HEALTH STATIONS.

TORQUAY.

TORQUAY, on the south coast of Devon, is situated on a promontory, having the sea on three sides, while some distance in the rear is Dartmoor. This promontory consists of a series of ridges, rising in places over 450 feet. Their direction is principally north-east and

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south-west, which has the effect of protecting the town from the cold winds of the north and north-east.

The peninsular character of the district has an important effect on the climate, rendering it mild and equable, having a night temperature almost equal to that of Nice.

Other climatic features are the large amount of sunshine recorded during the winter months (633.6 hours, October-March, 1906-7), the absence of land-fogs, and the dryness of the air. With such climatic conditions it is possible for invalids to spend the greater part of the day with comfort in the open air.

The following facts, taken from my annual report for 1907, give the more important data concerning Torquay: Area of the borough,

3,858 acres. Ratable value, £187,000. Population—Census (1901), 33,625; estimated at the middle of 1907, 34,000. Number of inhabited houses—Census (1901), 6,614. Average number of persons per house, 5. Density of population, 8·7 persons per acre. Crude death-rate, 1907, 15·26 per 1,000; average for previous ten years, 14·8 per 1,000. Corrected death-rate, 1907, 15·5 per 1,000. Average for previous ten years, 14·0 per 1,000. Death-rate if all visitors excluded, 14·2 per 1,000. Birth-rate, 15·8 per 1,000; average for previous ten years, 16·7 per 1,000. Infantile mortality, 1907, 96·8; average for previous ten years, 124. Death-rate from zymotic diseases, 0·73 per 1,000. Mean annual temperature, 50·9°. Hours of bright sunshine recorded, 1,741. Total rainfall, 33·22 inches.

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