

WOMEN WORKERS AND THE
INDUSTRIAL

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WOMEN WORKERS
AND
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
1750—1850

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LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LTD.,
BROADWAY HOUSE: 68-74 CARTER LANE, E.C.
1930

X: 915.3.M5
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TO THE MEMORY OF
MY MOTHER

PREFACE

THIS book is an attempt to give an account of the conditions governing the lives of working women during the period 1750-1850. The industrial Revolution has been studied from many aspects, but so far women's work during this period has not been the subject of any separate and detailed study. It is hoped that the present book, though necessarily limited in scope, may do something towards filling this gap.

My grateful thanks are due to the late Professor Lilian Knowles for her inspiration in the early stages of this research and guidance in the use of materials for this period which she knew so well ; and especially am I indebted to Dr. Eileen Power, who has directed my researches for her unflinching interest and her invaluable help in discussion, and in reading and criticizing my manuscript. I must also record my deep gratitude to Mrs Bernard Shaw for her generous scholarship, which allowed me to devote an extra year to this study, and for the kindly interest she has always taken in this subject. Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the Clerk of the Peace at Derby, the Rector of Darlaston, the Vicar of Rugeley, and the Clerk to the Parish Council of Duffield, for giving me facilities to use the documents in their charge.

IVY PINCHBECK.

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APPENDIX

OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN IN 1841.

The following figures taken from the Occupational Abstract of the Census Returns, 1841, (P.P. 1844, xxvii., pp. 31-44), while not altogether accurate, are interesting in showing the distribution of women in industry at this time. The numbers given are for England alone, and trades employing only very few women have for the most part been omitted.

	Females			Females	
	30 years and upwards	Under 30 years		30 years and upwards	Under 30 years
Accountment			Bonnet Maker ...	3,331	976
Maker	39	4	Bookseller, Book-		
Actor (Play)	310	71	binder, Publisher	1,561	458
Agent and Factor			Boot and Shoe		
(branch not			Maker	8,611	1,953
specified)	40	1	Brace and Belt Maker	322	80
Agricultural Im-			Braid Maker	34	10
plement Maker.	40	18	Brass Founder and		
Anchor Smith and			Moulder	39	4
Chain Maker ..	54	49	Brasier, Brass Fin-		
Artist (Fine Arts)	261	17	isher, Tinker ..	100	10
Auctioneer, Ap-			Brewer	172	5
praiser and			Brick and Tile		
House Agent ..	37	1	Maker	261	169
Author	15	—	Brick Layer	106	—
Baby Linen Dealer			Broker (branch		
and Maker	68	8	not specified) ..	256	3
Bacon and Ham			Broker, Furniture	84	5
Dealer and Fac-			Brush and Broom		
tor	23	1	Maker	535	137
Baker	3,144	79	Buckle Maker	31	12
Banker	7	—	Builder	74	—
Basket Maker	262	51	Burnisher	168	48
Bath Keeper and			Butcher	1,047	26
Attendant	77	—	Butcher, Pork ...	85	—
Bazaar Keeper ..	26	2	Butter Dealer,		
Bead Maker	26	10	Merchant, Factor	39	1
Bed and Mattress			Button Dealer and		
Maker	90	7	Merchant	13	—
Blacking Maker			*Button Maker ..	1,031	607
and Dealer	26	4	Cabinet Maker and		
Blacksmith	469	—	Upholsterer ...	1,846	181
Bleacher (branch			Cap Maker and		
not specified) ..	185	164	Dealer	837	237
Boat and Barge			Card Maker	488	362
Builder	19	—	Carpenter and		
Boat Woman	117	13	Joiner	389	—
Boat and Barge			Carpet and Rug		
Owner	19	—	Manufacturer...	87	158
Bobbin Maker and			Carrier, Carter and		
Turner	19	10	Waggoner	464	14

* An understatement.

	Females 20 years and upwards	Under 20 years		Females 20 years and upwards	Under 20 years
Carver and Gilder	68	10	Farmer and Grazier	15,392	—
Cattle and Sheep			Farrier, Cattle		
Dealer and Sales-			Doctor, and Vet-		
man	13	—	erinary Surgeon	78	—
Chair Maker	237	43	Feather Maker,		
Charwoman	18,019	265	Dealer, Dresser	97	15
Chaser	46	3	File Maker (all		
Cheesemonger and			branches)	92	31
Factor	115	1	Fish Monger and		
Chemist and Drug-			Dealer	614	42
gist	148	4	Fisherwoman	277	29
Chemist, Manu-			Flax and Linen		
facturing	11	1	Manufacture (all		
Chimney Sweeper	125	—	branches)	2,746	3,625
China, Earthen-			Flour Dealer and		
ware and Glass			Mealman	207	5
Dealer	602	84	Flower (artificial)		
Clerk (Commer-			Maker	475	380
cial)	137	22	Fork Maker	32	10
Clock and Watch			French Polisher ..	81	23
Maker	164	21	Fringe Manufac-		
Clothes Dealer and			ture	207	106
Outfitter	206	11	Furrier	664	134
Coach Maker (all			Fustian Manufac-		
branches)	108	8	ture	918	354
Coal Labourer,			Gardener	891	75
Heaver, Porter,	184	187	Gas Fitter	2	—
Coal Merchant and			Glass and Bottle		
Dealer	371	18	Manufacture ..	209	70
Coffee-House			*Glove Maker	4,249	1,600
Keeper	178	4	Glove Manufac-		
Comb Maker	97	33	ture, Silk	106	81
Cooper	113	6	Government Post		
Corn Merchant,			Office	449	11
Dealer, Factor,	114	10	Greengrocer and		
Corn Cutter (Chir-			Fruiterer	2,629	70
opodist)	12	—	Grocer and Tea		
Cotton			Dealer	7,005	127
Manufacture			Gun Maker and		
(all branches) ..	65,839	49,586	Gun Smith	67	12
Copper and Dentist	23	—	Haberdasher and		
Currier and Leather			Hosier	779	109
Seller	140	5	Hairdresser and		
Cutler	129	30	Barber	231	15
Die Engraver and			Hatter and Hat		
Sinker	6	2	Manufacturer .	1,711	544
Draper	1,596	377	Hawker, Huckster		
Draper, Linen	529	100	and Pedlar	3,177	214
Dressmaker, Mil-			Hook and Eye		
liner	70,518	18,561	Maker	33	34
Dyer, Calenderer,			Hose Manufacturer		
and Scourer	417	74	(all branches) ..	5,934	2,371
Eating House			Iron Monger	259	9
Keepers	173	1	Japanner	328	165
Embroiderer	593	209	Jeweller, Gold-		
Engine and			smith and Silver-		
Machine Maker.	45	8	smith	296	69
Engineer and En-			Keeper, Lunatic		
gine Worker	45	57	Asylum	157	6
Factory Worker			Keeper, or Head of		
(manufacture not			Public Institu-		
specified)	4,338	4,449	tion	1,427	8

* An understatement.

APPENDIX

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	Females 30 years and upwards	Under 30 years		Females 30 years and upwards	Under 30 years
Knitter	814	274	Muslin Manufac-		
Labourer	9,398	1,757	turer	35	11
— Agricultural	26,815	8,447	*Nail Manufacturer	2,673	1,366
Lace Agent	15	1	Needle Manufac-		
Lace Dealer and			turer	505	243
Laceman	100	25	Net Maker	106	26
— Manufacturer			Newsagent and		
(all branches) ..	14,394	5,651	Vendor	67	3
Lamp and Lantern			Nurse	12,476	517
Maker	10	—	Nurseryman and		
Lapidary	21	10	Florist	183	49
Laundry Keeper,			Oil and Colourman	62	9
Washer and			Optician	17	—
Mangler	43,497	1,522	Painter, Plumber		
Lead Manufac-			and Glazier ...	349	25
turer	47	21	Paper Hanger	10	1
Leech Bleeder and			— Manufacturer		
Dealer	51	1	(all branches)	857	370
Librarian	106	3	— Stainer	60	32
Lime Burner	54	7	— Box Maker ..	42	38
Lint Manufacturer	84	28	Parochial Church		
Livery Stable			and Corporation		
Keeper	107	—	Officer (exclusive		
Locksmith and			of those returned		
Hell Hanger ..	35	7	in trade)	359	5
Lodging and Board-			Pastry Cook and		
ing House Keeper	6,073	33	Confectioner ..	1,681	158
Maltster	121	5	Pattern and Clog		
Map Maker and			Maker	65	10
Publisher	34	5	Pawnbroker	242	14
Marine Store			Pearl Cutter and		
Dealer	90	1	Worker	60	41
Mason, Faviour			Pen Maker and		
and Statuary ..	146	4	Dealer	66	27
Mat Maker	89	7	Pen (Steel) Maker	128	104
Match Maker and			Percussion Cap		
Seller	58	14	Maker	17	8
Mathematical In-			Perfumer	86	11
strument Maker	2	—	Pewterer and Pew-		
Medicine Vendor ..	23	2	ter Pot Maker ..	17	1
Merchant	77	—	Pig Dealer and		
Metal Manufac-			Merchant	11	1
turer	89	74	Pin Manufacturer		
*Midwife	676	—	(all branches) ..	472	356
Milk Seller and			Pipe Maker	343	98
Cow Keeper ...	1,622	52	— Tobacco		
Miller	410	47	Maker	18	3
Millwright	25	3	Plasterer	69	2
Miner (branch not			Plater	20	5
specified)	334	364	Polisher	151	40
— Copper	903	1,200	Porter, Messenger	165	36
— Iron	363	36	Potato Dealer and		
— Lead	25	18	Merchant	33	—
— Tin	68	82	Pottery, China and		
Mop Maker	33	4	Earthenware		
Moulder	12	5	Manufacturer		
Music Seller and			(all branches) ..	3,843	3,253
Publisher	33	—	Poulterer and		
Musical Instru-			Game Dealer ...	196	7
ment Maker ...	23	—	Press Worker	32	32
Musician and Or-			Print Seller	36	9
ganist	199	52	Printer	114	43

* An. understatement.

APPENDIX

	Females		Females	
	20 years and upwards	Under 20 years	20 years and upwards	Under 20 years
Printer, Copper Plate	10	2	— Mercer	128
— Cotton and Calico	239	384	— Merchant ...	13
Provision Dealer ..	217	12	Skinner and Skin	49
Pump Maker	17	4	Dresser	9
Quarrier (branch not specified) ..	15	4	Slater	—
— Stone	15	18	Stopmaker and	39
Quill Cutter	11	4	Seller	261
Quilter and Quilt Maker	92	18	Small Ware Dealer	92
Rag Cutter Dealer and Gatherer ..	446	93	Small Ware Manu- facturer (all branches)	122
Reed Maker	26	8	Smelter (ore not specified)	118
Register Office (Servants') Keeper	19	—	Snuiffer Maker	16
* Ribbon Manufac- turer	2,394	636	Spectacle Maker ..	8
Roller Maker and Turner	114	27	Spinner (branch not specified) ...	3,458
Rope and Cord Spinner	401	85	Spoon Maker	87
Rush Dealer and Manufacturer ..	21	4	Spring Maker	16
Sack and Bag Dealer and Maker	187	31	Stationer	387
Saddle, Harness and Collar Maker	272	36	Stay and Corset Maker	4,149
Sail, Sail Cloth and Tarpaulin Manu- facturer	99	22	Steel Workers	18
Saleswoman	117	5	Stewardess (Ship) ..	13
Sand Merchant	37	1	Stock (Men's) Maker	27
Sawyer	12	—	Straw Bonnet and Hat Maker	318
Schoolmistress, Governess (see also Teacher) ..	27,754	1,499	— Plait Dealer, Factor, Mer- chant	6,457
Scissors Maker ..	101	47	— Plait Manu- facturer (all branches)	64
Screen Maker	88	75	Stuff Manufacturer (all branches) ..	5,686
Screw Cutter and Maker	279	122	Sugar Baker, Boiler and Re- finer	2,028
Screw (wood) Maker	22	7	Surgical Instru- ment Maker ...	12
Seamstress	15,680	2,266	Tailor and Breeches Maker	9
Seedsman and Seed Merchant ..	52	3	Tallow and Wax Chandler	5,155
Servant, Domestic	447,606	264,887	Tanner	71
Shawl Manufac- turer (all branches)	107	60	Tape Manufacturer (all branches) ..	38
Ship and Smack Owner	48	—	Tassel Maker	258
Shopkeeper and General Dealer ..	9,316	266	Tavern Keeper, vis. Beershop Keeper	62
Shroud Maker ...	14	4	Hotel and Inn Keeper	1,471
Sieve Maker	72	24	Publican and Victualler	2,941
Silk Manufacturer (all branches) ..	18,038	11,795	Spirit Merchant. Tea Broker and Merchant	5,574
			Teacher—see also Schoolmistress . Dancing and Gymnastics ..	114

* An understatement.

APPENDIX

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	Females			Females	
	so years and upwards	Under so years		so years and upwards	Under so years
Languages.....	62	6	Weaver (branch		
Miscellaneous ...	36	6	not specified) ..	17,728	8,583
Music and Singing	629	91	Wheelwright	141	5
Thimble Maker ..	18	11	Whip Maker	41	8
Thread Manufac-			Whitesmith.....	23	—
turer (all branches)	172	181	Willow Weaver		
Timber Merchant			and Worker....	56	20
and dealer.....	33	4	Wire Agent and		
Tin Manufacturer			Merchant.....	79	1
(all branches)..	125	149	Wire Drawer and		
Tinplate Worker .	72	31	Maker	9	1
Tobacconist and			— Worker and		
Tobacco and			Weaver ...	88	56
Souffl Manufacturer (all branches)	1,683	89	Wood Cutter and		
Toll Collector	426	20	Woodman	61	12
Tool Dealer and			— Merchant and		
Maker (all			Dealer	33	—
branches)	58	13	Wool Agent, Mer-		
Toy Dealer and			chant and Stapler	34	5
Maker	386	76	Wool (Berlin),		
Tray Maker.....	47	10	Dealer and		
Trimming Maker .	162	72	Worker	22	2
Tripe Dealer and			Woollen and Cloth		
Dresser	71	6	Manufacturer		
Trunk and Box			(all branches) ..	13,196	7,742
Maker	226	84	— Draper	57	3
Truss Maker.....	22	5	Worsted Dealer		
Turner	74	20	and Merchant...	26	6
Typefounder	3	3	— Manufacturer		
Umbrella, Parasol			(all branches)	6,016	6,126
and Walking-			Yarn Manufacturer		
Stick Maker ...	423	118	(all branches) ..	118	48
Undertaker	69	3	Yeast Dealer and		
Warehouse			Merchant.....	51	1
Woman	567	202			

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