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# City of Peterborough.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT 1905.

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MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Population.** The population estimated for the year was 33,158, and the steady annual increase seems to be maintained, despite the depression in trade, causing so many men to be out of work.

**Birth Rate.** 715 births were registered, including 41 illegitimate; equal to 21·56 per 1,000 population. The birth rate has been gradually declining since 1901, very much, too, below the average for the 10 previous years, 26·78. It is, however, in accord with a similar condition prevailing all over the United Kingdom, and is probably largely due to financial depression.

**Death Rate.** The total number of deaths registered was 403, equal to a gross rate of 12·15 per 1,000. But after correction for non-residents, the nett deaths amounted to 375; so that the real death rate for the City is 11·30, the lowest figure it has reached in my recollection.

**Zymotic Mortality.** This class of preventible diseases includes:—Measles, 3; Scarlet Fever, 3; Whooping Cough, 4; Diphtheria, 4; Enteric Fever, 1; Influenza, 6; Infantile Diarrhoea, 6; Erysipelas, 2; total, 29. 87 per thousand.

**Infantile Mortality.** 75 children died before attaining the age of one year, corresponding to 107 deaths per 1,000 births registered; or, in other words, out of every 9 children born, one dies during the succeeding 12 months. Premature Birth and Diarrhœa were the chief causes. On the other hand, the fatality of Infantile Diarrhœa was very small, as considered with previous years.

The comparative statistics of the four Wards into which the City is divided are shown in the following table:—

	Population.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.
NORTH WARD.....	6778	168	24·78	72	10·63
WEST WARD .....	11510	213	18·50	123	10·68
EAST WARD.....	10855	246	22·66	139	12·89
SOUTH WARD.....	4015	88	21·91	41	10·18

Last year the positions of the Wards were reversed, the North Ward heading the list as regards births, whilst the mortality was lowest in the South Ward.

The Returns of the Registrar General for 75 of the largest provincial towns for 1905 are enumerated below, as a means of comparison:—

Birth Rate	...	28·60
Death Rate	...	15·80
Zymotic Death Rate,		1·96
Infantile	„ „	143 deaths to every 100 births registered.

### DISEASE INCIDENCE.

**Small Pox.** Six notifications; no deaths. A rather alarming outbreak of Small Pox occurred in June, there being two centres of infection, one case being reported from a public house, also used by weekly lodgers, in the City Road, and two cases from the Workhouse, all on the same day. Decisive precautions were immediately taken, patients at once removed, and all contacts re-vaccinated: over 200 at the Workhouse. The public house was closed, and arrangements made to detain the lodgers and inmates for a period of sixteen days. In the case of the Workhouse, the whole of the Institution was within a few hours placed in quarantine, all ingress and egress stopped. The admission of all fresh paupers or tramps was temporarily suspended, as well as building operations. All infected rooms, together with

bedding and articles of wearing apparel, were thoroughly fumigated and disinfected. In this way the area of the outbreak was circumscribed. Only two more cases occurred in the Workhouse, besides a youth living near the public house. The cause of the primary outbreak was a tramp passing through who had not completely recovered. He was traced to Kettering, but then his movements were lost sight of. It is only by very stringent measures that an outbreak of Small Pox can be successfully dealt with, and I have to express my thanks to the members of the Sanatorium Committee for at once accepting my suggestions, and allowing me a free hand to deal with what at one time appeared likely to develop into a widespread epidemic. Nor should the members of the Board of Guardians, including their principal officials, be forgotten; they all gave me every possible assistance, and saw that my recommendations were most punctiliously carried out.

**Scarlet Fever.** 124 notifications, three deaths. Fewer cases of Scarlet Fever were reported than in the previous year; still, it continued more or less epidemic throughout the year. The mild type of disease is no doubt mainly responsible, the typical rash being often very evanescent, only lasting a few hours; thus parents do not recognise the importance of calling in a medical practitioner. Children are then allowed to return to school before the infectious stage is over, in some instances peeling freely on both hands and feet. In this way other children are quickly infected. I, however, hope that my suggestion to the Education Committee, to insist on a Medical Certificate in all cases where a child has been absent from illness for more than seven days, before the child is allowed to resume its studies, may be productive of satisfactory results. Legal proceedings, too, where flagrant carelessness on the part of parents has contributed to the spread of infection, would no doubt prove useful.

**Diphtheria.** 35 notifications, 4 deaths. There has been a steady decline in cases of this dangerous malady. Here, too, I wish to draw attention to the importance of early treatment, the value of Antitoxin diminishes the longer the disease remains undetected; prompt recognition and immediate removal of the sufferer to the Sanatorium renders treatment much more effectual, and prevents other children from falling victims. In no instance could the cause be traced to local vendors of milk, but in one house, where the supply was procured outside the town, the surroundings of the dairy were found not to be altogether in a sanitary condition.

**Infantile Diarrhœa.** Six deaths. Very few indeed as compared with other years.

**Measles and Whooping Cough.** Three and four deaths respectively.

**Typhoid Fever.** Two notifications, one death. A very satisfactory record indeed, and one, too, that speaks volumes for the sanitary arrangements of the City, more especially as regards the present water supply and the drainage. A letter of enquiry regarding a case of Typhoid Fever, supposed to have been contracted in Peterborough, was very fully investigated, with negative results. I was afterwards informed by the Medical Officer of Health of Islington that the disease was ultimately diagnosed as Typhus Fever, thus precluding the idea of any source of infection from Peterborough.

**Phthisis.** 24 deaths. .72 per 1,000.

**Cancer.** 44 deaths. 1.32 per 1,000.

**Alcoholism.** 14 deaths. Rather a large number of lives sacrificed to what may certainly be termed a preventible disease, and more than double the average annual return.

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases :—

Month.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.
January ...	...	28	5	...		1	34
February ...	...	14	3	...		3	20
March ...	...	21	3	...		1	25
April ...	...	7	5	1		3	16
May ...	...	7	2	...		2	11
June ...	5	5	1	...		3	14
July ...	1	6	5	...		2	14
August ...	...	2	4	1		2	9
September ...	...	3	2	...		3	8
October ...	...	8	4	...		2	14
November ...	...	11	...	...		2	13
December ...	...	12	1	...		2	15
Totals ...	6	124	35	2		26	193

**School Exclusion.** Six Day Schools were closed during the year for periods not exceeding 14 days, viz., Cromwell Road, Gladstone Street, St. Mary's, Bishop's Road, and New England, for Measles; Girls' National, for Scarlet Fever. I am aware that there is considerable diversity of opinion as to the utility of the closure of Schools, to arrest the spread of Infectious Disease, but my experience is decidedly in favour of such procedure; it has always been attended with beneficial results. Besides which, an opportunity is afforded for thoroughly fumigating and cleansing the various class rooms and their contents.

**Sewage and Drainage.** Men are now permanently employed removing the deposit of silt from the sewers, which is bound to accumulate in such a flat locality. Consequently, complaints about the smell from the manholes are few and far between.

**Dairies and Milk Shops.** All in good order, well drained, ventilated, and lighted; nor has any outbreak of infectious disease been traced to milk sold by any local purveyors.

**Slaughter Houses.** Generally well kept and clean. The abominable nuisance, arising from the practice of allowing entrails to pass into the City sewers, has been abated since attention by printed notices was called to such culpable neglect. Credit is certainly due to the Master Butchers for at once giving instructions to prevent such an unwholesome proceeding, and one, moreover, that was calculated to bring discredit upon the whole trade.

**Nuisances.** Nothing of any special importance has been reported, except the usual defects to house drains, which are from time to time discovered. Some bye-law should be introduced to prevent any private drain being opened without giving notice to the Borough Surveyor; otherwise, without proper supervision, repairs are apt to be carried out in a very slipshod and perfunctory manner. There are several bye-yards which in wet weather are veritable sloughs of mud, Clifton's Yard, and one in Wellington Street. It is very bad in wet weather for young children; they arrive in school with their boots saturated.

**Public Health Committee.** The formation of such a Committee is a subject that I have advocated for several years, and the necessity for such a change becomes more imperative as the City continues to grow. If time were only once given for ventilating the question by a friendly discussion, I believe all the Members of the Council would recognise the importance of such a progressive step.

**N.S.P.C.C.** I have received much valuable information from the local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Mr. Bausor; he is always willing to assist the Corporation Officials in any way that lies in his power. The welfare of the children is so intimately associated with the Public Health Department, that such cordial co-operation must always be productive of the most satisfactory results.

**Summary.** 1905 was a record in the history of Peterborough from a health point of view. Low rate of mortality as regards deaths at all ages, and especially so as regards infantile mortality, *i.e.*, deaths of children under one year of age. Diphtheria gradually decreasing, and only two cases of Typhoid Fever notified during the whole twelve months. Judging by the number of letters I receive relative to the health of the City, from people about to settle down, the public at large are becoming much more alive to the advantages of good sanitation, and take a much more intelligent interest in the measures that are adopted for the prevention of disease. We must not consequently be contented to mark time, but always keep up to date with other towns; so many new and important discoveries are constantly being made in sanitary science.

**Factories and Workshops Act.** There is not much to report under this Section. There have been very few complaints during the year, and only minor defects discovered on inspection. One clothing factory has been removed to new and much more suitable premises, all on the ground floor; so that there is much less danger in case of fire. The question of the sale of diachylon plaster in bulk, to which I have several times referred in previous years, is now attracting general attention on the part of members of the medical profession. Some restriction should certainly be placed upon the sale of such a dangerous composition, containing lead. I have myself verified the fact that it is very generally purchased in this town.

## SANATORIUM REPORT.

**Accommodation.** This Institution for the treatment of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever, is situated just outside the eastern boundary of the City. Accommodation is provided for 26 patients, viz.: Scarlet Fever, 16 beds; Diphtheria, 5 beds; Typhoid Fever, 5 beds. 102 patients were admitted during the year. Previous years: 1901, 65; 1902, 92; 1903, 67; 1904, 177; total for five years, since the opening of the Institution, 503, a yearly average of about 100.

**Analysis.** The analysis of admissions, discharges, deaths, &c., during 1905 are shown in the subjoined table:—

Diseases.	Remaining in Sanatorium January 1st, 1905.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	Remaining in Sanatorium Dec. 31st, 1905.
DIPHTHERIA ...	...	18	2	16	...
SCARLET FEVER	17	83	4	86	10
TYPHOID FEVER	...	...	...	...	...
OTHER DISEASES...	...	1	...	1	...
TOTALS...	17	102	6	103	10

The one case admitted under the heading "other diseases" was taken in under observation, but was discharged after four days' detention perfectly well.

**Mortality.** Six deaths occurred, four from Scarlet Fever, two from Diphtheria. Two of the fatal cases of Scarlet Fever were complicated by previous operations, and both the children who died from Diphtheria were admitted in a moribund condition, and only lived a few hours after admission. I have drawn particular attention in a preceding paragraph to the great importance of early treatment in Diphtheria.

**Admissions.** The per centage of admissions to notifications was 46 per cent.

**Stay in Sanatorium.** The average duration of detention in the Sanatorium for the 109 completed cases was 37.03 days; Diphtheria, 11.66 days; Scarlet Fever, 41.93 days.

**Staff.** No member of the staff contracted any infectious disease, and the addition of one probationer has obviated the necessity of employing any private nurses.

**Remarks.** The stoves originally fixed in the Scarlet Wards, having proved unsatisfactory, were replaced by double grates, supplied by Messrs. Lander Bros. They have amply justified the expense incurred. They are ornamental, cheerful for the patients, consume a much smaller quantity of coal, and thoroughly warm the Wards in the coldest weather.

**Conclusion.** I have again to express my best thanks to the Members of the Sanatorium Committee for the cordial assistance they have afforded me in carrying out my duties. The Nursing Staff, under the able supervision of Miss Thomas, the Matron, have, as in former years, done much to maintain the reputation of the Sanatorium for efficient and careful nursing, by their attention and kindness to the patients. The grounds are gradually becoming very ornamental, under the supervision of Mr. Walshaw, and are a great boon to the patients in the summer.

## SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

**Small Pox Hospital.** For the reception of cases of Small Pox only, situated on the Corporation Sewage Farm, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Market Place, in the Rural District, accommodation is provided for eight patients, the Rural District Councils having a claim upon four beds by payment of a yearly sum of £30. The Hospital is in charge of a caretaker and his wife.

Six cases were admitted during the year, and all discharged convalescent and free from infection.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT WILLIAM JOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

*March 15th, 1906.*

**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.**

Name of District: PETERBOROUGH.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District		
		Number	*Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number				*Rate	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	29296	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
1902	31450	827	26.29	89	107.62	417	13.26	62	51	3	369	11.73
1903	32020	762	26.06	96	125.98	423	13.20	55	29	2	396	12.36
1904	32589	739	22.67	92	110.97	459	14.42	91	58	0	401	12.35
Averages for Years 1895-1904	29670	790	26.78	105	129.67	438	14.80	35	34	1.75	404	13.65
1905	33158	715	21.56	75	107	403	12.15	77	28	5	375	11.30

\* 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
		Number of inhabited houses .....	7028
		Average number of persons per house .....	4.39
		At Census of 1901	

**TABLE II.**  
**Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1905 and previous years.**  
 Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

Names of Localities.	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.
1895	14938	396	185	61					9332	251	128	45	3028	101	44	13
1896	15157	414	147	32					9464	225	136	36	3072	98	41	8
1897	15376	373	202	56					9596	267	149	38	3116	85	34	9
1898	15600	445	211	60					9736	260	156	52	3164	101	45	12
1899	15823	454	210	69					9870	267	144	29	3207	110	46	11
1900	16043	459	206	63					10002	249	147	44	3251	103	37	10
1901	6306	206	68	26	10714	263	128	24	10086	284	143	32	3764	115	47	14
1902	6424	187	54	21	10921	259	130	28	10270	273	144	33	3835	108	38	7
1903	6542	171	76	21	11118	229	129	27	10465	260	145	41	3895	102	44	7
1904	6660	157	66	18	11314	244	134	19	10660	231	155	46	3955	104	46	9
Averages of Years ) 1895 to 1904 }	11886	326	142	42	11016	245	130	24	9948	257	144	39	3428	102	42	10
1905	6778	168	72	16	11510	213	123	22	10855	246	139	28	4015	88	41	9



TABLE IV.

**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.**  
Name of District—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 ... ..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Scarlet Fever ...	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Whooping-cough ...	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..
Diphtheria & Mem- branous Croup ...	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	..
Croup ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric ... ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
{ Other ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
continued ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	6	1	1	..	..	2	2	..	4	1	1	..
Cholera ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ... ..	6	5	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	1
Enteritis ... ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Other Septic Diseases ... ..	10	1	1	3	4	1	..	5	4	..	1	8
Phthisis ... ..	24	1	1	1	3	15	3	1	9	10	4	7
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	13	3	4	2	1	3	..	2	3	6	2	6
Cancer (Malignant Disease ... ..	44	..	..	..	..	21	23	12	18	13	1	12
Bronchitis ... ..	32	12	2	..	..	4	14	1	6	21	4	2
Pneumonia ... ..	12	4	3	..	1	2	2	1	4	6	1	5
Pleurisy... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver }	14	..	..	..	..	11	3	2	5	7	..	..
Venereal Diseases	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Premature Birth ...	25	25	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	7	2	..
Diseases and Acci- dents of Partu- rition ... ..	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
Heart Diseases ...	49	..	..	..	3	33	13	16	10	17	6	3
Accidents ... ..	12	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	4	4	3	8
Suicides ... ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..
All other causes ...	104	15	5	2	2	28	52	15	38	36	15	39
ALL CAUSES ...	375	75	26	12	18	129	115	72	123	139	41	91

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1905.

Deaths from stated causes, in Weeks and Months, under one Year of Age.

Name of District, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total deaths under one year.
<b>All Causes</b>	( Certified ...	28	3	1	7	39	3	4	4	3	4	1	4	4	...	1	2	69
	( Uncertified ...	2	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria: Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœal Diseases	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	4
	Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	5
	Enteritis, (not Tuberculous)	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth	25	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Congenital Defects	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Injury at Birth	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Want of Breast-milk Atrophy, Debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuber- culous Diseases	Marasmus	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Tuberculous Peri- tonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
	Bronchitis	...	1	...	4	5	2	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	12
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
		30	3	1	7	41	4	6	4	3	4	1	5	4	...	1	2	75

Births in the year (legitimate, 674, illegitimate, 41.  
Deaths from all causes at all ages, 375.

Population, Estimated to middle of 1905. 33158.

## 3—OTHER MATTERS.

Class	Number.	
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) ... ..	18	
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