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CITY OF PETERBOROUGH



# REPORTS

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

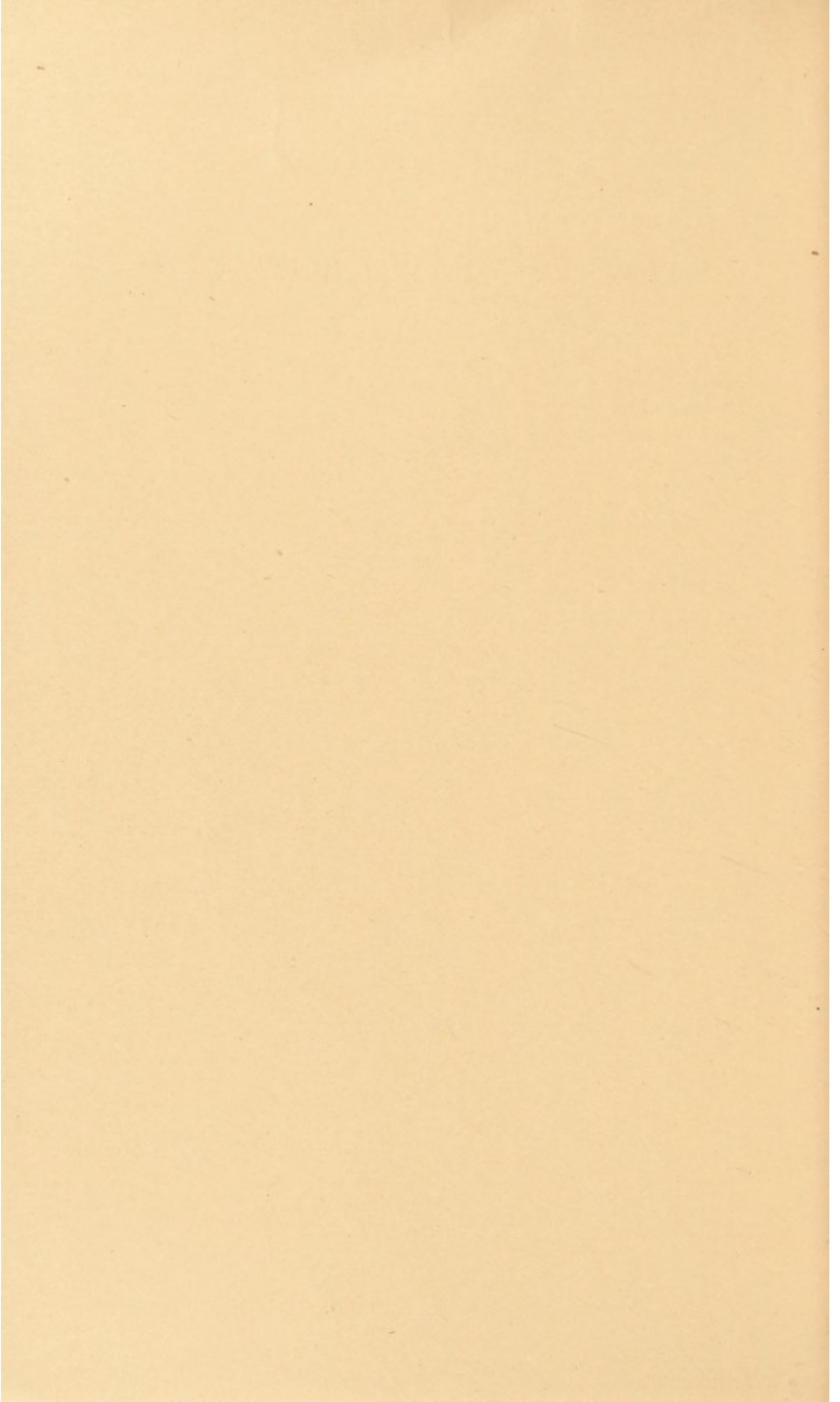
AND OF THE

## Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

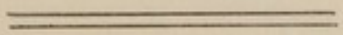
# 1959





CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT



I.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1959

CITY OF PETERSBURGH



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## CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1959

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st DECEMBER, 1959)

*Chairman :*

COUN. MRS. M. SWIFT

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUN. G. A. SMITH

THE MAYOR, COUN. MRS. M. SWIFT (*ex-officio*)CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE (*ex-officio*)

ALD. H. R. HORRELL

COUN. A. W. L. ADAMS

COUN. W. E. AUCLAND

COUN. C. E. HALL

COUN. C. V. HALL

COUN. F. L. MACKMAN

COUN. P. E. PALMER

COUN. A. L. ROBINSON, M.B.E.

COUN. H. S. ROBINSON

COUN. J. A. SAVAGE

COUN. ALBERT SMITH

COUN. G. TYERS

COUN. D. C. WELDON

*Medical Officer of Health :*

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., BARRISTER-AT-LAW

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health:*

DIANA MCKNIGHT, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., D.P.H.

City Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Peterborough.  
Telephone No. 2241, ext. 25.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

This year will be remembered as a year of abundant sunshine and scanty rainfall. Advantage of the sunshine was taken by holidaymakers. At the same time exhortations were made to conserve water.

It will be seen from the following pages that the statistics were very satisfactory and compared very favourably with those of England and Wales.

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the City of Peterborough during this year and, again, there were no cases of diphtheria. This latter disease, however, must not be regarded as a disease of only historical significance for cases are reported from other parts of the country, and the only safe protection is to have a community completely protected by immunisation. The same argument applies also to smallpox and, of course, to poliomyelitis.

Although we have all these artificial checks against many infectious diseases yet it must not be forgotten that good environmental hygiene must always be the first line of defence. This includes good housing, clean food and freedom from fly and other nuisances.

I can, perhaps, take this opportunity of invoking the long plea for the eradication of the Car Dyke. This disused waterway is a legacy of the Roman Occupation and is not only prejudicial to health but stands in the way of housing and industrial development in the east side of the City.

All property which is below the standards required by the Housing Act is being dealt with adequately and progressively. During the year the slum clearance programme proceeded very satisfactorily.

During the incoming year there will be new legislation affecting the powers of local authorities in connection with moveable dwellings.

Unfortunately we still do not have any control over the houseboats at present moored on the South Bank of the River Nene but the Nene River Board is taking vigorous action to deal with this situation under their byelaws. At present the situation continues to be a menace to public health and children are being brought up under the worst possible conditions of filth, squalor and overcrowding in these boats.

Again, I must remind the Council of the need for smoke abatement. This, like the abolition of the Car Dyke, is an absolute necessity in a progressive and growing industrial town such as the City of Peterborough. Some time ago a sub-Committee was formed to consider all aspects of smoke abatement policy but this Committee has never met in spite of many reminders.

Finally, I wish to convey my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their continued support and the County Medical Officer for his co-operation and to acknowledge the assistance given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and all other Officers of the Council.

Yours faithfully,  
W. G. SMEATON.



## SECTION I

### STATISTICS

#### **Population.**

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for Peterborough is 56,050, which shows an increase of 300 over that of last year. The natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 459.

#### **Birth Rate**

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 19.80. The national figure was 16.5. Both of these figures show an increase on last year.

The number of live births born during 1959 was 1,110, of which 592 were males and 518 were females. There were 59 illegitimate births during 1959, the same as last year.

There was an increase in the number of stillbirths during the year, the total figure being 23 as compared with 19 during 1958. The Still Birth Rate was 20.30 and compares favourably with the national figure of 20.9.

#### **Death Rate.**

The crude Death Rate for the year was 11.61 per 1,000 population while the Index Death Rate was 11.49. The national figure for 1959 was 11.6.

There were 310 deaths due to circulatory diseases, showing a decrease of 15 over the previous year. 114 of these deaths were due to vascular lesions of the nervous system, a decrease of 14 compared with last year. Deaths from coronary diseases accounted for 106, an increase of 11 on last year's figure.

Malignant diseases accounted for 120 deaths, a decrease of 4 on the 1958 figure. Of these deaths 24 were due to carcinoma of the lung and bronchus, a decrease of 5 compared with last year.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents was 8, a decrease of 4 compared with the 1958 figure. The number of deaths due to all other accidents was 19 as compared with 13 in 1958.

#### **Infant Mortality Rate.**

23 infants under the age of 1 year died during 1959. This is a decrease of 8 compared with the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate was 20.72 and is the lowest ever attained for this city. The national figure was 22.2.

#### **Maternal Mortality Rate.**

No deaths occurred under this heading during 1959.

## SECTION II.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifications of infectious diseases received showed a drop in comparison with the previous year.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

There were 11 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, this being an increase of 4 on the 1958 figure.

#### **Diphtheria.**

Once again it is extremely pleasing to note that there were no cases of diphtheria in the City.

#### **Measles.**

There were 212 cases of measles notified during the year as compared with 251 in 1958.

#### **Whooping Cough.**

There was a very considerable drop in the number of cases of whooping cough notified during 1959. The figure was 45 compared with 174 in 1958.

#### **Acute Pneumonia.**

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases of pneumonia notified, the figure for 1959 being 34 as compared with the figure of 40 in the previous year.

#### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

During 1959 there were 5 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified compared with 8 cases in 1958.

#### **Acute Poliomyelitis.**

It is pleasing to note that there were no cases of poliomyelitis notified during 1959.

#### **Dysentery.**

No cases of dysentery were notified during 1959.

#### **Tuberculosis.**

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1959 was 30, an increase of 2 on the 1958 figure.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

It is highly satisfactory to note that only 5 cases of food poisoning were notified during 1959 whereas 32 cases were notified in 1958.

## SECTION III.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

#### **The Weather.**

1959 was a dry year. Rainfall was the lowest since 1943.

The six summer months of 1959 totalled 5.32 inches against an average of 11.18.

There were five droughts of 15 days or more with no rain at all.

Rain fell on 116 days, this being 47 less than average.

Meticulous records of the rainfall at 74 London Road, Peterborough, were kept by Mr. E. H. Colman and Table VII showing the rainfall month by month will be found in the Appendix.

#### **Housing.**

The number of persons on the waiting list on 1st January, 1960, was 1174, which shows a decrease of 7 as compared with the figure at 1st January, 1959.

#### **Water Supply.**

There has been no change in the source of the Corporation's supply.

During the year all treated water was satisfactory.

The average daily consumption in the city was 3,572,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 302,000 gallons per day over last year and a consumption of 63.7 gallons per head per day. In addition, 1,585,000 gallons were supplied to neighbouring authorities, representing an increase of 213,000 gallons per day on the 1958 figure. The number of dwellings within the city with direct water supplied by tap in the house was 18,879 and the number supplied by standpipe 300.

#### **Public Slipper Baths.**

The number of persons using the Corporation's Public Slipper Baths was 28,584, which represents a weekly average of 550. This represents a decrease of 3 persons a week as compared with 1958. Once again the number of males who made use of the facilities was far in excess of the females. The number of old age pensioners who made use of the Baths was 530 as compared with 515 in the previous year.

### **Open Air Swimming Pools.**

The Public Swimming Pool was open to the public from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily from 2nd May to 13th September, with one week's extension from 14th to 20th September and hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The number of bathers was 210,330 and the number of spectators was 32,037. This shows an increase in swimmers and spectators over the figures of 1958, which were 135,785 swimmers and 23,954 spectators. Regular samples of water were taken from the pool and submitted for laboratory examination. All the samples showed the water to be of suitable bacterial and chemical quality for use in the Swimming Pool.

This Swimming Pool uses water from the town main supply, both for the initial filling and make-up purposes, the source being the Lincolnshire limestone. The water is continuously circulated during opening hours through the filtration plant, being turned over every six hours. It is chemically treated for the removal of impurities and sterilised by chlorination prior to entering the Pool.

### **Public Cleansing and Scavenging.**

There are approximately 21,325 moveable ashbins in the City.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The contract was let at the end of the year for the Southern Orbital Sewer, a large diameter foul water outfall sewer from the main entrance to Thorpe Hall to the Sewage Purification Works which, when completed, will open up development on the west of the City.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

There are still 43 buckets and one tank to be emptied weekly by the City Engineer's Department, in addition to the 27 buckets in the Newark area.

## SECTION IV.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Health Education.**

A total of 5 talks were given to various organisations in the City and 200 people attended these talks.

**International Certificates.**

During the year 334 International Certificates were franked in the Department. These were made up as follows :—

Smallpox	...	...	...	259
Cholera	...	...	...	53
Others	...	...	...	22

**National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.**

During the year two aged persons were removed to an institution where they could have proper care and attention.

One of these was admitted voluntarily.

The other was admitted by Temporary Order made under the National Assistance Acts for three weeks but she consented to stay in longer until satisfactory arrangements could be made. After satisfactory cleansing of the house and arrangements for its maintenance and her care, she returned home and is now living happily at home in satisfactory sanitary conditions and is well looked after by relatives.

**Medical Examinations.**

38 medical examinations were carried out for persons entering the employment of the Corporation and 6 were carried out for the Combined Police Authority.



**Maternal Mortality.**(Number of women dying as a result of childbirth—  
Heading No. 30 in the Registrar-Generals Short List)

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Births</i>
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0.00

**Infant Mortality.**

(Deaths of Infants under one year of age) :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	16	7	23
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births — Total			20.72
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ — Legitimate			21.88
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ — Illegitimate			—

**Neonatal Mortality.**

(Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age) :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	13	3	16
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births :			14.41

**Early Neonatal Mortality.**

(Deaths of Infants under one week of age) :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	12	3	15
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births :			13.51

**Perinatal Mortality.**

(Still Births and Deaths under one week) :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	23	15	38
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			33.54

**OTHER STATISTICS, 1959.**

Deaths from Coronary Disease, Angina (all ages) ...	...	...	106
“ “ other Cardiac Conditions (all ages) ...	...	...	62
“ “ Malignant Neoplasm (all ages) ...	...	...	120
“ “ Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
“ “ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	0

TABLE I.

**BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEAR 1959.**

Figures for the City of Peterborough, and, where available,  
for England and Wales.

	<i>City of Peterborough</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>	
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>	
<b>BIRTHS :—</b>			
Live ... ..	1110	19.80	16.5
Still ... ..	23	0.41	0.35
<b>DEATHS :—</b>			
All causes ... ..	651	11.61	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0.00	—
Tuberculosis... ..	5	0.09	0.08
Influenza ... ..	7	0.12	0.17
Smallpox ... ..	0	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..	0	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	28	0.50	0.60
<b>NOTIFICATIONS :—</b>			
Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever ... ..	11	0.20	1.05
Whooping Cough ... ..	45	0.80	0.73
Diphtheria ... ..	—	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	1	0.02	0.07
Smallpox ... ..	—	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	212	3.78	11.88
Pneumonia ... ..	34	0.61	0.60
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			
Paralytic ... ..	—	0.00	0.02
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	0.00	0.01
Food Poisoning ... ..	5	0.09	0.22
Acute Encephalitis :—			
Infective ... ..	—	0.00	0.00
Post-infectious ... ..	—	0.00	0.00
Malaria ... ..	—	0.00	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	0.00	0.78
Ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	—	0.00	0.03



	<i>City of Peterborough</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>	
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>	
<b>MORTALITY :—</b>			
Infant Deaths under one year of age... ..	23	20.72	22.2
Infant Deaths under four weeks of age... ..	16	14.41	—
Infant Deaths under 1 week of age... ..	15	13.51	—
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Births</i>	
Women dying as a result of child-birth ... ..	0	0.00	—
<b>NOTIFICATIONS :—</b>			
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	5	4.41	—

**TABLE II.**  
**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959.**

<i>Causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List.</i>	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 pop.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Deaths</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	3	1	4	0.071	6.144
Tuberculosis, Other ...	1	0	1	0.018	1.536
Syphilitic Disease ...	2	2	4	0.071	6.144
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Measles ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Other infective and parasitic Diseases ...	1	0	1	0.018	1.536
Malignant Neoplasm : stomach	9	9	18	0.321	27.649
Malignant Neoplasm ; lung, bronchus ...	21	3	24	0.428	36.866
Malignant Neoplasm ; breast	0	13	13		
Malignant Neoplasm ; uterus	0	6	6		
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	31	28	59	1.052	90.629
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Diabetes ...	2	4	6	0.107	9.216
Vascular lesions of Nervous System ...	40	74	114	2.034	175.115
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	70	36	106	1.891	162.826
Hypertension with heart Disease	1	1	2	0.036	3.072
Other heart disease ...	30	30	60	1.070	92.165
Other circulatory disease ...	10	18	28	0.499	43.011
Influenza ...	3	4	7	0.125	10.753
Pneumonia ...	13	15	28	0.499	43.011
Bronchitis ...	27	5	32	0.571	49.155
Other Diseases of respiratory system ...	7	4	11	0.196	16.897
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	5	1	6	0.107	9.216
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	3	1	4	0.071	6.144
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	1	2	0.036	3.072
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	6	0	6		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0		
Congenital malformations ...	2	0	2	0.036	3.072
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	35	36	71	1.267	109.062
Motor vehicle accidents ...	7	1	8	0.143	12.289
All other accidents ...	10	9	19	0.339	29.185
Suicide ...	4	5	9	0.161	13.824
Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>651</b>		

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all ages	Total Cases Notified													Total Deaths	
		Age Periods—Years														
		Under 1	1-2-	2-3-	3-4-	4-5-	5-10-	10-15-	15-20-	20-35-	35-45-	45-65 and over				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—	1	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including mem-croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	212	12	32	21	18	34	89	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	45	8	3	4	7	3	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenza)	34	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	12	10	5	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(1) Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—

TABLE IV.  
TUBERCULOSIS  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10- ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15- ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20- ... ..	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25- ... ..	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35- ... ..	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45- ... ..	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
55- ... ..	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Totals, 1959 ...	15	9	5	1	5	1	1	—
Totals, 1958 ...	21	3	2	2	2	—	—	—
Totals, 1957 ...	18	7	3	—	2	—	—	—

TABLE V.  
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
No. on Register 1/1/59 ...	194	167	12	7
Notified during 1959... ..	23	14	5	1
Removed during 1959 ... ..	23	18	1	—
No. on Register 31/12/59 ...	194	163	16	8

TABLE VI.  
HOUSING STATISTICS

Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1959	...	...	...	1181
New Applications received during the year	...	...	...	548
			TOTAL	1729
Number of Applicants housed or removed from Register during 1959				275
Applications cancelled during the year	...	...	...	280
			TOTAL	555
Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1960	...	...	...	1174
Number of Houses erected by Council—1959				
Houses—2 and 3 bedroom type	...	...	...	148
Maisonettes—2 bedrooms	...	...	...	6
Aged Persons Flats	...	...	...	38
Single Persons Flats—1 bedroom	...	...	...	40
Combined Shop and Flat	...	...	...	1
			TOTAL	233

TABLE VII.

## RAINFALL AT 74 LONDON ROAD, PETERBOROUGH—1959

1959	<i>Total Inches</i>	<i>Difference from Average</i>		<i>% of Average</i>	<i>Wettest Day</i>	
		<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Excess</i>		<i>Day</i>	<i>Amount</i>
January	2.87		.91	146	6	1.53
February	.11	1.35		8	21	.09
March	1.77		.40	129	3	.53
April	1.33	.17		89	16	.31
May	.65	1.27		34	20	.47
June	.26	1.43		15	9	.10
July	2.23		.06	103	10	.62
August	.84	1.23		40	10	.50
September	.01	1.82		1	17	.01
October	1.04	.88		54	26	.30
November	1.44	.77		65	17	.37
December	3.62		2.02	226	3	.63
	16.17	8.92	3.39	75	Jan. 6	1.53

Deficit 5.53.

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

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II.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

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(J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT  
STAFF, 1959.

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., CERT. R. SAN. I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

P. LANGSTON, M.A.P.H.I., CERT. R. SAN. I. (Resigned 31/3/59).

K. R. ENDERBY, M.A.P.H.I., CERT. R. SAN. I.

F. H. FREE, M.A.P.H.I., CERT. R. SAN. I. (Appointed 15/6/59).

A. MORTON, (Pupil).

A. N. VENTERS (Assistant).

M. FIRMEDOW (Pupil).

*Clerks :*

W. D. BURN (Appointed 12/1/59)

MISS O. K. SMITH.

MRS. F. WOOD (Part-time).

Public Health Inspector's Dept.,

Town Hall,

Peterborough.

1960.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1959, this being my eleventh, and the forty-ninth submitted to the City Council.

It will be remembered that the summer of 1959 was very hot and dry and it was expected that there would be a large increase in the fly population. With this in mind, tradesmen were asked to display small "stick-on" notices asking people to "Kill that fly." These were also supplied to the organisers of the Agricultural Show. This year the show broke out in red spots—of "stick-on" labels. I do not know whether it was the result of this campaign together with the regular spraying of the Slaughterhouses but I am sure the fly population was no worse, in fact may have been less, than in other years.

Referring to the report under the heading of Infestations and Dirty Premises, it will be noted that bed bugs have again reared their ugly heads. This is not because the local bed bug is becoming immune to D.D.T. or Gammazane because in each case the infestation was successfully treated with these chemicals it follows therefore, that the infestations were due to either laxity or what is more likely in these days—ignorance.

It will be noted under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act that the Fengate Road Refuse Tip although it receives preferential treatment, remains a reservoir of rat infestation in that area. This Tip, as you know, is in the adjoining rural district and is surrounded by farmland. I am convinced that as we destroy the rats on the Tip, other rats move in from the adjoining countryside, in any case, the Tip itself provides harbourage and food. It is expected the tipping on this Tip will be controlled by 1960.

I should like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, Dr. Smeaton, the Medical Officer of Health and the members of my Staff for their co-operation and loyal help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HALL,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



## COMPLAINTS

23 Certificates of Disrepair were applied for and certificates granted or undertakings to do the work were accepted. All works have now been completed. As to be expected this number is less than last year and should gradually decrease as the years go by. Landlords and Tenants continue to improve the property amicably and as suggested last year the number of complaints remains approximately the same implying that the houses improved under the Rent Act would most likely not have been touched by action under the Housing Act or Public Health Act.

The number of complaints for the year was 800 including 369 complaints of infestations of rats and mice. During this year, the large number of wasp colonies which developed in the City almost contributed a public health nuisance so much so that it was decided to undertake the destruction and if requested, the removal of these nests and therefore included in the above number are 52 complaints of large infestations of wasps.

### Statutory Notices Served

61 Statutory Notices were served as follows :—

#### HOUSING ACT, 1957

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Notices</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>No.</i>
17	7	Houses demolished ... ..	3
		Houses closed ... ..	4

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

39	9	Work completed by Owner ... ..	6
		Work completed by Local Authority	3
24	42	Work completed by Local Authority	42
93	2	Work completed by Owner ... ..	1
		Work completed by Local Authority	1
45	1	Work completed by Owner ... ..	1

The number of notices served under Section 24 of the Public Health Act continued to increase. This is the section which deals with defective combined drains and in many cases the defects are discovered as the result of rat infestations.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

The various sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been enforced during the year. I give below an abridged list of nuisances and defects remedied :—

Drains relaid, repaired, cleansed, etc. ... ..	163
W.C.'s and urinals repaired, renewed and reconstructed ... ..	46
Roofs repaired, rain-water pipes renewed, etc. ... ..	38
Chimney stacks rebuilt, etc., walls rebuilt and repaired ... ..	5
Woodwork repaired (floors, windows, doors, etc.) ... ..	17
Water laid on inside houses, new sinks fixed, waste pipes refitted, etc. ... ..	24
Accumulations of refuse and manure removed ... ..	21
Miscellaneous ... ..	92

## CLEAN AIR

During the year under review, 6 complaints only were received in respect of installations other than locomotives. The installation of new and efficient plant at the various Laundries in the City is the cause of this drop in complaints. British Railways—Objections were made to the Motive Power Superintendent regarding 4 locomotives emitting black smoke within the City boundary and disciplinary action was taken against the offending Engine Drivers and Firemen, none of whom were based on Peterborough.

Coaling Plant, New England—No complaints have been received regarding this plant nor have the volumes of coal dust been observed as in previous years. The Spital Bridge coaling plant is now out of use and is expected to be demolished in 1960.

Generally with the exception of a few enthusiasts, the feeling locally is that Peterborough is a reasonably clean City and has no problem of smoke abatement which no doubt explains the lack of interest in making smoke control areas and in adopting byelaws regarding the installation of firegrates capable of burning smokeless fuel.

A second deposit gauge and sulphur dioxide indicator was installed at the end of this year in the South Ward and during 1960 it will be interesting to compare the readings of the two stations. The first Station is sited in the centre of the City on the Town Hall roof and a graph of the readings is given on another page.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Now there are 467 vans on 32 sites. This is an increase of 17 vans but a decrease in the number of sites.

This year the Showmen wintered on two sites but before they will be allowed to use these sites again for this purpose, it will be necessary for the sites to be considerably improved and the number of vans drastically curtailed. Peterborough is very popular with the Showmen for wintering purposes because of the large amount of short time labour required locally providing out of season work for them.

During the year 176 visits were made to the various sites.

Following a prosecution taken in 1958, the Owner of an unlicensed site was fined £6:15:0d: being a continuing penalty after which the unlicensed moveable dwellings were removed.

## SWIMMING POOLS

Samples of water were taken during the year from the swimming pools for bacteriological examination and to test for the free chlorine content of the water. The presence of free chlorine proves that sufficient is being used to combat contamination present at the time of sampling. Regular visits were made to the pools during the season.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

20 disinfections were carried out after removal to Hospital of patients with Tuberculosis. In addition, all Library books in all cases of infectious diseases were disinfected before returning to the Libraries.

During the year, the Cambridge Mass Radiography X-ray Unit carried out a five-week campaign in Peterborough with the object of doing at least 10,000 checks. The Department assisted by covering the food handling industry especially where people would not otherwise have been contacted, for instance, in all the small shops and Cafes of the City. This resulted in 474 food premises being visited and leaflets and appointment cards being left, in an effort to obtain 100% coverage of all food handlers in the City.

## INFESTATIONS & DIRTY PREMISES

Complaints were received of 13 houses being infested with fleas or bugs, 5 of which were Council houses. Disinfestations were carried out in 4 cases for fleas and 11 for bugs successfully, at the expense of the Owner or Occupier.

A complaint was received of an infestation of flies in the Lime trees of one of the streets of the City which was speedily and successfully dealt with by the City Engineer's Department. These flies were not the common house fly.

5 complaints of filthy premises were inspected and dealt with without having to take Statutory action.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

22 visits were made to each of the two common lodging houses in the City.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

The offensive trades existing in the City consists of one Rag and Bone Merchant and one Fat Refinery. Offal and Refuse from the Slaughterhouses is collected by a firm of Manure Makers, (see report on Meat Inspection). This explains the reason for the few offensive trades in the City as all the offensive trades are connected with by-products of the Slaughterhouses.

## KNACKER'S YARD

None practising in the City.

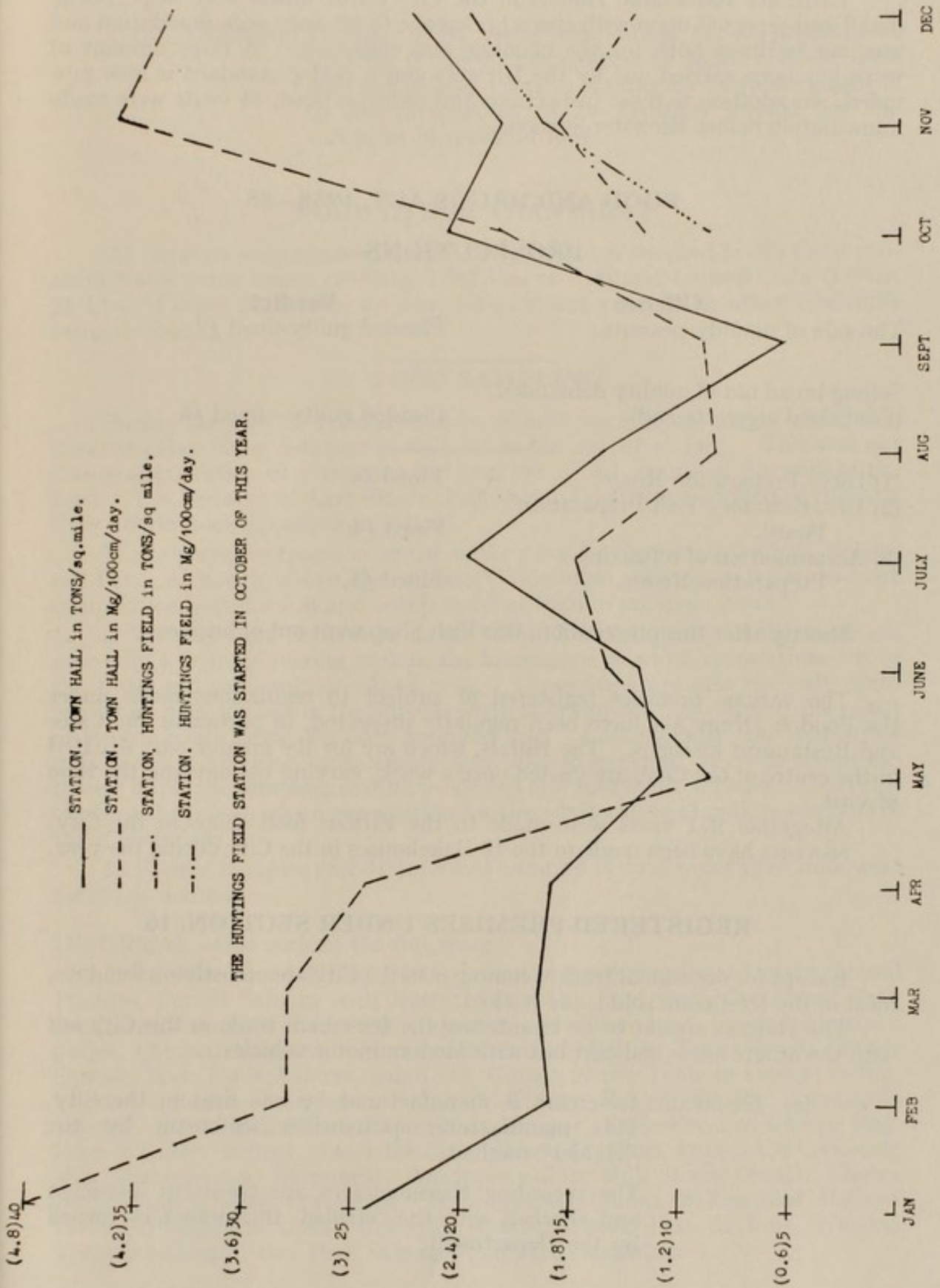
## FAIRGROUNDS

Inspections were made of the Fairs during the year and as in previous years all vans were found to be provided with proper means of sanitation and water supply. The stalls used for selling food to the employees of the Showmen, in addition to those selling food to the general public, were visited before and during the fairs.

See also report under Moveable Dwellings regarding the wintering of the Showmen.

The catering arrangements at the annual "Show" were inspected before and during the Show.

MONTHLY RECORDINGS OF GRIT (SOLIDS) AND S<sub>03</sub> FOR 1959  
(JAN.-DEC.) AT THE TWO STATIONS, TOWN HALL AND  
HUNTINGS FIELD



## PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

There are 100 Public Houses in the City all of which were inspected in detail and reported upon with special reference to sanitary accommodation and washing facilities both for the clientele and employees. A large amount of work has been carried out by the Brewers and a better standard is now provided. In addition to these inspections and re-inspections, 44 visits were made immediately before Brewster Sessions.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—55

### PROSECUTIONS

Offence	Verdict
The sale of mouldy peanuts.	Pleaded guilty-fined £2.
Selling bread not of quality demanded. (Contained cigarette end)	Pleaded guilty—fined £5.
(1) Dirty Preparation Room.	Fined £4.
(2) Unsatisfactory Fish Preparation Board.	Fined £4.
(3) Accumulation of refuse in Preparation Room.	Fined £4.

Shortly after this prosecution, this Fish Shop went out of business.

The various premises registered or subject to regulations made under the Food & Drugs Act have been regularly inspected, in particular the Cafes and Restaurant kitchens. The Hotels, which are for the greater part situated in the centre of the City, are visited once a week, varying the day and the time of visit.

Altogether 971 visits were made to the various food shops in the City. 58 visits have been made to the 16 Bakehouses in the City during the year.

## REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER SECTION. 16

Except for occasional traders coming into the City area mostly on Sundays, most of the Ice-Cream sold is pre-packed.

The Italians appear to be re-entering the Ice-cream trade in this City not with the ornate horse and cart but with modern motor vehicles.

- (a) Ice-cream: Ice-cream is manufactured by one firm in the City. This manufacturer pasteurises ice-cream by the "Holder" method.

The recording thermometers are regularly inspected and checked with the certified thermometers owned by the Department.

There are 203 premises retailing ice-cream in the City, all of which were visited during the year.

- (b) Making-up Premises : 84 visits were made to 52 premises in the City (1 for the preparation of boiled crabs). This does not include visits to Making-up Premises adjacent to Slaughterhouses or to premises visited for the surrender of unsound food.

### FOOD OTHER THAN MEAT

155 requests were received during the year which resulted in 409 Condemnation Notes being issued covering 2,883 tins of food and 1 ton 5 Cwts. 3 Qtrs. 21 Lbs. of other foodstuffs, an increase over last year. The other foodstuffs being doubled.

### FOOD SAMPLING

During the year 29 Formal samples of milk were taken, one of which was unsatisfactory being deficient in milk-fat to the extent of 14%. This was not due to adulteration or extraction but because of bad mixing of the milk of the herd. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food was informed of this and their Officer took appropriate action.

The average composition of the milks gave 3.51% Fat and 8.82% Solids-not-Fat. Although above the statutory minimum, this is a lower average composition both for Fat and Solids-not-Fat than in previous years.

A few years ago there were in this City 17 distributors of milk, there are now only 4 firms delivering milk to the houses one of which comes from out of the town and sells only sterilised milk. These firms are also the only firms providing milk for sale in the various small shops in the City : this is the result of Peterborough being within a specified area. Consequently, the number of milk samples must be considerably less than in previous years to avoid excessive duplicate sampling of milk processed and sold by each Dairy. This also explains the reason why a prosecution for the adulteration of milk is a very rare thing nowadays.

18 Formal Samples and 61 Informal Samples of food other than milk were taken, as follows :—

INFORMAL—One each of the following :

Dried Figs, Dried Mixed Fruit, Sultanas, Currants, Rice, Butter, Liquid Paraffin, Potted Salmon with Butter, Olive Oil, Beef Suet, Cut Mixed Peel, Saccharin, Lozenges of Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne, Ground Almonds, Coffee, Chicken Dripping, Salmon, Horseradish Relish, Tonic Yeast, Orange Squash, Male Tonic Tablets, Salad Oil, Honey, Nerve Tonic in Orange Syrup, Vegetable Juices, Lemonade, Steak & Kidney Pie, Steak Pie, Lemonade Crystals, Soya Flour, Plain Flour, Malt Vinegar, Table Creams, Cherry Red, Rum & Butter Toffees, Water Ice Lolly, Mixed Cut Peel, Dessicated Coco-nut, Milk Shake Syrup, Mincemeat, Pineapple Cubes, Milk Shake Cordial, Cherry Bark Cough Linctus, Crab Meat, Cream Cheese, Halibut Oil Capsules, Halibut Liver Oil Capsules, Unsalted Butter, Baking Yeast, Pate de Foie, Whisky, Three Ice-Creams, Two Pork Sausages and Five Margarine.

FORMAL—One each of the following :

Sponge Drops (with butter and jam filling), Puff Pastry, Dairy Cream Slices, Lemon Drink, Softa Freeze, Pork Sausage Meat, Ice Lolly Compound, Syrup for Lollies, Apricot Brandy, Brandy, Rum, Gin and Two Orange Squash, Two Pork Sausage and Two Whisky.

Note : The Five Informal Samples of Margarine and the Sample of Halibut Liver Oil Capsules and Halibut Oil Capsules were also tested for Vitamin A content.

With special reference to some of the above samples—

Butter :— A complaint was received of a sample of butter being of abnormal colour and taste. This was found to have faded and the flavour spoiled by bad storage having been exposed drastically to light or heat. According to the Blenders, Danish butter loses its colour and texture much more quickly than Colonial butter and is one of the reasons why butter is now very often wrapped in foil. The butter in question was not found to be adulterated or otherwise of poor quality.

Milk Chocolate :— A complaint was received of milk chocolate having an abnormal smell and flavour. This was diagnosed as a wood preservative. An inspection of the shop revealed that a new floor had recently been laid and wood preservative used. The sweets in the shop affected were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. A firm of specialists advised on how to neutralise the effects of the preservative.

Chicken Dripping :— This product was being sold in cartons labelled "double cream" as chicken dripping but was in fact a mixture of dripping and gravy. Representations were made to the shopkeeper who replaced the cartons and changed the description of the product so that the old people for whom this was a treat would continue to enjoy it.

Lemonade :— A bottle of lemonade was submitted to the Analyst which was thought to contain small fruit flies but it was reported as being very turbid and under the microscope the turbidity was found to consist of clumps of yeast cells otherwise the lemonade was quite satisfactory.

Milk Shake Syrup :— This article is described as a soft drink and as such no declaration of contents is necessary. This sample could apparently be used, when suitably diluted with water or milk, as a soft drink or a milk cocktail. It could also be used as a sauce or even as a syrup for use with breakfast cereals and was the subject of a long report by the Public Analyst primarily based on whether it should be considered a soft drink or not. The Public Health Committee decided to consider it a soft drink and therefore no further action was taken in this matter.

Whisky :— After a complaint, a sample of whisky was purchased from an Inn in Peterborough on a Sunday evening. The room in which the whisky was served being used almost entirely by teenagers. The whisky was found to be adulterated with 12.6% by volume of extraneous water. The prosecution was taken in 1960 and a fine of £5 was imposed.

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Sterilised milk is sold in this City by two firms, one operating from Grimsby and the other providing milk for distribution through one of the local firms.

33 samples were taken and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for approved tests, all of which were satisfactory.

NOTE—For Tuberculin Tested Milk, the test is Methylene Blue, for keeping quality i.e. cleanliness, for Pasteurised Milk, the tests are Methylene Blue, for keeping quality, i.e. cleanliness, and Phosphatase to show whether or not the milk has been heat-treated ; for Sterilised Milk a Turbidity Test is applied.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Four Slaughterhouses now comply with the regulations concerning the structure of Slaughterhouses. The remaining two and the Bacon Factory are to be reconstructed during 1960. The Slaughterhouses are now the subject of regulations covering the standard of hygiene. The Slaughterhouse owners and their workmen are obviously making an effort to comply with these regulations.



## MEAT INSPECTION

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1. Number killed	3482	48	98	13,934	15,408
2. Number inspected	3482	48	98	13,934	15,408
3. All diseases except T.B. and C.B. whole carcases condemned	5	4	1	13	10
4. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	691	8	1	319	957
5. Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and C.B.	20%	25%	2.04%	2.38%	6.27%
6. <b>T.B. ONLY</b> Whole carcasses con- demned	7	Nil	2	Nil	1
7. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	4	1	Nil	249
8. Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	4.27%	8.33%	3%	Nil	1.5%
9. <b>CYSTICERCOSIS</b> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	40	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Carcases submitted to treatment by refri- geration	40	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Generalised and tot- ally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

It should be noted that the figures shown against lines 3, 6 and 9 in the table represent whole carcasses condemned as detailed above. The figures against lines 4 and 7 represent parts of carcasses condemned i.e. heads, tongues, livers, lungs, etc. The increase in the percentages recorded in line 5 over last year is mainly the result of the increase in the condemnation of livers.

The total number of animals slaughtered during 1958 was :—

Beast (including Cows) ...	3530	Pigs ... ..	15,408
Sheep and Lambs ... ..	13,934	Calves ... ..	98

The total weight of carcasses condemned during the year was :—

Beef ... ..	546 stones
Mutton ... ..	37 stones
Veal ... ..	22 stones
Pork ... ..	90 stones

The number of carcasses condemned for T.B. and C.B. is shown in the table.

#### CATTLE

7 Beast ... ..	T.B.
40 Beast ... ..	Cysticercosis
1 Beast ... ..	Blackquarter
1 Beast ... ..	Pyæmia
1 Beast ... ..	Oedema
3 Cows ... ..	Oedema
1 Beast ... ..	Septicæmia
1 Beast ... ..	Emaciation
1 Cow ... ..	Emaciation

#### CALVES

2 Calves ... ..	T.B.
1 Calf ... ..	Fever

#### SHEEP

5 Sheep ... ..	Emaciation
5 Sheep ... ..	Oedema
2 Sheep ... ..	Dropsy
1 Sheep ... ..	Fever

#### PIGS

1 Pig ... ..	T.B.
2 Pigs ... ..	Swine Fever
2 Pigs ... ..	Septicæmia
3 Pigs ... ..	Moribund
1 Pig ... ..	Septic Pneumonia
2 Pigs ... ..	Fever

#### Disposal of Condemned Meat and Other Foods

All condemned meat is collected by Mays & Sons Ltd., of Bourne, for disposal by digestion on their premises. All condemned meat and offal is immediately coloured green to ensure that it will not be sold for human consumption.

Other foods, when condemned, are collected and disposed of by burying in the Council's tip. Sometimes the food is poisoned for use as rat baits.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958.

The humane slaughter of animals is now the subject of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958 and regulations made thereunder. A new provision of the licensing of Slaughtermen is that the Licence shall specify the kind of animals he may slaughter and the types of instruments which may be used by him for this purpose. Before a new Licence is granted under these regulations, the Slaughtermen has to satisfy an Inspector of his ability to use the specified instrument without cruelty to the animal.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The total of Factories includes Bakehouses, Making-up Premises, Dairies and one Ice-cream Factory. The visits to these premises are not included under this heading except where action was required under the appropriate section of the Factories Act.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupier prose- cuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	34	5	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	257	185	17	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	26	13	1	Nil
Total	317	203	19	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.	By H.M.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	10	7	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of (S.6) ...	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	33	20	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	3	1	—	1	—
Total	51	31	—	5	—

Various nuisances and works of cleansing were carried out after informal action by this Department, in addition to the above.

Regular visits were paid to the 7 large building sites and numerous small sites to inspect the sanitary accommodation. 200 houses were completed under private enterprise.

### OUTWORKERS

Addresses of Outworkers :

Received from Employers ...	116
Received from other Councils ...	2
Forwarded to other Councils ...	Nil

All the Outworkers' premises in the City have been visited, and found to be satisfactory.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

Having found that April and October are the best months for doing the work on sewers, the treatments were again carried out in those months. Infestation of the sewers continues to be about the same, sewers being cleared of rats in some areas and in other areas of the City, the rat population remains static.

The Refuse Tip which is owned by the Local Authority and is situated in the adjoining district, is regularly visited, at least weekly, for treatment but remains a reservoir of rat infestation in that area.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (Including Council Houses)	Agricultural	All Others (including Business & Industrial)	Total (Excluding Agricultural)
1. Total number of properties in local Authority's District	30	18,646	70	3490	22,166
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1959 as a result of :—					
(a) Notification.	30	263	1	77	370
(b) Survey under the Act.	25	391	24	14	430
(c) Otherwise e.g. Visited for other purposes primarily.	—	1286	19	2112	3398
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested with					
Rats Major	2				2
Minor	28	128	1	26	182
Mice Major					
Minor	2	14		2	18
4. Number of properties infested (under 3) treated by Local Authority	32	142	1	28	202
5. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	141	197	1	83	421

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949—continued.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (Including Council Houses)	Agricultural	All Others (including Business & Industrial)	Total (Excluding Agricultural)
6. Number of Notices served under Sec. 4. (1) Treatment (2) Structural work i.e. proofing.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of Notice under Sec. 4.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Legal Proceedings.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



