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THRAPSTON
RURAL DISTRICT,
1913.

W. H. King

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

C. N. ELLIOTT, B.A., M.B.

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OUNDLÉ,

MARCH 11TH, 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

THRAPSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I have again much pleasure in presenting my Report on the health of your District for the past year.

I propose, for the convenience of the respective County Medical Officers of Health, to treat first of the whole District, and then of the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire portions separately.

Tables will be found at the end of this Report dealing fully with the Births, Deaths, and Infectious Diseases which occurred during the past year.

Statistics.

Referring to Table I it will be seen that the births numbered 203, giving the very low rate of 17·2—by far the lowest yet recorded. A few years ago the rate was always about 24 per thousand, and the first considerable drop occurred in the year 1911, and apparently is going to be maintained.

The number of nett deaths amounted to 170, giving a rate of 14·7.

**Infectious
Disease.**

Table II gives the cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

Thirty-two cases of Scarlatina were reported; a considerable number, but still a marked reduction on the two previous years.

There were four cases of Enteric Fever notified, but certainly two, and I think three, were of a doubtful character.

One fatal case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was reported. The history briefly was as follows:—On December 16th a child aged five, living near Great Addington, was taken ill at school, and was seen next day by a medical man, who diagnosed the case as Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. The child died the same day after eighteen hours' illness. I received the report of the death and the notification by the same post. The home of the child

was an isolated farmhouse in fairly good condition, but the Sanitary Inspector reported that the drains were defective. No other case of illness was reported from the school. The bedding was destroyed, and the room in which the child died was disinfected. The owner of the property agreed to do all necessary work.

Twenty-four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, as against 26 in the previous year. The other forms of Tuberculosis—that is to say, Tuberculosis in any part of the body except the lungs—were mainly chronic cases of long standing.

Causes of Death.

Table III gives the principal causes of death.

The most important of these are: Cancer, 21—a very considerable increase on past years, and for which I see no explanation. Preventive medicine has as yet done nothing to check the disease. Personally, I am inclined to the view that it is epidemic in character. Working as I do among a large number of small villages I am in a better position to observe this than a Medical Officer of Health for a large town, and I would advocate a really thorough disinfection of every house in which a fatal case occurred. Heart disease caused 25 deaths, and Pneumonia 6. No deaths from Diarrhoea or Enteritis are recorded.

Tuberculosis.

The notification of Tuberculosis was extended last year to all cases of the disease: previously it was only when Tuberculosis attacked the lungs.

A further advance has been made by an Order of the Board of Agriculture that all bovine animals thought to be suffering from Tuberculosis should be reported to the police.

The county undertook the duties imposed by this order. Your officers have nothing to do with the general working of the order, but the police notify any cases on farms to your clerk, who sends them on to me. This is done to enable us to find out if the cases have occurred among the stock of registered cowkeepers. If this is the case it would then be the duty of the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Inspector of Cowsheds, to visit and ascertain whether the milk of any diseased cow is being supplied to the public. The notification should be transmitted to the Sanitary Inspector in the first instance, as he keeps the book containing the register.

Thirty-two primary visits were paid to Tubercular cases, and twelve secondary ones.

The detection of unrecognised cases is carried out by the Tuberculosis Official.

All fatal cases are now reported to me by the registrar, and the houses and bedding are disinfected as far as the limited means at our disposal will admit. One house in which six cases were detected in Thrapston was reported under the Housing Act as being very

damp and unwholesome. The family removed to Woodford, where I again saw them, and found them much improved. The house at Thrapston was disinfected and repaired by the owner of the property.

The notifications were more evenly distributed this year than in the previous one. Thrapston heads the list with twelve cases—but I have already mentioned that six of these came from one house. Ringstead came next with seven; Woodford had four; and the rest are variously distributed between a number of villages with one or two each—as Islip, Sudborough, Denford, Chelveston, and Little Addington.

The duties of the Medical Officer of Health are, I think, not very clearly understood by your Council with regard to Tuberculosis. The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1913 explains them. The report states:—

“Public Health action following notification.—Article XII of the new regulations direct that the Medical Officer of Health or an officer of the local authority acting under the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health shall make such inquiries and take such steps as may be necessary for investigating the source of the infection; for preventing the spread of infection; and for removing conditions favourable to infection.

“Hitherto the Medical Officer of Health has been handicapped by the difficulty of securing expert aid in examining contacts, and has been obliged to carry out this investigation more or less imperfectly. Under the new conditions it is hoped that the services of the Tuberculosis Officers will be available for this work.

“It will be observed that the Medical Officer of Health is made responsible for the action needed to trace sources of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, or to remove conditions favourable to infection. This responsibility rests with him whatever may be the local system of organisation as to Tuberculosis.

“The officers of the tuberculosis dispensary acting independently can only deal with the cases attending the dispensary, including those applying for Sanatorium Benefit, and cannot undertake the work of cleansing, disinfection, or other sanitary improvements that may be needed.”

Ophthalmia

Neonatorum. Ophthalmia Neonatorum is added to the list of diseases which are to be notified. It is an inflammation of the eyelids caused by septic poisoning, and met with among infants a few days after birth. If not promptly treated it often leads to total blindness. Many of those sad cases in which people are said to be blind from birth are really victims of this disease—thirty-six per cent. of the children in blind schools.

As I have never practised in your District I have no means of knowing whether many cases are likely to be notified; but I

expect that genuine ones will be rare, but that there will be a number of false alarms.

The Order comes into force on April 1st, and the disease is to be notified either by a medical man or a midwife.

**Isolation
Hospital and
Disinfection.**

The question of providing an Isolation Hospital has been again discussed, but without any practical result. I would again urge upon your Council the desirability of procuring a disinfecter for clothes, bedding, &c. The cost to the District would not be great. There need be no expensive building; I should advise an iron shed of a temporary character to hold the apparatus, and if a hospital was afterwards erected it could be transferred to some suitable building adjoining it. I have several times been asked questions by ratepayers as to our method of disinfection, and I have always been obliged to admit that it was not at all so efficient as I considered necessary.

Housing Act.

HOUSING ACT.—In carrying out the duties imposed by the Housing Act I have been assisted by Mr. Lloyd, the Sanitary Inspector, and he has given me most valuable help, but always under protest, stating that as he had never been designated for the work it was not part of his duty to take any part in carrying out the Act. I asked your Council that he be designated for the work, in accordance with what I understand is the intention of the Local Government Board, contained in their Order, 1910, No. 919, but your Council declined to make the appointment.

I must again ask the Council to give this matter their careful consideration, as I feel sure it would materially contribute to improved working of the Act. I do not mean that a number of houses are waiting to be condemned; there never were many of them, and we have about come to the end of what there were. I know the District thoroughly, and consider the housing as a whole to be good; but undoubtedly minor defects exist—as want of ventilation, imperfect flooring, lack of spouting, and defective roofs. All these will be a constant work. I also lay special stress on the provision of washhouses for cottages or groups of cottages. I know that there are a good many houses without this convenience. From their recent inquiries the Local Government Board evidently expect that a complete record should be made of all houses below the rent limit in the District. This ought to be the duty of the designated officer; it is evident that I could not possibly undertake anything of the kind.

The work of the past year has been as follows:—

Houses personally inspected	...	...	...	...	63
No. condemned as incapable of repair	...	...	...	...	1
No. dealt with for repairs under Section XV.	...	...	...	...	21
No. needing no repairs	...	...	...	...	23
Re-inspection	...	...	...	...	14

Summary of Defects found in above houses.

No window to bedroom	...	...	...	...	1
Want of sufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness of living room	...	...	...	...	1
Defective paving	...	...	...	...	5
Imperfect drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	1
General dampness	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness and defective plaster	...	...	...	...	2
Bad construction of house	...	...	...	...	2

The defects were remedied in 16 cases, and two are postponed and will be brought up again this year. The houses inspected are situated in Thrapston, Ringstead, Woodford, Brigstock, Brington, and Old Weston.

I am not aware of any new houses having been finished during the past year.

I do not think there is any demand for cottages for agricultural labourers, but I understand that there is a demand at Twywell. These would be for ironstone workers. The matter is being considered by your Council.

I have advised that building bye-laws were required for the District, and the matter is also under consideration.

**Sanitary
Inspector's
Report.**

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector—Mr. Lloyd—has been efficiently carried out. In his Report he states :—

“During the year 264 nuisances have been dealt with, usually by verbal orders which have been complied with. The nuisances consisted of house refuse requiring removal, choked-up drains, bricks out of order round drains, and defective roofs to dwelling-houses.

“The 17 slaughter-houses have been frequently visited, and have been found fairly well kept.

“There are 23 bakehouses in the District, and they have been regularly inspected, and always found in a clean condition.

“The 14 registered cowsheds are kept regularly white-washed, but some of the floors are not washed as often as they should be.

“New sewers have been laid down in Aldwinkle and Tichmarsh which will prove very beneficial.

“The water supply at Woodford has been improved by the erection of an oil engine ; the wind motor often failed for want of wind.

“The inspection of workplaces has also been regularly carried out, and the lists of outworkers supplied to me at the times arranged.

“I remain,

“Yours obediently,

“THOS. LLOYD.”

Workshops. I visited the two heel workshops at Ringstead, and drew attention to the want of cleanliness. I will visit them again at an early date.

The Factory Inspector drew attention to the want of proper sanitary convenience at Brigstock, and two new water-closets were ordered.

I visited the dressmaking establishments at Thrapston, and found them carried on in a satisfactory manner.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Hunts. Parishes. Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified from Bythorn. I think that the doctor who reported them was justified in doing so, but he quite agreed with me in considering them to be very doubtful cases.

A case of Scarlatina reported from Old Weston may also be classed as doubtful; there was no history of infection, and no other cases followed, although there were several children in the house. These were the only cases of infectious disease notified.

No case of tuberculosis was reported.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Thrapston. In the early part of the year I again drew the attention of your Council to the necessity of providing a public water supply for Thrapston. As the Parish Council was at that time applying for Urban Powers, the matter was adjourned for the decision of the County Council.

When the latter body decided, after inquiry, not to grant Urban Powers to Thrapston, the water question at once came up again before your Council, who referred it to the Thrapston Parish Council, who passed a resolution that it was desirable to have a public water supply for the town.

Now that the usual opposition to having one of the first necessities of life has been overcome, I congratulate the Parish Council for having passed such a wise resolution. There is no doubt the work will go on to a satisfactory conclusion.

I think Islip should be included in the scheme, and if the time is not ripe for this to be done, the idea should be kept in view. It would be a great benefit to Islip and materially lessen the cost to Thrapston.

I was sorry to see so many cases of Tuberculosis notified in the town: otherwise the health, as far as any infectious illness is concerned, has been good.

A few cases of Scarlatina were seen, but the disease did not spread.

Aldwinckle.

I made careful investigation as to the origin of a case of Enteric Fever which was seen at Aldwinckle Rectory in June.

I found that the Rectory was supplied from two sources : (a) from a well close to the house known to be polluted (an analysis confirmed this) but not supposed to be used for drinking purposes; but still there was access to it ; (b) from a spring on the top of a hill three-quarters of a mile away, and which also supplied several other houses in the village. Samples of water were sent to two analysts : although they did not agree, still the circumstances of the case, the isolation of the spring, and the fact that the other families using the water remained healthy, led me to conclude that the water was quite wholesome.

The well at the house is now closed.

Slipton.

Cases of Scarlatina—eight in all—were seen at Slipton in September. Children from Slipton attend Twywell school. I did not advise the closing of this school, but the Slipton children were kept at home for six weeks.

Cases of Scarlatina were also seen at Stanwick, Ringstead, and Woodford, but they did not lead to any epidemic.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health, Thrapston Rural District.

TABLE I.

Thrapston Rural District.

Vital Statistics of WHOLE DISTRICT during 1913 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS*		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Yr. of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	11,400	264	...	25.5	137	13.2	...	...	19	75.7	132	12.7
1909	11,439	270	...	26.0	142	14.2	...	...	16	59.2	142	13.5
1910	11,475	266	...	25.5	162	15.6	...	3	23	88.3	159	14.3
1911	11,513	215	..	18.6	118	10.2	...	12	19	88.3	130	11.3
1912	11,515	249	250	21.5	151	13.8	5	9	25	100	155	13.4
1913	11,524	202	203	17.2	156	12.8	1	15	18	88.6	170	14.7

Area of District in acres (land and inland water).....47,284.

Total population at all ages..... 11,790
 Number of inhabited houses 2,886
 Average number of persons per house 4.5

The rates are calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population.

* "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of NORTHANTS. PORTION of the District during 1913 and previous years.

[Headings of columns as on above page.]

Meanings of terms as on page 1-8																	
1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1909	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	10,649																
1913	10,659	188	189	177	145	113	1	14	17	88.3	158	14.8	} At Census, 1911.				
Total population at all ages																	
Number of inhabited houses																	
Average number of persons per house																	
Area of Portion in acres (land and inland water).....																	

Vital Statistics of HUNTS. PORTION of the District during 1913 and previous years.

1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1909	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912	866	12	12	13.9	14	12.0	.	...	...	1	83	14	15.0	...	...	...	...
1913	864	14	14	16.2	11	9.0	0	1	1	1	71.4	12	13.8	} At Census, 224 1911.			
Total population at all ages.....																	
Number of inhabited houses																	
Average number of persons per house																	
Area of Portion in acres (land and inland water)..... 10,448.																	

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.
Northants. Portion of District.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All causes { Certified											
{ Uncertified											
5 Whooping Cough	2	2									
7 Influenza	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
9 Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7	...	...	...	1	3	3			
10 Tuberculous Meningitis	2	1	...	...	...	...	1			
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1				
12 Cancer, malignant disease	18	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	8	1
14 Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1					
15 Organic Heart Disease	24	...	...	...	1	1	2	6	14	1
16 Bronchitis	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1
17 Pneumonia (all forms).....	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	
18 Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	...	1								
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	2	...	...	2						
21 Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease	8	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	2	
25 Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	8	8									
26 Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1		
27 Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
28 Other Defined Diseases	56	6	1	...	...	...	2	8	39	7
29 Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Totals	158	17	4	2	5	7	9	31	83	10	

Hunts. Portion of District.

All causes { Certified										
{ Uncertified										
9 Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1						1			
12 Cancer, malignant disease	3							1	2	
14 Meningitis	2				2					
15 Organic Heart Disease	1								1	
16 Bronchitis	1								1	
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1							1	
28 Other Defined Diseases	2						1	1		
Totals	12	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	5	

TABLE IV.

Thrapston Rural District.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes.	Certified ...	6	2	...	1	9	2	2	2	1	16
	Uncertified ...		1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Small-pox ...											
Chicken-pox ...											
Measles ...											
Scarlet fever ...											
Whooping-Cough ...		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Diphtheria and Croup ...											
Erysipelas ...											
Tuberculous Meningitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...											
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...											
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...											
Convulsions ...		...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Laryngitis ...											
Bronchitis ...											
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis ...											
Syphilis ...											
Rickets ...											
Suffocation, overlying ...											
Injury at birth ...											
Atelectasis ...											
Congenital Malformations ...											
Premature birth ...		6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility and ...											
Marasmus ...		...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
Other Causes ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Totals...		6	3	1	1	11	2	2	2	1	18

Nett Births in { legitimate.....201
the year { illegitimate... 1

Nett Deaths in { legitimate infants.....17
the year of { illegitimate infants .. 1

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Rural District of Thrapston,

on the administration of the Factory and
Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	11	4	none
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	65	6	none
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...	28	4	none
Total ...	104	14	none

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	none	none
Want of ventilation	none	none	none	none
Overcrowding	none	none	none	none
Want of drainage of floors	none	none	none	none
Other nuisances	4	4	none	none
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	none	none	none
	unsuitable or defective	1	1	none
	not separate for sexes	none	none	none
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	none	none	none	none
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	none	none	none	none
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	none	none	none	none
Total	10	10	none	none

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

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESALE PREM- ISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers						Prosecutions.				Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
	Twice in the year.			Once in the year.			Failing to keep specification of lists.	Failing to keep or permit in- spection of lists.	on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.							
	Lists.	Con- tractors.	Work- men.	Lists.	Con- tractors.	Work- men.										
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Wearing Apparel— making, &c. ...	6	3	3	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	
cleaning and washing ...	none															
Household linen ...	3															
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	none															
Curtains and furniture hangings...	1															
Furniture and upholstery ...	1															
Electro-plate ...	none															
File making ...	none															
Brass and brass articles ...	none															
Fur pulling ...	none															
Cables and chains ...	none															
Anchors and grapnels ...	none															
Cart gear ...	3															
Locks, latches and keys ...	none															
Umbrellas, &c. ...	1															
Artificial flowers ...	none															
Nets, other than wire nets ...	none															
Tents ...	none															
Sacks ...	none															
Racquet and tennis balls ...	none															
Paper, &c., boxes, paper bags ...	none															
Brush making ...	none															
Pea picking ...	none															
Feather sorting ...	none															
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...	none															
Stuffed toys ...	none															
Basket making ...	none															
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	none															
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c. ...	none															
Textile weaving ...	none															
Total ...	15	3	3	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Factories with machinery	11
Workshops without machinery	65
Workplaces ditto ditto	28
With the exception of Bakehouses, Workshops and Workplaces are almost unoccupied, as they were used mostly for shoe work. Almost the whole of the shoe work is carried out in the Factories.	
Total number of Workshops on Register	104

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	none
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901):—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1 Factory closets,
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	nuisance abated.
Other	none
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	There are no
In use at the end of the year	underground bake-
	houses.

C. N. ELLIOTT,
Medical Officer of Health.

March 17th, 1914.