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City of Peterborough.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1906.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. The population, estimated according to the usual method of the decennial increase, was 33727, and there is a continuous erection of new houses, which will no doubt be required by the advent of fresh factories in the district; in this way the yearly increase in the population will be more than maintained.

Birth Rate. 788 births were registered, including those of 57 illegitimate infants, equal to 23·36 per 1000. The birth rate has been steadily falling since 1898, but on reference to Table I, it will be seen that the number of births was 3 above the average for the preceding 10 years.

Death Rate. 436 deaths were registered, a gross rate of 12·92 per 1000, but after deducting 37 deaths of non-residents, and adding the deaths of 3 patients in the Sanatorium, who were residents, the net total for calculation is 402, corresponding exactly to the decennial average. The city death rate is therefore 11·91.

Zymotic Mortality. Measles 7, Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 1, Influenza 5, Infantile Diarrhoea 14, Puerperal Fever 2, Erysipelas 1; Total 35. 0·96 per 1000.

See Table
V

X **Infantile Mortality.** The deaths of 84 infants under the age of 12 months were registered, corresponding to 107 deaths per 1000 births registered. Premature Birth and Congenital Defects, Infantile Diarrhoea, Bronchitis and Pneumonia being responsible for more than half the fatalities. But whereas the deaths of legitimate infants was 10% of the births, the proportion of the illegitimate ones was 25%. Comment upon such a high rate of mortality is needless.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE FOUR WARDS.

	Population.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.
NORTH WARD . . .	6896	192	29.29	75	10.87
WEST WARD	11706	242	20.67	121	13.36
EAST WARD	11050	259	23.43	168	15.20
SOUTH WARD	4075	95	23.31	35	8.58

The relative position of the Wards remains the same as last year, North Ward having the highest Birth rate, South Ward the lowest Death rate.

Last year's returns for the 75 largest provincial towns afford a useful means of comparison :—

General Birth Rate 28.4 per 1000.

„ Death „ 16.2 „ „

Zymotic „ „ 2.39 „ „

Deaths of Children under one year.. 157 to every 1000 births registered.

The general Death rate ranged from 9.5 in King's Norton to 20.6 in Liverpool.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Small Pox. No cases. Three notices regarding contacts were received, the persons concerned were kept under observation for three weeks. Two of them were time-expired soldiers returning from India on hired transports. It would be a much more rational

plan of dealing with such cases, if the military authorities were to detain such men for a reasonable period, until all danger of infection had passed, at the port of disembarkation, generally Southampton; instead of allowing them to scatter all over the country. More especially so, as Small Pox has nearly been stamped out, not without, however, considerable loss of life and great expenditure of money.

Scarlet Fever. 130 notifications. Two deaths in the Sanatorium. The type of disease was generally mild, although rapidly fatal cases do occur at intervals, giving rise to considerable alarm. 57 per cent. of the notifications were in the West Ward where most of the day schools are of an obsolete character and unsuitable for present requirements. When the new schools are ready for use I confidently anticipate a decrease in Scarlet Fever. The regulations of the Education Committee as to medical certificates, might, with advantage, be more rigidly enforced when children are absent from school more than 7 days.

Diphtheria. 28 notifications, 1 death. Again I have to record a diminution in the number of cases notified; everything depends upon early recognition and prompt treatment, and I am firmly convinced of the immense importance of all cases being completely isolated by removal to the Sanatorium, both in the interests alike of the sufferer and the other members of the household.

Infantile Diarrhœa. 14 deaths, a rise concurrently with the high temperature of the summer months, but very much less than some previous years.

Measles and Whooping Cough. 7 and 3 deaths respectively.

Typhoid Fever. 8 notifications. Several of the cases notified were doubtful, of the others, one was imported from a seaport town and another was due to the consumption of raw mussels.

Phthisis. 36 deaths. 1.05 per 1000.

Cancer. 44 deaths, same as last year. 1.31 per 1000.

Alcoholism. 3 deaths.

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases :—

Month.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Totals.
January	...	11	...	1	...	1	13
February	...	19	3	..	1	4	27
March	...	6	1	...	...	2	9
April	...	8	4	..	...	2	14
May	...	14	3	1	...	2	20
June	...	2	1	...	..	1	4
July	...	7	...	...	...	1	8
August	...	15	3	2	...	2	22
September...	...	13	1	3	...	7	24
October	...	15	2	1	...	2	20
November...	...	11	3	...	...	2	16
December...	...	9	7	..	...	5	21
Totals	..	130	28	8	1	31	198

School Closure. 3 schools were closed for 14 days, each on account of measles, viz. : Cromwell Road, New England, and All Saints, all Infant Schools. The question naturally arises as to the advisability of children under 5 years of age being congregated together at school, because at that tender age they are much more susceptible to infection, and therefore when any infectious disease breaks out in an infant school it spreads very rapidly.

SANITARY WORK.

On referring to the report of the Sanitary Inspector it will be seen that a large amount of work has been done; the chief item is defective house drains, as in former years. I still advise that some Bye-Laws should be passed to prevent any interference with any house drain until due notice has been given to the Sanitary Authorities. Any repairs or alterations would then be executed under proper supervision, and a recurrence of the evil prevented. Disinfection of rooms by means of formalin vapour is always carried out in all cases of infectious disease, and after deaths from Phthisis. Formalin appears to be the best and most efficient disinfectant, moreover it is so easily worked by means of a spirit lamp and tablets.

Dairies and Milkshops are all registered and regularly inspected, nor have any serious defects been discovered in the sanitary arrangements, but more cleanliness might be observed in milking the cows, both as regards washing the udder and the hands of

the milker ; I have repeatedly observed an entire disregard of these wholesome precautions. The result of such want of care is a deposit of organic matter in the milk, which can easily be verified by straining through thin muslin.

Slaughter Houses. Only one defect was found, but at the same time I would venture to suggest that considerable discrimination be exercised before any further licenses are granted.

N.S.P.C.C. I have again to acknowledge my indebtedness to Inspector Bausor, the local official of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children ; by his vigilance and active co-operation several instances of overcrowding and dirty houses have been brought to my notice.

Summary. The health of Peterborough during 1906 can fairly be described as very satisfactory. Cases of Diphtheria are becoming annually fewer, there is very little Typhoid Fever, unless imported from other localities, and the death rate remains low in comparison with other towns, three very important factors. At the same time I still think that the formation of a Public Health Committee is necessary. Many questions relating to the health of the inhabitants of the city are now discussed, and a decision arrived at in public, which could be more thoroughly thrashed out in private, with due regard both to the inhabitants and the interest of the individuals concerned.

Factories and Workshops Act. There is very little to report under the provisions of this Act, defects found have all been of a minor character, and our suggestions are always met by the owners in a most conciliatory spirit, thus removing the necessity for any prosecutions. The new factories erected are everything that could be desired, managers being fully alive to the importance of providing healthy premises for their workpeople.

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. 134 patients were admitted during the year. Previous years: 1901, 65; 1902, 92; 1903, 67; 1904, 177; 1905, 102; 1906, 134; total, for six years since the opening of the institution 637, a yearly average of 106.

Analyses. The analyses of admissions, deaths, discharges, &c., during 1906, are shown in the subjoined table:—

Disease.	Remaining in Sanatorium January 1st, 1906.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharges.	Remaining in Sanatorium Dec. 31st, 1906.
DIPHTHERIA ...	...	17	1	14	2
SCARLET FEVER	10	110	2	107	11
TYPHOID FEVER	..	6	...	6	...
OTHER DISEASES	...	1	...	1	...
TOTALS	10	134	3	128	13

The one case admitted under the heading "Other Diseases" was the mother of a baby suffering from Diphtheria, she was given a prophylactic injection of antitoxin before admission.

Mortality. Three deaths; case mortality 2.24%, one from Diphtheria; the two fatal cases of Scarlet Fever were both of a malignant type, and succumbed in a few hours. The operation of Tracheotomy was twice performed, both patients recovered, one being an infant only 11 months old. Since 1901 42 cases of Typhoid Fever have been treated without a single death, such a record speaks volumes for the benefit to be derived from skilful nursing.

Admissions. The percentage of admissions to notifications reached the high figure of 79 per cent.

Stay in Sanatorium. The average duration of detention in the Sanatorium for the 138 completed cases was 34 days—Diphtheria, 13 days; Scarlet Fever, 42 days; Typhoid Fever, 21 days; other diseases, 7 days.

Staff. The health of the staff has been uniformly good, none having contracted any infectious disease.

Cost. A careful record has been kept of the cost of provisions for the 12 months, which works out at an average of 9½d. per head per day, staff and patients included. This is pretty conclusive proof that there is no waste or extravagance in the management.

Conclusion. My best thanks are due to the members of the Sanatorium Committee for their courtesy and the interest they take in an institution, which is very much appreciated by all grades of society, and has undoubtedly proved itself worth the expenditure incurred. The nurses do their work in an intelligent and cheerful manner, under the excellent and careful superintendence of Miss Thomas, the Matron.

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 8 patients, the Rural District Councils having a claim upon 4 beds, by payment of an annual contribution of £30. The Hospital is in charge of a caretaker and his wife. There were no admissions.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT WILLIAM JOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 22nd, 1907.

SANITARY REPORT.

CITY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

PETERBOROUGH,

23rd March, 1907.

Mr. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

During the past year the undermentioned sanitary matters have been carried out under my department :

1448 Sanitary Inspections were made.

504 Dwelling houses having defective drains.

60 Dwelling houses, the drains of which were re-laid.

28 4in. Iron ventilating pipes fixed on existing house drains.

103 D Traps were removed and earthenware gullies fixed in place thereof.

The paving in the back yards of a considerable number of houses was re-laid or repaired.

8 Cases of offensive accumulations were dealt with, and
5 of fowls, and 7 of pigs, which were in a dirty condition.

10 Cases of overcrowding came under notice.

15 Dirty houses were cleaned.

169 Dwelling houses were disinfected after cases of infectious diseases, viz. : 3 of scarlet fever, 19 of diphtheria, 8 of typhoid fever and 81 of phthisis, and

3 Public Schools were disinfected after outbreaks of measles. The disinfecting stove at the Sanatorium was used on 12 occasions for disinfecting bedding, etc., after cases of infectious diseases.

122 Public-houses were inspected and the sanitary matters in connection therewith made satisfactory.

All slaughter-houses, dairies, and cow-sheds were examined ; as a rule these premises were found to be kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

A number of factories and workshops were also visited and inspected, in a few instances only were any sanitary or other defects discovered.

The work of cleaning the main sewers was continued throughout the year without interruption, the altered circumstances connected with the flushing of the sewers generally was the cause of much complaint with respect to the emissions of offensive smells from the manholes, the completion of the new Waterworks has now enabled me to resume the proper system of flushing, and the whole of the automatic tanks are now at work, each discharging into the sewers a 1000 gallons of water daily.

5995 Loads of house and trade refuse, equal to a weight of 9000 tons, were removed.

I have the honor to remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. WALSHAW,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1906 and previous Years.
Name of District, PETERBOROUGH.

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 this District.	
		Number.	Rates.*	At all Ages.		Rates.*						
				Under 1 Year of Age.	Number.		Rate per 1,000 Births registered.				Number.	Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896.	27693	743	28.38	76	102.30	363	13.11	9	18		345	12.45
1897.	28088	734	26.13	103	140.38	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
1905.	33158	715	21.56	75	107.00	403	12.15	77	28	5	375	11.30
Averages for Years 1896-1905.	30256	785	26.14	98	124.27	438	14.49	42	34	2	402	13.38
1906.	33727	788	23.36	84	105.06	433	12.92	85	37	3	402	11.91

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 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 1906 and Previous Years.

Name of District, PETERBOROUGH,

Names of Localities.		NORTH WARD.				WEST WARD.				EAST WARD.				SOUTH WARD.			
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.
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	234	153	46	3955	104	46	9
1905	...	6778	168	72	16	11510	213	123	22	10855	246	139	28	4015	88	41	9
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905	...	11068	293	130	38	11115	241	128	24	10100	256	145	37	3527	101	41	9
1906	...	6896	192	75	23	11706	242	121	18	11050	259	168	33	4075	95	35	10

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.
Name of District, PETERBOROUGH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN THE WHOLE DISTRICT.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						65 and up- wards	North Ward	West Ward	East Ward	South Ward	North Ward	West Ward	East Ward	South Ward	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65											
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	28	1	7	7	8	5	...	...	6	7	11	4	2	6	7	3	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	31	1	3	4	7	9	7	...	7	12	11	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	130	...	35	67	13	15	...	...	28	47	37	18	21	43	30	13	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	8	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	3	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	198	2	45	80	34	30	7	...	44	69	60	25	25	51	38	17	...

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

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 ..	7	1	5	1	..	..	..	3	1	2	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever {	Typhus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteric ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	5	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	4	1	..	..
Cholera..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	16	14	2	..	..	..	..	3	4	9	..	1
Enteritis ..	4	3	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	..
Puerperal Fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	1
Erysipelas ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Other Septic Diseases ..	4	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	1	3	..	3
Phthisis ..	36	..	2	4	6	22	2	6	7	21	2	9	
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	16	2	5	2	5	2	..	2	6	7	1	2	
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	44	..	..	..	..	22	22	6	16	18	4	13
Bronchitis ..	36	9	3	2	..	4	18	10	9	16	1	6	
Pneumonia ..	21	6	5	..	1	8	1	3	5	8	5	2	
Pleurisy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	3	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..
Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	..	1
Venereal Diseases ..	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	1
Premature Birth..	24	24	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	7	5	1
Disease and Accidents of Parturition ..	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	1	..	1	3
Heart Disease ..	44	..	1	1	1	24	17	8	18	17	1	4	
Accidents ..	8	..	1	1	..	3	3	1	3	3	1	7	
Suicides ..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	1	1	1
All other causes ..	112	23	4	..	..	35	50	23	34	46	9	28
ALL CAUSES ..	399	84	34	14	14	133	120	75	121	168	35	85	

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Name of District, PETERBOROUGH.

Causes 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 1 year.
Small Pox
Chicken Pox
Measles	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria: Croup
Whooping Cough
Diarrhoea	4	..	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
Enteritis	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Gastritis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth ..	18	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Congenital Defects ..	7	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Injury at Birth
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	..	..	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Erysipelas
Syphilis	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rickets	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	5
Meningitis
Convulsions ..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis	1	..	..	1	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	9
Laryngitis
Pneumonia	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	7
Suffocation, overlying
Other Causes ..	4	..	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	7
ALL CAUSES ..	30	..	6	3	39	8	2	5	5	3	5	6	2	2	5	2	84

Population, estimated to middle of 1896, 33,727.

Births in the year { Legitimate 731 Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants . . 70
 { Illegitimate .. 57 { Illegitimate Infants . . 14

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 402.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	43	...	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)			
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Homeworkers Premises ... ..	...	...	...
Total	43	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisance under the Public Health Act :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. ..	..	..
Want of ventilation .. ..	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of Drainage of floor .. ..	..	..
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary accom- modations	{ insufficient.. ..	1	1	
	{ unsuitable or defective..	2	2	
	{ not separate for sexes ..	1	1	
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101) .. ..	..		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ..	..		
Failure as regard list of outworkers (s. 107.	..			
Giving out work to be done { unwholesome in premises which are { (s. 108) ..	..		
{ infected (s. 110) ..	..		
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small pox s. 109) .. ..	..		
Other offences .. ..	..		
Total	7	7		

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.				Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—				
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 135) .. .. .				..
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5) {				..
Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors				..
Other .. .. .				..
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—				
In use during 1906				There are no underground Bakehouses in Peterborough.
Certificates granted { in 1905 .. .. .				..
{ in 1906 .. .. .				..
In use at the end of 1906 .. .. .				..
Homework :—				
<i>List of Outworkers (s. 107)</i>				Number of
				Lists. Out-workers. Inspections.
Lists received				10 70 7
Address of outworkers {				..
				..
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i>				Wearing Apparel.
				Other,
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (s. 108) .. .. .				.. ..
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises .. .. .				.. ..
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (s. 110) .. .. .				.. ..
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of 1906 ..				201

