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I.




REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937



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CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—

ALDERMAN WHITSED.

Vice-Chairman—

ALDERMAN J. T. FISHER.

THE MAYOR—COUNCILLOR G. C.
HALL, J.P.

COUNCILLOR BATTEN.

ALDERMAN RISELEY.†

COUNCILLOR MRS. BRYANT.

ALDERMAN DAY.

COUNCILLOR H. J. FARROW.

ALDERMAN MANSFIELD.

COUNCILLOR GREEN.

COUNCILLOR BARTRAM.

COUNCILLOR SWAIN.

COUNCILLOR WRIGHT.

†Deceased 5th November, 1937.

INFANT WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—

COUNCILLOR H. J. FARROW.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR MRS. BRYANT.

THE MAYOR (ex-officio).

THE MAYORESS (ex-officio).

The Chairman of The Finance Committee (ex-officio).

The above Committee excluding Alderman Riseley and adding
COUNCILLOR MARTIN. COUNCILLOR MRS. ITTER.

COUNCILLOR A. H. MELLOWS.

COUNCILLOR SEATON.

with the following co-opted members :—

MRS. DICK.

MRS. J. WALKER.

MRS. FLETCHER.

Dr. W. PEACH HAY.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospitals and Medical Officer to the Child Welfare Committee—

*Wm. JOHNSTONE, M.D., B.Ch. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part time)—

JOHN N. COLLINS, M.D. (Lond.).

Ante-Natal Consultant (part time)—

J. D. S. FLEW, M.D. (Lond.), B.S., M.C.O.G.

Health Visitors—

*Miss E. M. TAMPLIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

*Miss R. P. THOMPSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

Ante-Natal Matron—

*Mrs. R. M. RITCHIE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Matron Borough Isolation Hospital—

Miss I. B. SKINNER, S.R.N., R.F.N.

Clerks—

Chief : H. A. GOODACRE.

Junior : L. C. MOTTRAM.

Chief Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Foods and Drugs Acts.

*J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors—

†*J. CATLOW, M.S.I.A., Cert.San.Insp.B.

*D. G. PATERSON, M.S.I.A., Cert.San.Insp.B.

Public Analyst—

Wm. ELBORNE, M.A. (Camb.).

*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

†Part-time Shops Acts Inspector.

PURSUANT TO

Article 14, Sub section (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Every Medical Officer of Health is to compile an annual report applicable to each calendar year on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the district, which, in this case, is the Borough of Peterborough.

Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health embodies the information required by the Ministry, and the report for 1937 which follows is compiled in the main on the lines indicated in that circular.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1937.

Area of Borough in Acres (from 1st April, 1929)	...	...	...	10,022
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	43,551
Population Estimated (R.G.) Mid. 1937	...	...	...	46,550
No. of Inhabited Houses, 1931, Census	...	...	...	11,018
Rateable Value £316,683				

Sum represented by a penny rate (£1,223).

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	13.9
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.6
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	64.8
Zymotic Mortality (epidemic diseases)	...	...	...	0.21

II.—EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS : Legitimate	618	314	304
Illegitimate	30	14	16
	<hr/> 648		
Still-births	<hr/> 25		
	673	Birth rate 13.9 per 1,000 population.	
	Total	M.	F.
DEATHS	600	298	302
			Death rate 11.6*

*England and Wales, 12.4.

Deaths of Infants (under one year old)	...	...	...	42
(1) Legitimate, 39.	(2) Illegitimate, 3.			
Total infant mortality, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	64.8†
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2

†England and Wales, 58.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR, 1937.

England and Wales and 148 Smaller Towns.

The Registrar-General's are Provisional Figures based on weekly and
Quarterly Returns ; the local are for the Calendar Year (1937).

				England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	
Peterborough.						
Actual Nos.				Rates per 1,000 population.		
Births :—						
Live	648	13.9	14.9	15.3
Still	25	—	0.60	0.64
Deaths :—						
All Causes	600	11.6	12.4	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers				—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—
Measles	2	—	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0	—	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	2	0.04	0.04	0.03
Diphtheria	6	0.12	0.07	0.05
Influenza	20	0.43	0.45	0.42
Violence	30	0.64	0.54	0.42
Notifications :—						
Smallpox	0	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	33	0.7	2.33	2.42
Diphtheria	142	3.05	1.49	1.38
Enteric Fever	1	0.02	0.05	0.04
Erysipelas	8	—	0.37	0.34
Pneumonia	57	—	1.36	1.20
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.		
Deaths under 1 year of age	42	64.8	58	55
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	0	—	5.8	3.2
Maternal Mortality :—						
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.5	0.97	Not available.
Others	...	...	1	1.5	2.26	
Total	2	3.0	3.23	
				Rates per 1,000 total Births. (i.e., Live and Still).		
Notifications :—						
Puerperal fever	—	13.93	11.52
Puerperal pyrexia	12	—		

2.—CAUSES OF DEATHS IN PETERBOROUGH, M.B., 1937.

(Registrar General's Figures).

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.	Total.
Civilians only, All Causes					298	302	600
1.	Enteric fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	1	1	2
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	2	2
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	5	6
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	10	10	20
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	1	—	1
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	1	1
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	15	9	24
10.	Other tuberculosis disease	...	...	...	4	4	8
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	3	—	3
12.	General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	2	2
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	32	45	77
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	3	8	11
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	17	23	40
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	67	69	136
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—	—
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	15	9	24
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	17	27
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	9	9	18
21.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	4	2	6
22.	Ulcer Peptic	...	...	...	2	2	4
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	5	1	6
24.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	3	1	4
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	1	1
26.	Other diseases of the liver, etc.	...	...	...	1	4	5
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	9	5	14
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	14	14	28
29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	1	1
30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital debility and malfor- mation, premature birth	...	...	...	10	13	23
32.	Senility	...	...	...	10	13	23
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	6	—	6
34.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	17	13	30
35.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	26	19	45
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	1	1

1937 LIVE BIRTHS PER WARD OF CITY.

EAST WARD. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Quarter.	WEST WARD. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Quarter.	SOUTH WARD. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Quarter.	NORTH WARD. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Quarter.	PASTON WARD. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Quarter.	Total.
36 30 45 31 142	35 46 40 51 172	15 12 20 18 65	29 35 42 40 146	22 25 36 40 123	648

ANNUAL REPORT 1937.

A former chief of the writer almost invariably began his annual report in an apologetic strain because of inflicting on his readers material in which perhaps they were not interested, or that was depressing to its reader.

In this relation much of the matter of all area health reports deal with such as mortality and disease, subjects which can in no wise be considered exhilarating to a reader.

Considered from the point of view of benefit to inhabitants, enlightenment of course never goes wrong, but there is a difference between enlightenment and guidance and so far from giving much guidance to the ordinary man in the street, it has to be recognised, one fears, that the construction of the report with its over-burden of figures and statistics etc. cannot *ipso facto* assist him much, if at all, as a direction sign, pointing the way to healthier living.

The really essential idea at the back of these reports is, however, strictly not the conception above set out, but if the truth were to be told, official information between the provincial health services and the central organisation, which is the Government Department responsible for health.

Now paragraph 4 of the guide which comes down annually, refers to the value of the report to the local council and the inhabitants of the area, as well as to the central authorities concerned, being greatly reduced if the report is not completed very shortly after the end of the period to which it relates. The definition of "very shortly" must of necessity be a wide one. Hardly a single medical officer in the country can, as things are now, with the over-burden of the miscellanies of the components constituting the work of a modern health department, have a report completed very shortly, if very shortly means two months following the end of the year to which it relates—a reasonable interpretation of the two words "very shortly."

Then again, apart from statistics, is this contention correct? Would it not be far nearer the mark to state that the value of *reporting* at all something calling for mitigation consists not in repetition that it requires mitigation, as for example, that the influence inimical to the health of the inhabitants of this area from aeroplanes, particularly night flying, is still unrelented and unremedied. Which is the more important? Merely repeating the same information this year, which after over a year has elapsed is the same menace as it was then or that the inimical influence has been relieved?

There is a "native" consideration. This area is very badly cleft in twain over all health matters, and if the cleavage was even and logical, there would be something perhaps to say for it, but it is truncated unfrictionable, and does not give rise at all to smooth working, or zest in endeavour to oil the wheels so as to see the best fruits of one's labour towards dealing with the health of the inhabitants.

This matter is referred elsewhere in the report, which gives a good illustration of the malign influence of schism.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

1. (ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

1937 P.H. Laboratory Transactions.

Nature of Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.	Doubtful.	Total.
Throat (and nose) swabs	44	214	24	282
Swab of other discharges	—	—	—	—
Other specimens	—	—	—	—
Scalp Hairs to determine if Ringworm spores present	4	—	—	4
Cerebro-spinal fluid	—	—	—	—
Total No. of Specimens examined				286

With reference to the above report, the number of swabs received for testing per lustrum work out as follows :—

1937.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
	39	70	45	128	282

Between the resumption following the August recess and Xmas, 152 swabs were received in the Department and cultured ; culture results were examined by the M.O.H. working single-handed and results thereof conveyed to consignors (City practitioners mainly).

1. (ii) (b) Ambulance Facilities.

(1) For Non-Infectious cases.

There is no change to record from the position detailed in previous reports, except that the new 18 h.p. Talbot mentioned in the 1936 report was put into commission at the beginning of the year.

The arrangements are adequate to all normal needs and the ambulance is kept at the Corporation Depot, St. John's Street, within telephone call day and night.

(2) For Infectious Diseases.

One motor ambulance—a 1929 Morris, having now completed some 80,000 miles, is proceeding towards obsolescence, and its replacement will shortly be necessary.

This ambulance also is kept at the Corporation Depot, St. John's Street, within telephone call day and night.

1. (ii) (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Werrington Infant Welfare Clinic was transferred to new premises at Mount-steven Avenue, Walton, in December, 1937. No other alterations have occurred.

1. (ii) (e) Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospital, Fengate, for the treatment of Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

B 3 (N) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

CHILDREN TAKEN FOR REWARD.

The service of child life protection was the subject of inspection during 1937 by a government official solely devoting her time thereto.

A complete survey of all matters relating to child life protection under this child welfare authority was undertaken, all foster-parents being visited with one of the Health Visitors.

Apparently there was nothing which called for any comment inasmuch as none was conveyed to the authority in writing, subsequent to the visit (March 1937) on the specific issue of child life protection in the Borough, a subject which once on a day before the child welfare authority were saddled with the duties under the Local Government Act 1929, and the administration put under the Medical Officer of Health was wont to be dubbed as chronically mal-administered.

I do not regard the present legal position in its avowed object of safeguarding as 100 per cent. satisfactory now. Much is taken on trust—too much—and the law is rarely 100 per cent. complied with, particularly in respect of the provision of 7-day notice to the local authority of intention (on the part of a potential foster parent) to take a (somebody else's) child for reward—most commonly the child is consigned into another's custody *before* any notice to the local authority is given.

Again the transaction between foster parent and child-transferer is ordinarily verbal only, and as such, too highly nemetical.

In this respect loopholes in all the Acts from the Infant Protection Act, 1897, the 1908 Act down to the Public Health Act, 1936—the present law governing child life protection—are rampant, contrasting sharply with the highly safeguarded (and rightly so) procedure under the statute and regulations formed thereunder in relation to adoption.

It is contended that there is a difference only in degree between an infant adopted as the new parents' own, and the foster parent in the case of a child taken for reward, and the codified Public Health Act, 1936, ought to have left no possible loopholes whatsoever.

In a case during the year's work under review brought to the notice of the Child Welfare Committee where an infant was "bandied about" between one foster parent and another like a household chattel, the Committee of this authority resolved to adopt the following :—

- (a) That each foster parent undertaking the nursing and maintenance of a child for reward be supplied with a document to be prepared by the Town Clerk embodying a copy of the Birth Certificate of the child and other relevant particulars relating to the child and the foster parent.
- (b) That an Undertaking be given by each foster parent to carry out all the obligations required by the Council as to the acceptance of children for reward.
- (c) That in future no foster parent above the age of 50 years be approved by the Council for the acceptance of children for reward.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

All Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities in England were, during 1937, in receipt of Circular 1622 (Ministry of Health) in part re-hash of a "blue book" on Maternal Mortality (Cmd. 5422).

The matters raised are of far-reaching importance, as p.f. appear, but in a non-county borough of this description in which there is cleavage local governmently between the Borough Council as Welfare Authority and the County Council as Midwives Supervising Authority, stiles and hazards are a feature of local mechanism than ordinarily pertain elsewhere.

Take, for instance, Paragraph 1, Circular 1622, "The importance of Team Work" (last sentence). "With the institution of a salaried midwives' service under the Midwives Act, 1936, it is now practicable to secure the closer co-operation of the midwives practising in the area with the other maternity services, whether the salaried midwives are employed by the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority itself, or by the Local Supervising Authority . . ."

We have found, in relation to the Ante-Natal Clinic work, which we have undertaken as an Authority, that there is little difference now than formerly; in fact, that there is no closer co-operation of the midwives practising within the area, even though they have become (during 1937) Local Authority staff employed by the Supervising Authority.

At Paragraph 7 "Ancillary Services":—Subsection (iii) is as follows: "Arrangements should be made by each Authority for the provision of dental treatment including the provision of dentures, for expectant and nursing mothers."

A working arrangement has been erected, but all the clients will do is to find out what work is to be done; where clearances are advised by the Dental Surgeon, stage-fright is taken and the matter is postponed until after the event, it is stated, but, in reality, *sine die*.

Thus does practice in this area confound theory to mutual cancellation-point.

INFANT MORTALITY 1937.

Cause.	Weeks.				Total under one month.	Months.				Total under one year.
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Prematurity	10	—	1	—	11	2	—	—	—	13
Inanition	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Icterus Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	6
Injury at birth	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Malformation(s)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Asphyxia Accdl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Asphyxia Neonm.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pyloric Stenosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions (Uncertified)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(Gastro) Enteritis	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	5
TOTALS					20*					42

*50% of total deaths under one year of age.

Of the total, 28 were males and 14 females. 16 or 38 per cent. died the day they were born, the highest figure ever.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, 1937.

Cases.						
Notified during the Year	Treated.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness
	at Home	In	Hospital			
Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—

No. of Births notified to Department, 1937 :—

By Doctors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	485
By Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
No. of infants died under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42

3. Health Visiting.

(iii). Number of visits paid during the year (1936).

(a) To expectant mothers—

First visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Total visits	362

(b) To children under one year of age ... 656

Total visits	2708
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(c) To children between the age of 1 and 5 years, Total visits 3051

4. Infant Welfare Centres.

(c) Total number of attendances during the year :

(i.) By children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	6140
(ii.) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	6167

(d) Total number of (individual) children who attended the Centres for the first time during the year, and who on first attendance were :

(i.) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	315
(ii.) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	65

(e) Total number of (individual) children who attended the Centres during the year and who at the end of the year were :

(i.) under 1 year of age	...	...	...	150
(ii.) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	264

INFECTION IN THE PUERPERAL STATE.

P.H. (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia)

Regulations, 1926.

Consolidated (October 1937) as Public Health Act, 1936.

Notifications 1937 :—

1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.				Rate per 1,000
0	4	4	4				Total (live and still births.
			Fatal	Fever cases.	Pyrexia cases.		17.8.
			1	6	6		

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Record of Work, January 1937—December, 1937.

Pre-Natal Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	458
Post-Natal Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Visits to Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Special Infant Welfare Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Memorial Hospital Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
<hr/>								
Total Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	686
<hr/>								
Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinic for various purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
<hr/>								
Expectant Mothers in receipt of 1 pint Grade 'A' milk daily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Mothers sent to convalescent home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

CONSULTANT'S CLINIC.

Number of Sessions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Pre-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Patients sent for X-Ray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Patients recommended for operative treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Normal conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Relieved by temporary application of Surgical Appliance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

B.3.(V).

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE.

(i). In-Patient Treatment :—

The under noted infants or pre-school age received in-patient treatment at the hands of the orthopaedic staff of Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton, on the responsibility of Peterborough Borough Child Welfare Committee, for the periods and deforming conditions noted in the subjoined respective columns :—

Sex of Child.	Age (years and months) on admission to Hospital.	Kind of Deformity.	Duration during 1937 of in-patient treatment.	
M.	$\frac{4}{12}$	Congenital dislocation of hip	44 weeks 5 days	Additional to 3 days in 1936 child still in Hospital.
F.	$3\frac{5}{12}$	Club Feet	3 weeks	
M.	2	Club Foot	2 days	Additional to 2 weeks 5 days in 1936.

ii. Out-Patient supervision :—

This part of orthopaedic work for local cases is undertaken as a clinic in the out-patient department of the Peterborough Memorial (General) Hospital where the Orthopaedic Surgeon Manfield Hospital, Northampton, consults once monthly, and other staff of Manfield Hospital hold after-care and follow-up clinic weekly between the Surgeon's visits.

5 Infants of pre-school age were recipients of either first instance treatment or after-care following discharge from orthopaedic hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Circular 1650, Section C.

Water Supply.

The water undertaking supplying the City belongs to the Local Authority. It having been evident for a considerable time that the arrangements for raising water from the deep bores for supply purposes was becoming cramped, a scheme was drawn up with the water consulting engineers,..... to increase the means for raising the amount of water and water mains to convey the increased amount, and at an increased pressure.

Briefly the reasons for the necessity for such a scheme may be set out three-fold :—

- (1) Poor pressure at time in the circulation (varying from 15 to 30 lbs. per square inch.
- (2) Growing population.
- (3) Additional supplies required immediately by adjoining authorities, principally to parts of Huntingdonshire on the South.

Under heading (1), the pressure alleged desirable amounts to 45 lbs. per square inch. The present maximum daily demand for the City alone is 1,880,000 gallons. On the submissions in thirty years' time a 50 per cent. increase is allowed for.

As regards output from the sources, Braceborough's maximum output is 120,000 gallons per hour, and the other source (Etton) 100,000, equivalent to 5,280,000 gallons of water per day, well above the estimated requirements, but as the maximum hourly demand will be 308,000 gallons, it is proposed to provide a second reservoir at Etton, fed by 18 inch pipe at the rate of 120,000 gallons an hour from Braceborough.

The reservoir is designed to hold $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons, i.e., sufficient to maintain the supply for two days, should a burst in the main between Braceborough and Etton occur. To avoid excessive pressure on the two existing 18inch mains, a new 24inch main is to be laid from the junction of the Braceborough and Etton lines, to a point as near as possible to the centre of the City.

The existing stean pumping apparatus is to be augmented with centrifugal pumping plant, capable of raising 280,000 gallons per hour.

These submissions were made to a Government Inspector at a Ministry of Health enquiry into the Corporation's application for a loan of £90,000 to cover the cost of the scheme, the case being heard in the Town Hall on 21st September, 1937.

The following is a complete chemical and bacteriological analysis of the water, as raised from both sources, Wilsthorpe and Etton :—

Analysis of a sample of water on 12/8/37 from Peterborough Corporation labelled New Borehole, Wilsthorpe Waterworks.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Section C. (contd.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.
Colour	Normal. Odour, Nil.
Reaction pH.	Neutral : 7.1 Free Carbonic Acid 2.4
Total Solids, 180°C.	41.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates.	Nil ; Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent	11.5
Temporary	21.5.
Total	33.0.
Metals. Iron	0.003 Zinc and Manganese absent.
Free Ammonia.	0.0000 Ammoniacal Nitrogen.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0012 Albuminoid Nitrogen.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.020.
Phenols	Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	Over 3,000.
1 day at 37°C.	0
2 days at 37°C.	3
The Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis) Sporogenes.	

REPORT : This is a clear and bright water, of normal colour, neutral reaction' and containing a trace of Free Carbonic Acid. The water contains no excess of saline matter, and is hard in character, the hardness being largely of a temporary nature. It is free from metals, with the exception of a negligible trace of iron, and is of good organic quality.

Bacteriologically it contained an excessive number of bacteria but none of these are of an objectionable character or indicative of undesirable contamination, and in other respects it is of a very high degree of purity inasmuch as excretal organisms, such as the Bacillus Coli and Bacillus Welchii, are absent in 100 c.c. respectively.

The presence of the bacteria is probably due to some slight error in sampling. It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.).

Section C. (Contd.)

Copy of analysis of a sample of water on 12/8/37 from Tap in Etton Water-works:—

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.
Colour	Normal. Odour Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral : 7.2 Free Carbonic Acid 2.2
Total Solids, 180°C.	41.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.7
Nitrogen in Nitrates	Nil ; Nitrates absent.
Hardness : Permanent	4.0
Temporary	22.0
Total	26.0
Metals Iron	0.008 Zinc and Manganese absent.
Free Ammonia	0.0176 Ammoniacal Nitrogen.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000 Albuminoid Nitrogen.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.015.
Phenols	Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	220
1 day at 37°C.	1
2 days at 37°C.	2
The Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Absent in 100 c.c.
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes).	

REPORT : This is a clear and bright water, of normal colour, neutral reaction and containing a trace of Free Carbonic Acid. The water contains no excess of saline matter, and is hard in character, the hardness being largely of a temporary nature. It is free from metals, with the exception of a very small trace of Iron, and is of a very high degree of organic quality.

Bacteriologically it is of the highest degree of purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes

The terms of any analysts' results must be by way of being a foreign language "not understood of the people."

By way of explanation it may be stated that six of the denominations are devices to differently express purity (or otherwise) under various denominations (chlorides, ammonia, 0 absorbed) largely paraphrasing one another.

But there is one item (regarding "hardness") which the citizen can see the result for himself if he makes an inspection of his kettle used for boiling water.

The slimy mass deposited on the lid inside is what has resulted from lime salts figuring in the analyst's tabulation as "temporary" hardness ; the

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Section C. (contd.)

caked chalky stuff at the bottom of the kettle arises (in such amount as has deposited remains) from lime salts under the category of "permanent" hardness.

The two combined constitute a water of so high a degree of hardness (Wils-
thorpe 33°—Etton 26°) that it is a matter of surprise that the analysts have
never opined that though the water may be bacterially pure, it is far too "hard"
to be a water in all respects satisfactory for domestic purposes and/or industrial
processes.

Section C.1. (ii).

Re-organisation of the Borough Sewerage System and Disposal.

The proposals for a complete re-organisation of the sewage system and sewage
disposal of this city were carried a further stage during 1937.

A Ministry of Health local enquiry presided over by Mr. F. J. Hill, M.C.,
was held at the Town Hall, on 22nd September, 1937, upon the subject matter
of borrowing £229,600 to implement the Council's Sewage Scheme (re-modelled).

Sewer Courses.

Briefly stated, the proposals with regard to the City's system of sewers
will, with some minor adjustments and overflows inserted at about four places
in the old sewers, involve a division of the system into two sections :—

- i. More or less retention of the old sewers plying in the pre-extended
Borough but converging upon NEW OUTFALL MAIN commenc-
ing at junction of Bridge Street and Bishop's Road and crossing
fields to the proposed new works at the back (South) of the Isolation
Hospital, acting in its proximal part as a collector of the portions
of the City sewage other than ii.
- ii. A new NORTHERN OUTFALL MAIN sewer which will start upon
its final course at Newark allotments and involve about a mile of
new pipe laying and convey sewage to the purification works from
Paston Valley, Fulbridge Road, Dogsthorpe, Garton End and
Newark (the latter when sewered).

PUMPING STATIONS.

Destined for :—

- i. **Abandonment.**—Each situate at Walton Dogsthorpe, Garton
End, Padholme Road, Tannery.
- ii. **Retention.**—Each situate at Werrington and Fulbridge, and
subsidiary at Fengate.
- iii. **Installation.**—Each situate at Bridge Foot and Newark, Thorpe
Hall Lodge, if and when Longthorpe,
etc., is sewered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Section C.1. (ii.) (contd.)

" For the purposes of the design for new sewers, it has been assumed that ultimately some 15 per cent. of the existing population will have moved into the suburbs together with any new-comers. As this movement progresses the flow in the southern outfall will tend to decrease, while the flow in the proposed northern gravity sewer will increase. The ultimate population, for design purposes, has been taken as 50,000.

" Owing to the fact that the present outfall sewer is below flood-level in the River Nene, excess storm-water cannot always be discharged into the river, consequently the capacity of the new southern outfall will be considerably more than sixtimes the dry weather flow (6 D.W.F.). The water consumption is 33 gallons per day per head of population at present, but the design of the works has been based on a dry weather flow of 36 gallons per head, i.e., 1,800,000 gallons per day.

To deal with what has been alluded to as the Northern outfall main, referred to in the report as the Northern gravity sewer, which is destined to be a very important element in the sewerage system of the city and, in large part, will be a new construction specifically in its course between Newark village and Fengate where the new sewerage works are situated. This sewer can be used temporarily for storm-water until the area has further developed, for its capacity is sufficient to take sixtimes the dry weather flow from a population of 18,000. In any case where a tributary sewer drains to a pumping station, storm-water will be excluded.

The new sewage disposal works occupying a site of 23 acres will comprise the following :—

- (a) Two detritus tanks and screens ;
- (b) Three upward flow mechanically-cleaned circular primary tanks ;
- (c) Three rectangular mechanically-cleaned secondary sedimentation tanks ;
- (d) Three rectangular mechanically cleaned storm water tanks ;
- (e) Nine aeration tanks and two re-aeration channels ;
- (f) Three upward-flow mechanically cleaned final separating tanks ;
- (g) Four circular primary sludge-digestion tanks, each with its own gas-holder ;
- (h) Adaptation of existing tanks to form four rectangular secondary sludge-digestion tanks ;
- (j) Sludge Drying beds ;
- (k) An administration block and compressor house.

The machinery will include compressors, generators, prime-movers, which are to be gas-engines (convertible to oil), and their accessories, waste-heat boilers, heat-exchangers, etc. There will be also a small store-room and workshop.

Except for item (h) the new works will lie within the boundaries of the City. Items (a) - (g) - and (k) will be in the Nene Catchment and items (h) and (j) in the North Level.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Section C1. (ii.) (contd.)

The finished level of the ground at the main works will be at about the normal level of the River Nene. To protect the site against flooding a bank is necessary the top of which will be set at 19 O.D. being several feet above the highest known flood level in the river. As a precaution against the site becoming water logged a sub-soil drain is to be built within and adjacent to the bank.

By taking every means to reduce the loss of head through the works it will be possible for the effluent to be taken through the North Bank, to be discharged by gravity into the existing effluent and thence into the Counter Drain of the North Level as at present.

The maximum flow that will reach the works is calculated to be about 14,000,000 gallons per day. Gaugings indicate that the present dry weather flow is about 1,500,000 gallons per day, of which roughly, one-eighth is infiltration.

Character of the Sewage.

Analyses have been made to determine the strength of the sewage. On the one hand they show a domestic sewage and on the other a sewage twice as strong. This difference may be due to trade waste, the most likely sources of which are a tannery, the gas works or the railway workshops. The conditions during dry weather in the existing outfall sewers are very bad and its replacement by the proposed new outfall may have the effect of appreciably reducing the strength of the sewage.

Flood-removing Installation.

There have always been two points in the city liable to flooding in sudden excessive water-spouts, these are :

- (i) Midgate, with backflow into certain cellars in the neighbourhood, and
- (ii) the Oundle Road under the railway.

These defects are to be remedied, in the case of (i) Midgate, by inserting pipe-line at St. John's Street where it relieves the main sewer of its surplus storm-water, running in a South-western direction passing under those from the Cattle Market and Westgate, at which point all flows will be constructed on the existing sewers and discharging into the River Nene to the East of the bridge. In the case of (ii) Oundle Road, by a short length of sewer being relaid to obviate backflow and an overflow sewer to be provided carrying off surplus storm-water to the river.

Southern outfall sewer.

The existing main outfall sewer has no gradient and is in consequence in bad condition ; from its point of commencement at Bishop's Road the sewer itself is too low to be relieved of storm-water when the river is in flood and it is proposed to abandon the greater part of it. Several new rider sewers will be required to replace it ; its main tributaries are combined sewers and overflows above flood level in the Nene have been placed on all of them.

The overflow in Star Road will discharge into the existing outfall sewer which will thereafter be retained and will also serve to intercept the gradients from the " car-dyke."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)**Sec. C. 3 (vi). Swimming Baths and Pools.****(a) Public owned.**

In the currency of the year being reported upon, there was confirmed for the public a complete establishment of open air pools for swimming, dressing rooms and other essential adnexae. These premises are situated in Bishop's Road on made-up land which was originally purchased by the Corporation from the ecclesiastical commissioners in 1927.

The pool and surrounding gardens cover approximately two acres, the main pool is 55 yards long and 60 feet wide and is surrounded by dressing-boxes and lockers to the extent of 40 dressing-boxes and 300 clothes lockers for each sex. In addition, there are changing-rooms for children to accommodate 60 of each sex with relative lavatory accommodation. On the top of the dressing rooms is a flat roof terrace extending over the whole three sides where stands can be erected when galas or swimming contests are in progress. There is a smaller or childrens' pool, 70 feet by 24 feet, adjoining the main pool. Sun-bathing accommodation is provided around the pools.

Originally it was intended to install heating plant and plant for the generation of Ozone but the Ministry of Health turned these two items down for purposes of a loan. It is asked "What provision is made to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water?" The answer is that filtration plant is installed, capable of turning over the whole contents of both pools (approximately 388,000 gallons) in six hours, and power units and pumps of one-third and two-thirds capacity have been installed, enabling three different ranges of turnover to be used according to circumstances. The water is at present rendered sterile after filtration by means of a Chlorine Ammoniator plant.

The season closed for 1937 on September 30th, 1937, so that the duration of running worked out at about 18 weeks.

(b) Private.

There are no privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. (Contd.)

Section C. 3 (2)

PUBLIC CLEANSING, 1937.

Acknowledgment is due to Mr. F. J. Smith, A.M.I.C.E., the City Engineer and Surveyor, for the particulars he has kindly supplied under this heading.

(1) No extension in the area cleansed took place in 1937, but the tonnage of refuse collected showed an increase of 14 per cent. over that collected in 1936, which was of the order of 12,000 tons.

(2) All horse drawn refuse collection work was displaced by mechanical vehicles, and two new S. D. Freighters and one Scammell Mechanical horse were brought into service in substitution of the previous arrangement.

(3) A new Lewin Mechanical Street Sweeper-Collector was purchased at the end of 1936 to replace an old non-collecting sweeper which had been in operation previously.

(4) A new Dennis Mechanical Gully Emptier was put into commission at the beginning of 1937 for emptying street gullies mechanically and is being increasingly used.

Previous to the purchase of the Gully Emptier, gullies were emptied by scoops, the solid contents being deposited at the roadside to be picked up later by carts. This was a crude and antiquated arrangement. The new method is quicker, cheaper, and much more satisfactory.

As regards the emptying of cess-pools, the Gully Emptier is being increasingly used. In order to overcome the difficulty of inaccessibility of approach, hose extensions have been purchased, and the machine can now empty cess-pools in back gardens as well as those in front gardens.

It occasionally happens that the contents are more than the capacity of the tank, necessitating an additional attempt. When full the Emptier discharges its contents down the nearest foul sewer manhole, on the completion of which operation the manhole is flushed and cleaned with fresh water, and the Mechanical Gully Emptier returns to the depot. There it is washed out and made as clean as possible, following which it is ready for its normal work of gully emptying.

Approximately 20 per cent. of the total number of cess-pools in the Borough are emptied by the Gully Emptier.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Section C.

Cesspools.

Incidence of cesspools has been increasing in this Borough to an objectionable extent. Peterborough Borough (pre-extension) was an area where there was hardly a single cesspool in existence—that was on the 31st March, 1929—now, in 1937, the 300-mark is reached and the number continues to augment.

Keen disappointment must be felt that the consolidated Public Health Act of 1936, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1937, has no provisions to veto this jungle system in urban areas. The government attitude towards this is gleaned from a question recently asked in the House, where a Member asked the Minister of Health “whether he is aware that the provisions of of Section 37 of the Public Health Act, 1936, perpetuates the system of cess-pools by with-holding from a Local Authority the power to reject building plans of dwelling-houses on un-sewered land solely on account of proposed cess-pools; and whether he (the Minister) will consider providing regulations to prohibit this building of cesspools for any dwelling-house within an urban district.”

The Minister's reply: “The Public Health Act, 1936, gives, I am advised, ample powers to Local Authorities to secure a proper construction and maintenance of cesspools and to prevent their being a nuisance or prejudicial to health.”

Caveat. The Public Health Act, 1936, is no safeguard as it should have been. It is silent in preventing the construction of cesspools in urban areas and they can gently leak, and no-one is any the wiser. We know this in relation to demands for emptying which amount to only 20 per cent. of total number.

Baths.

Baths for ablution (cleansing) purposes known locally as slipper baths were inaugurated during 1935 on a site in Trinity Street within the curtilage of the old General Infirmary (disused as such).

This is a new construction intended to replace the former cramped and badly sited shower and plunge baths in the Cattle Market curtilage.

The new provision embraces:

Plunge baths for 18 males and plunge baths for 6 females.

The Staffing consists of:

One male attendant, one A/male attendant and one female attendant.

During 1937 the numbers taking advantage were:

Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,201
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,475
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,676

a big increase upon the numbers recorded previously.

SECTION D.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year (1937).

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1106
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2227
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	208
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	610
(3) (a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	84

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	113
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	—
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	3
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (Including Orders made in Previous Years)	—

OVERCROWDING.

The Council's proposals to deal with the overcrowding ascertained in the surveys range under two heads :—

- (1) Adjustment of accommodation which has been effected in respect to about 28 per cent. of the numbers obtained at the survey of 1936 and 7.
- (2) Re-housing by the Local Authority.

In relation to the latter, and having regard to the provisions of Circular 1591, an unofficial interview was obtained with the officers of the Ministry on the means and disposition of the type of accommodation which would be sufficient to relieve the balance of overcrowding in the early part of 1937, when it was resolved that having regard to the adjustments, migrations, etc., of those found at the Survey, it would be probably sufficient to overcome the balance of overcrowding remaining at the end of 1937 by proceeding to erect 44 houses.

These have been divided into two types—six bedroomed and two bedroomed, equally divisible, i.e., 22 of each.

This property is situated as part of the Corporation's 33-acre estate at Park Lane, and foundations were begun at the latter part of 1937.

It is believed that with this provision in the course of the following 12 months, there ought not to be a single case of overcrowding remaining, when this re-housing has had a chance to be in full cry.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a)	i.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	75
	ii.	Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	77
	iii.	Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	532
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		—
(c)	i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		38
	ii.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	—
(d)		Secondary cases of overcrowding after action by Local Authority		4
	(d)	Caused in all cases except one by families being broken up.		
(e)		Other Particulars.		
	i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in houses owned by Local Authority	... ..	†19
	ii.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by re-housing in Council Houses	... ..	—
	iii.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by voluntary removal to non-Council houses	... ..	43
	iv.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by reduction in family	... ..	5

†Includes 9 by Slum Clearance.

CARAVANS. Not included in above.

Number containing families on January 1st, 1937	...	...	...	8
Ditto	Ditto	December 31st, 1937	...	2

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Peterborough is fortunate in having a large proportion, probably as much as two-thirds of its milk supply (3,000 gallons per day) dealt with by pasteurisation on a large scale.

This supply is of the order that a bacteriologist is retained on the premises to obtain control of both the incoming supplies and the outgoing, following pasteurisation. A small amount of sampling of this supply indicates a result well within the prescribed limits of those laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Of the remainder, of 1,000 gallons retailed in the City each day it is pleasing to record that the standard, even within the last five or six years, has undergone considerable amelioration. Six of the producers have licences for Accredited Milk, those licences being under the control of the County Council under the 1936 Order, and four of these are producer-retailers, while two are producers, but retail through others.

The occasions when samples of milk are obviously dirty upon examination are now becoming rarities, and even where the dealers are dissuaded from applying for Accredited licence mainly because of the disruption thought to be impinged on their business from the multiplicity of examinations entailed by retention of those licences, a considerable proportion of the milk sold comes up to Accredited standard, though the seller is not an official Accredited licensee.

Other matter under Food Regulation and Control is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report (q. v.).

SECTION F.1.

SCHEME FOR PROVISION OF ADEQUATE HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Pursuant to Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, it was incumbent on the County in which any district is situate to make a scheme for the proper and sufficient provision of isolating infections. This has never been intended to mean that any rural district looks to the nearest town to give of its provisions, but for each county to scheme for its constituent districts within its county.

On the 5th May, 1937 the Council of the administrative county of the Soke of Peterborough, in pursuance of Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, prepared a scheme for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease within the county of which the City of Peterborough is a constituent.

In terms whereof ;

Part (1) of the said scheme entitled " Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox " stipulated that there shall be provided at the Isolation Hospital belonging to the Peterborough Council not less than 30 beds for the accommodation of Infectious Disease other than Smallpox occurring in the City of Peterborough and Peterborough Rural District.

Part (2) Smallpox. There shall be provided at the Smallpox Hospital belonging to the Peterborough Town Council not less than 10 beds for the accommodation of cases of Smallpox occurring in the City of Peterborough and the Peterborough Rural District.

Part (3). Agreements. The terms on which patients from Peterborough Rural District shall be received into the hospitals belonging to the Peterborough Town Council shall be such as may be agreed under Section 131 of the Public Health Act, 1875*, between the Peterborough Town Council and the Peterborough Rural District Council, or in default of agreement, determined by a single arbitrator subject to the provision of the Arbitration Act, 1889, or any statutory re-enactment or modification of the same for the time being in force.

Part (4). Date of operation. This scheme shall come into operation on the date on which it is approved by the Minister of Health. The scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health (containing a minor modification with regard to interpretation) under the official seal of the Ministry dated 27th August, 1937.

* Now repealed and re-enacted in the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION F. (2).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The measure of prevalence of the notifiable infectious diseases is as set out in the statistical table (p.) and the quarterly incidence is tabulated in the dissection per quarter of the year and wards of the City (p.).

The preponderating amount of scarlet fever recorded in the 1936 report gave place of predominance in 1937 to Diphtheria.

Topographically this disease manifested itself in three well-defined groupings :—

- (a) St. Paul's parish " New England."
- (b) West Town Sector with West Central.
- (c) New housing estate(s), East Ward.

Cases arising in each of these groupings numbered :—

- (a) 31.
- (b) 30.
- (c) 12.

constituting 51 per cent. of the total throughout the year.

The general severity of the disease was moderate to mild, but there was a small crop of some five cases arising in (b) group which were of a severity distinct from the general run—the whole case mortality being 3.9 per cent.—a comparatively low figure.

The Medical Officer immunised 88 immediate child and young adolescent contacts of cases. A.P.T. (Evans) was the material exhibited and the technique followed that of Chesney now accepted as likely to ensure most effectual protection. No contact so subjected to protective immunisation contracted Diphtheria. A number of children outside the realm of immediate contacts were immunised by their own doctors.

The time of election for the process is of course periods of quiescence, i.e., when there is no epidemic prevalent ; but human nature being what it is, when the " wolf " of diphtheria is lying dormant its presence or potentialities are forgotten and the risk of it raising its head again is taken.

In a table published at the close of the year detailing the likely efficiency of protective immunisation against diphtheria throughout England, the fact emerged that pride of place did not focus on any part of London, but upon another cathedral city, viz. Chester, which is in the position of being able to lead England with a proportion of 10 per cent. of its population immunised.

The New World (The United States in particular) can give the Old World a long lead in this respect, but on the Continent, France is about to issue a decree that all infants between the ages of 2 and 3 are to be compulsorily immunised and Hungary is said to be going on parallel lines.

In our country, Parliament might usefully repeal the worn-out compulsory vaccination laws (against small-pox) and substitute in their stead Decree a la France and Hungary. Such would be a measure of real first class public health value.

152,000 units of Diphtheria antitoxin were handed over to practitioners in the area free of charge for actual or suspected cases in the currency of the twelve months of 1937.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This hospital was working during 1937 at double pressure. To the normal number of some 80 admissions per annum was added another 80 odd.

At times the bed accommodation was very hard pressed owing to the diphtheria outbreak accentuated as it was in early autumn to the conclusion of the year.

By manipulation of disposition of cases coupled with paucity of other disease(s) requiring isolation, the meagre accommodation was utilised to best advantage—conveying thereby that the whole hospital was given up practically entirely to the isolation and treatment of diphtheria during the last quarter of 1937.

More than half of the admissions shown on the statistical return took place between September 1st and Christmas—period of greatest intensity—reflected in bed-occupancy figures which, for the year, worked out at an average of 11 per day compared with a daily average occupancy at this particular period (final four months of 1937) of 16.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 1937.

	Remaining in Hospital 31st Dec., 1936.	Admissions 1937.			Dis- ch'gd. 1937.	Died 1937.	Remaining in Hospital. 31st Dec., 1937.
	Other City Auth- Cases orities' Cases Total	City Cases	P. R.D.	R.A.F.	Total	City Cases orities' Cases	Other Auth- orities' Cases Total
Smallpox	— — —	—	—	—	—	—	— — —
Scarlet Fever	7 — 7	19	—	—	25	—	1 — 1
Diphtheria	6 — 6	133	1	—	134	6	18 1 19
Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid	— — —	2	—	—	2	—	— — —
Other Diseases	— — —	6	—	—	6	—	— — —
Erysipelas	— — —	2	—	1	3	2	— — —
Totals	13 — 13	162	1	1	164	8	19 1 20

1937: Scarlet Fever ... Average number of days in hospital per patient ... City
 Diphtheria ... " " " " Cases
 Enteric Fever ... " " " " only

1937. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, INFANT AND GENERAL MORTALITY BY WARDS OF CITY.

	East Ward				West Ward				South Ward				North Ward				Paston Ward				TOTAL			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				Quarter			
Infectious Diseases :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	5	9	12	7	12	4	27	6	6	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CS. Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	1	3	4	6	2	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infant Mortality	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	2	1	—	—	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	6	9	10	7	16
Do. Rates per 1000 live births	50				87				46				41				81				600			
General Mortality	46	43	30	45	43	44	42	66	16	14	5	15	30	28	26	33	20	16	19	19				
	164				195				50				117				74				600			
Death Rates (per 1,000 pop. (ward)	13.5				14.5				11				13				10				178			

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1937.

Disease.	Cases Notified.								Cases admitted to Hospital		Deaths.							
	Total	Under 1 year	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	Total	% notified	Under 1 year	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	142	1	17	100	15	7	2	—	133	93%	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	6
Scarlet Fever	33	—	3	26	3	1	—	—	19	58%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever(including paratyphoid)	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	5	83%	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	5	83%	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	57	5	5	8	7	10	13	9	—	—	3	—	1	1	3	2	8	18†
Other Diseases, i.e.																		
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	1	3	3	1	3	37·5%	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1*

† Un-notified : 2.

* Un-notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmy.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmy.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	6	2	1	3	4	1	1
25—35	6	2	2	—	4	1	2	3
35—45	8	2	—	—	6	4	1	—
45—55	6	1	—	2	2	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	24	12	6	7	15	10	4	4

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	5	2	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	31	2	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	7	—	—
Total	43	4	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Pro- secutions were insti- tuted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—* ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences referred to H.M. Inspector ...	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

II.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

(J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I.)

Sanitary Inspector's Report. 1937.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall, 1938.

To the

Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Councillor Bryant and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1937—this being my Twenty-seventh Annual Report.

Details of the work done follow under their respective headings, but much time is taken up with matters which cannot be tabulated ; while duties under the Shops Acts have taken up a portion of the time of the two Additional Inspectors.

As far as was practicable, the District has been systematically inspected during the year and all necessary steps were taken to deal with nuisances or sanitary defects discovered, but priority work and special calls have, as in former years, again taken up the bulk of our time. With only three exceptions it has been found possible to get all necessary matters attended to without having to resort to formal report and Statutory action.

The sanitary conveniences of the Theatre and Cinemas were inspected and were found to be satisfactory. Inspections were made also of the sanitary conveniences of all the Public Houses and licensed premises in the City. Informal action—chiefly respecting lack of cleanliness—was taken in the few cases where this was found to be necessary.

The premises of the principal manufacturers of ice cream have been inspected during the season and found satisfactory.

The Shops in the centre of the City employing two or more assistants were visited as regards sanitary conveniences and the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934. In a few cases verbal cautions were given—primarily respecting neglected cleanliness of the conveniences—and improvements followed. Structural improvements were carried out in three cases, one of which included an additional convenience for females and a changing room.

Several smoke observations have been made and three interviews followed requesting and suggesting improvements.

Mr. E. W. H. Ellcome, Clerk, left in July after four and a half year's service to take up a position in the Sanitary Inspector's Office, Exeter. Miss M. Hawthorne was appointed to fill the vacancy.

INSPECTIONS, COMPLAINTS, NOTICES.

Inspections—4559 (excluding Shops Acts inspections). Re-visits—1749.
 Complaints, (Formal)—143. Action was necessary in 104 cases.
 Notices—81 Informal and 3 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

New Drains laid or partly relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Drains cleansed, repaired, or Inspection Chambers repaired or built	...						65
New Ventilating Shafts fixed or Shafts repaired	...	...	...	...			18
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
W.C. apartments repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...			27
New W.C. pans, traps, or pedestals fixed	...	...	...	...	...		39
New W.C. flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...		7
W.C. flushing cisterns adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Rain-water pipes and spoutings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...			84
External walls re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Window frames repaired, renewed, made to open, etc.	...	...	...	...	...		60
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Internal repairs or reconstructions to houses	...	...	...	...	...		143
Water laid on inside houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New sinks or baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Paving repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Accumulations of manure or refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...		7
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	167

1010

HOUSE INSPECTION.

1,106 Houses were inspected and a total of 2,227 visits were made for this purpose. The number of Houses inspected includes 208 House to House inspections and also the detailed survey of 80 Houses—for the information of the Medical Officer of Health—respecting the second phase of the Council's Slum Clearance programme.

Repairs and reconditioning work, where found to be necessary, were carried out following interviews or Informal Notices and details thereof are included in the preceding Schedule.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

170 visits of enquiry were made respecting various notifiable infectious disease cases and 76 re-visits. The usual enquiries respecting contacts, schools and possible source of infection, were made for the information of the Medical Officer of Health and also recorded. Library books in circulation were removed for disinfection or destruction.

Printed instruction particulars were left at each house.

DISINFECTION.

The number of rooms disinfected is as follows :—

Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Non-notifiable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Schools (Rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									209

Bedding was removed to the Isolation Hospital to be disinfected from :—

170 Houses (after Infectious Disease)	...	...	...	1482	articles.
20 Houses (after non-notifiable Diseases)	...	...	...	198	„
15 Houses (after Phthisis)	...	...	...	138	„
				<hr/> 1818	

15 articles of bedding were removed on request from various houses in the City for disinfection after certain diseases, and for which payment has been made.

The following is a list of all articles removed :—

[illegible]

Counterpanes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Carpets, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	394
									<hr/> 1833 <hr/>

6 Houses have been disinfested (3 by the Owner—in 2 cases Cimex Blocks were used and Lawes Blocks in the other—and 3 by the Occupiers using Sulphur). *Also 5 old Council Houses with contents (by Cimex Blocks) prior to removal of tenants to new Council Houses. A number of supervisory visits have also been paid to houses dealt with in previous years.

* Cottages originally acquired for improvement purposes and now demolished.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 40 Fried Fish Shops on the Register to which 124 visits have been paid. 5 of the premises are subject to annual renewal approval. 8 changes in occupation took place during the year. 9 verbal cautions were given respecting minor defaults; two letters were sent and one notice.

In the summer, application was made to establish the trade of a fish fryer in the converted front room of a 6 roomed terrace house, and to build a cleaning shed in the rear garden. Lengthy petitions were received for and against the application. Two special meetings of the Public Health Committee were called to consider this application which was ultimately refused. In the autumn the same applicant applied for permission to establish the trade in a new area in the Paston Ward. After due consideration by the Committee this application was granted, subject to necessary work being done to make the premises suitable for this trade, and at the end of the year under review this work is pending.

Work done :—

Limewashing on request	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cleaning Sheds repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard concreted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Minor Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 4 Common Lodging Houses on the Register to which 72 visits were paid. The Houses have been kept clean and satisfactory—two verbal warnings only being given and one letter of caution sent. One change in occupation took place, the incoming keeper being registered. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, which came into force in October of the year under review, the Council

now have power to take into consideration the suitability of premises in regard to "means of escape in case of fire." On application for the renewal of registrations in December, one three-storey House was reported for consideration under this provision. The matter was referred to the City Engineer and Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade and, in the early part of 1938 certain work is being done to meet the suggestions made.

Work done :—

Drains cleared and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard concreted	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minor repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924

AND

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

There are 22 licensed Slaughterhouses on the Register, to which 1,260 formal visits have been paid. One change in occupation took place, and the occupier of one other Slaughterhouse died during the year and the licence of these premises was not renewed. We therefore start the year 1938 with 21 Slaughterhouses on the Register.

Work done :—

Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New offal tins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repairs and improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Slaughterhouses are generally well managed and kept in a satisfactory manner. A few verbal cautions were found to be necessary respecting minor defaults, which matters had prompt attention. Frequent and irregular visits to these premises are, undoubtedly, a great factor in their being kept clean and up to the mark.

The year has been a heavy one as regards condemnations. In judging these condemnations, regard has to be paid to the excellent quality of the beasts killed locally—to which reference is made in a following clause. The Indemnity Fund of the local Meat Traders' Association has again been taxed to the utmost owing to the number of claims received. Its value to the butcher who, through no fault of his own, finds that his beast purchased perhaps only a few hours earlier, is condemned and "cut down," has again been amply demonstrated. Contributions to the Fund fall entirely on the Meat Traders unless, as occasionally happens, a voluntary contribution is made by the farmer or breeder. Only beasts of approved standard are covered. 12 of the beasts condemned were the subject of claims, whilst 7 others condemned, of insurable standard, were from a large firm not members of the Fund.

Market Stalls, Butchers' Shops, Making-up Premises and also Vans in the Streets from which food is sold, are frequently inspected—such visits being too numerous to tabulate in detail.

KNACKERS' PREMISES.—2 licensed and a number of visits have been paid thereto.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.—97 persons are licensed under the above Act, 16 being granted during the year.

FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

The following have been condemned, surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human food :—

For Tuberculosis :—

1,297 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones of beef (18,168 lbs.)

Included in the foregoing is the whole carcase and edible offal of 11 Ox Beasts, 9 Heifers and 10 Cows.

Also :—

1 Ox Beast (Dropsical) 30 stones.

1 Ox Beast (General Bruising) 44 stones.

1 Calf (Inflammation and Dropsy) 6 stones.

8 Pigs (Generalised Tuberculosis) 82 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones.

6 Pigs (Inflammation and Dropsy) 40 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones.

6 Pigs (Erysipelas) 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones.

2 Pigs (Pneumonia) 8 stones.

4 Pigs (Fevered and unmarketable) 40 stones.

SUNDRIES :—

A large number of pigs' heads (localised tuberculosis) and a quantity of beasts' pigs' and sheep's edible offal.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.
MINISTRY OF HEALTH. CIRCULAR 1650.
SCHEDULE OF DETAILS REQUIRED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	See note below.				
Number inspected.	See note below.				
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	0	1	3	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	1	1	3	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis (* See Note below)	·52	·43	·6	·05	·31
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	20	10	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	1	—	0	65
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis. (* See Note below)	·74	4·7	—	—	·51

The total killing is :—

- (a) Beasts :—Approximately 90 weekly, about 5 per cent. of which would be fat cows, the remainder being young ox beasts or heifers of excellent quality.
- (b) Sheep and Lambs :—Approximate average 250 weekly.
- (c) Pigs :—Approximate average 300 weekly.

The percentage inspected is approximately 45, but owing to the strict observance by the Butchers of Clause 9 of the Meat Regulations which requires that Notice shall forthwith be given on the slaughter of an animal if any part of the carcase or internal organs is, or may appear, unsound or diseased, the *condemnations should be considered as fully covering the total killing. Week by week several such notifications are received if one is not present at the time slaughtering takes place.

Memo 62 Foods is followed as far as practicable as the Standard of Condemnation. All condemned carcasses are destroyed under supervision at one of the local Knackers' Premises.

BAKEHOUSES.

44 Bakehouses are on the Register at the end of the year and 87 visits have been paid thereto. 2 Bakehouses were discontinued during the year and one re-opened, also there was one change in occupation. Generally speaking the Bakehouses have been found clean and satisfactory. 3 verbal cautions were given respecting overdue limewashing.

Work done :—

Limewashing on request	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD REGULATIONS.

88 samples (16 Formal, 72 Informal) of Food and Drugs have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for Analysis—with satisfactory results. Also no contraventions of the Preservatives in Food Regulations were revealed. Details of the articles analysed are as follows :—

[illegible]

Medicine to Prescription	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								88

The milk samples, 75 per cent. of which were morning's milk, gave an average composition of 3.95 per cent. fat ; 8.83 per cent. solids not fat.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

No contraventions under the above Regulations have, on investigation, been revealed.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Following are the particulars of the Register for the year :—

(1) Retail Purveyors having Registered Premises in the City	...	38
(2) Retail Purveyors whose Premises are situate outside the City	...	20
(3) Producers (Retail) in the City with Registered Cowsheds	...	18
<i>(Included in No. 1 above)</i>		
(4) Producers (Wholesale) in the City with Registered Cowsheds	...	13
(5) Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk only	...	86

Registered during the year :—

Retail Purveyors and Premises	...	3
Retail Purveyors (with Premises outside the City)	...	1
Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk	...	8

Discontinued :—

Retail Purveyors (with Premises outside the City)	...	2
Retail Producers	...	5

152 visits were paid respecting the above and the following work has been done :—

Improvements to existing Sheds ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Dairy with wash-up provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improvements to Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Limewashing, on request	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Letters and Notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verbal Cautions	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Several tests have been made with the "Trustmun" Sediment Tester of milk on sale retail or at the place of delivery. Cautions were given where these were found to be necessary, and three or four cases were considered by the Public Health Committee and necessary action taken to effect improvement.

10 samples were taken of milk on sale retail, for microscopic and biological examination by the Institute of Animal Pathology, Cambridge, for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The results were negative.

The placing of milk bottles on the public footpath and highway has been considered by the Public Health Committee on several occasions, and milk vendors have been written to by the Town Clerk, on the Committee's request, asking them to take all practicable steps to prevent this. Not only are the bottles so placed liable to fouling, but also to breakage—with possible serious consequences.

Of recent years the supply of milk in bottles has come much to the fore. This method of delivery has its advantages but also its disadvantages; not the least of which is the neglect and mis-use by the customers of the bottles when emptied. All too often they are returned to the vendor unrinsed and sometimes only after days of delay, when they are then in a very unsatisfactory condition; while misuse of the bottles is not uncommon. At one six-roomed house I counted over sixty bottles deposited in the back yard in a very dirty condition—evidently the accumulation of weeks—and at another house there were over two dozen bottles.

Milk purveyors are under severe Statutory obligations to clean and sterilize their utensils, and to supply milk in clean receptacles. Milk bottles are provided as a convenience both to themselves and their customers. It is therefore only reasonable to expect that their property should be respected by the customer, rinsed out and returned daily, thereby not adding to the vendor's difficulties which the cleansing of dirty and sour bottles involves.

Overhead costs, too, are increased if the bottles are not returned. For example, a dairy with an approximate daily output of 2,000 gallons is liable to incur an expenditure of from £60 to £80 monthly to make good losses and breakages—a very heavy item. The supply of milk in cartons is, in my judgment, preferable to bottles, but at the present time the price is too prohibitive to make their use popular.

INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

No. of Workshops on the Register at the commencement of the year (excluding Bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
No. of Workshops found on inspection to be discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Visits paid to Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
No. of Visits paid to Factories re Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of Workshops Registered during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Outworkers' lists received	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops :							
Re New Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Re Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances abated and Sanitary defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 to 1936.

Mr. J. Catlow and Mr. D. G. Paterson, Inspectors under the above Acts, report as follows :—

287 visits were made respecting the various provisions of these Acts, and 49 verbal cautions were given—primarily respecting delay in observing the statutory closing time. 5 letters were sent.

In May the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, came into force. Approximately 200 shops, mainly small mixed shops in the side streets, open on Sundays. These were visited and the provisions of the Act explained to the Shopkeeper. A pamphlet was also left setting out the main provisions of this Act. The Retail Meat Dealers Shops (Sunday Closing) Act also came in force in the early part of the year. The provisions of this Act have been found to be observed.

CANAL BOATS.

No new registrations have been applied for during the year. There are 47 Boats on the Register and these (if still existing) are scattered in various parts of the Fen district, only two or three of the boats being met locally. Fifteen inspections have been made under the relevant provisions which have now been incorporated in the new Public Health Act, 1936.

PLEASURE BOATS.

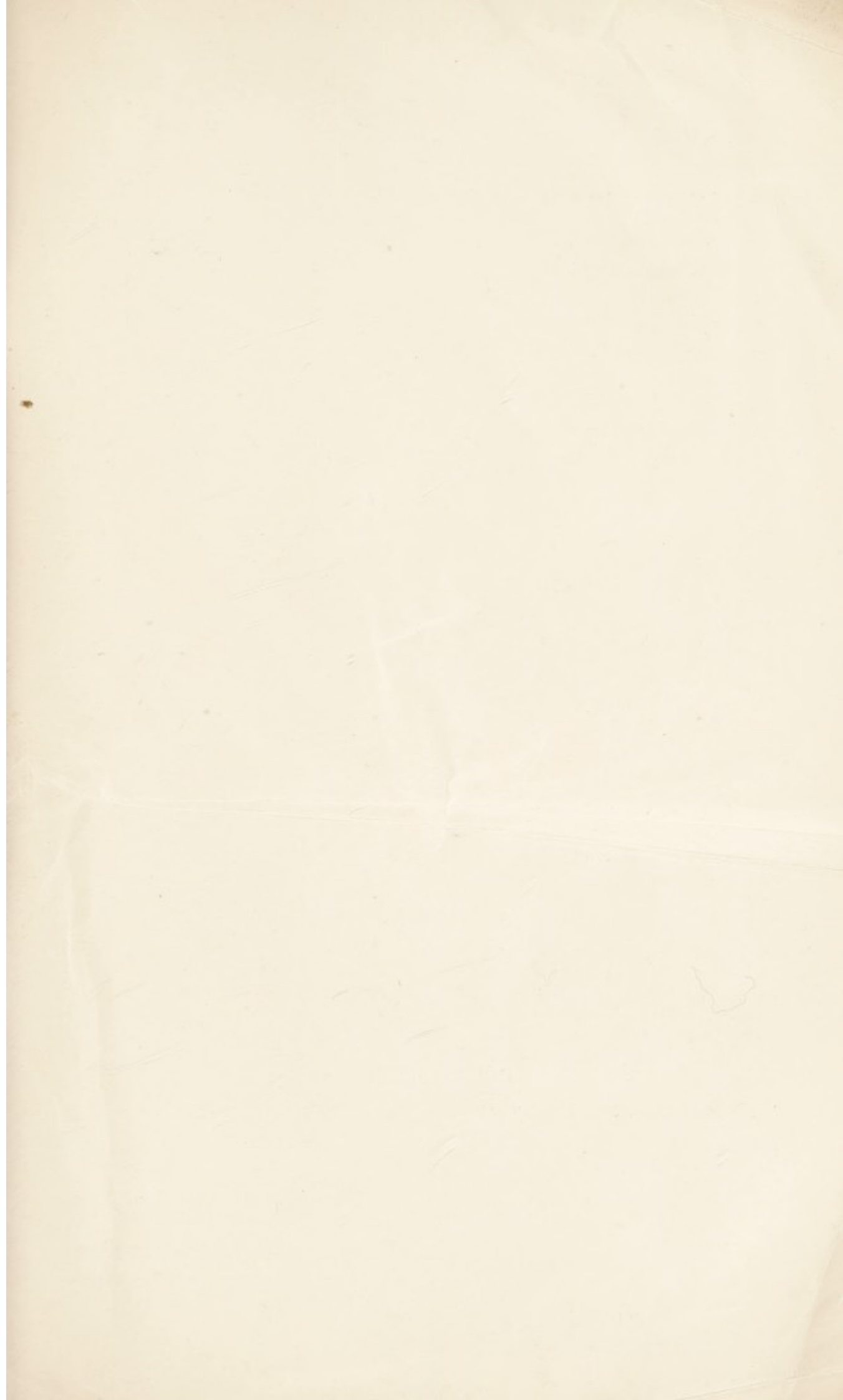
Boats :—Licensed, 12. Boatmen, 2. Visits paid, 24.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. SEDEN

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937