy condition of the town. The very low death rate of last year goes to prove that the many means adopted for the prevention of disease have been highly successful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. WALSHAW,

Sanitary Inspector.