

	£	s.	d.
230 Post Office orders	604	12	6
39 bank drafts	2,837	4	1
149 cheques	942	8	5
15 dividend warrants	15	5	0
5 promissory notes	151	5	9
Postal notes	61	10	8
Stamps	26	12	10
Bank-notes	158	0	0
Gold	15	0	0
Silver and copper	1	17	0
Representing a total of	£4,813	16	3

In addition, 1 lady's gold watch, 1 lady's silver watch, 2 gentlemen's silver watches, 3 nickel-plated watches, 1 lady's gold chain, 1 gold-mounted petrified-wood brooch, 3 gold brooches, 5 silver brooches, 4 mother-of-pearl brooches, 6 gold rings, 1 silver ring, 2 gold scarf-pins, 1 pair silver sleeve-links, 2 greenstone pendants, 1 silver-mounted Queensland-nut matchbox, 1 silver matchbox, 1 silver thimble, 1 gold-mounted greenstone paper-knife, 1 butter-knife, 2 gold springs, 1 bunch of keys, 1 set of artificial teeth, 1 Union Bank cheque-book, 1 tobacco-pouch, 1 carved pipe and greenstone ornament, 1 stereo. block, 7 sticks tobacco, 1 water-colour painting, 2 hand-painted shells, 1 purse containing 2s. 6d., 1 pocketbook containing four one-penny stamps, 5 tracing-wheels, 6 flax bags, 1 woollen tea-cosy, 3 sheets of postage-stamps, 2 pawn-tickets, 46 Tattersall tickets, 8 share-certificates, 1 transfer-certificate, 1 certificate of title, 1 deposit receipt, 2 umbrellas, 3 parasols, 13 silk handkerchiefs, 2 pairs slippers, 2 savings-bank books, 1 pair of gloves, 6 aprons, 1 pair spectacles, 1 lady's belt, 2 pillow-slips, 1 afternoon-tea cloth, 1 black-felt hat, 8 neckties, 3 shirts, 13 collars, 12 pairs socks, 1 pair gaiters, 2 pairs slippers, 1 pair lady's shoes, 3 pairs ladies' knickers, 1 pair corsets, 1 child's bonnet.

1,514 unclaimed registered letters were dealt with.

2,113 newspapers and 1,084 books and other articles without addresses were received, many of which were subsequently applied for and delivered.

727 unclaimed newspapers were returned to the publishers.

374 letters and 107 letter-cards were posted without addresses.

36 letters and 4 books with libellous addresses were intercepted.

The number of inland, intercolonial, and international unclaimed articles received and disposed of during the years 1896 and 1897 was as under:—

	1896.					1897.				
	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Letter-cards.	Post-cards.	Packets.	Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>										
Returned, delivered, &c., through Dead-letter Office	51,117	1,086	2,118	47,478	770	54,306	1,155	2,311	50,958	727
Returned by Chief Postmasters direct	22,724	..	3,690	26,986	..	30,577	..	3,683	43,032	..
Destroyed in accordance with law	3,265	81	148	978	42,264	2,629	56	112	688	33,616
<i>Intercolonial.</i>										
Originally addressed to other colonies:—										
Returned to writers	4,509	..	12	461	..	4,719	..	26	656	..
Destroyed in accordance with law	290	..	1	9	..	228	..	2	48	..
Returned to other colonies as unclaimed	3,335	..	9	18,848	..	3,180	..	32	15,794	..
<i>International.</i>										
Originally addressed to other countries:—										
Returned to writers	4,406	..	12	516	..	4,475	..	26	564	..
Destroyed in accordance with law	283	..	1	11	..	217	..	1	42	..
Returned to other countries as unclaimed	4,190	..	12	24,814	..	4,392	..	44	15,531	..
Totals	94,119	1,167	6,003	120,101	43,034	104,723	1,211	6,237	127,313	34,343

746 inquiries for letters and 640 for other articles, alleged to have been posted and not delivered, were made during 1897. In 393 of the inquiries for letters and 326 for other articles—over one-half the total number—the investigations by the department resulted in the missing articles being traced. These may be summarised as follows:—

Number of "Traced" Cases.

Letters.	Other Articles.	Found to have been
53	44	Missent, misdelivered, or otherwise delayed in delivery through fault of Post Office.
46	37	Delayed in delivery through fault of addressees.
45	38	Posted later than advised, or unavoidably delayed in transit.
75	62	Defectively or wrongly addressed.
58	48	Mislaidd or lost after delivery.
26	22	Returned through Dead-letter Office as unclaimed, &c.
90	75	Delivered. Reason for inquiry not given, but probably in most cases omission by addressees to acknowledge receipt.
393	326	