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The Annual Reports
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
AND THE
Medical Inspection of the Children
of the Elementary Schools
FOR THE YEAR **1910,**

BY
HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond. F.I.C., &c.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

TAUNTON:
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BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1910.

Population of Borough (1901)	..	..	..	21,087
Estimated Population to middle of 1910..	..	..	..	22,392
Area in Statute Acres	..	..	..	1,438
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	..	21·0
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	..	12·6
Zymotic Death-rate	..	..	..	·2
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	..	..	..	76·2

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this, my Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Health of the Borough, I am glad to be able to speak very favourably of its condition during the past year.

The chief points to which I would direct your attention are the diminished Death-rate, Zymotic Death-rate and Infantile Mortality, and the subject of the Dwellings of the Working Classes as carried out under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

I. Mortality during 1910.

The total Deaths during 1910 were 284, or at the rate of 12·6 per 1,000.

This is the lowest Death-rate that has been registered during my experience, and as before the year 1873 it was much higher, I may assume that it is the lowest on record.

This represents the gross number of Deaths, but non-residents dying in the Borough and residents dying outside the Borough must be taken into consideration in arriving at the net Death-rate.

Of the former (non-residents dying in the Borough) the number was 32, viz., 23 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and 9 in the Union Workhouse.

This reduces the total number to 252. But 10 residents died at Cotford Asylum (outside the Borough). If these be added we get a total of 262, or a net Death-rate of 11·7 per 1,000.

(a) LOCALITIES.

The Deaths were distributed, as regards localities, as follows :—

Borough	198
Taunton and Somerset Hospital	54
Union Workhouse	32
Total	284

(b) SEXES.

Of these 284 Deaths, 139 were Males and 145 Females.

(c) AGES AT DEATH.

These were as follows :—

Under 1 Year	36
1 to 5 years	16
5 to 15 „	7
15 to 25 „	11
25 to 65 „	107
65 years and upwards	107
Total	284

(d) DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

86 Deaths occurred in Public Institutions, viz., 54 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and 32 in the Union Workhouse.

(1) *Taunton and Somerset Hospital.*

Urban cases	31
Rural „	2
Non-residents from without both Districts ..	21
	—
	54

(2) *Union Workhouse.*

Urban cases	23
Rural „	9
	—
	32

II. Causes of Death.

(a) ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Deaths from these Diseases were particularly small, being only 6, the average number in the preceding 10 years being 18. They were :—

Measles	3 deaths.
Diphtheria	1 „
Enteric Fever	2 „

The Zymotic Death-rate is thus .2 per 1,000, the average of the preceding ten years being .8.

I would draw attention to the fact that notwithstanding an extensive epidemic of Measles, only 3 deaths were attributable to it.

On the two former occasions during the decade when Measles was epidemic—viz., 1903 and 1906, the Deaths due to it were 25 and 13 respectively.

I will refer to what I consider this reduction is due further on in my Report.

(b) DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The other chief Diseases which caused Death were :—

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	16
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	6
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	11
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	..	19
Other Tuberculous Disease	..	..	..	..	..	5
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	23
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	2
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	13
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Births	..	..	..	..	..	9
Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	4

In comparing these with last year's Table it will be found that Lung and Heart Diseases are below those then recorded. The Deaths in the two years were :—

	1909.	1910.
Pneumonia	14	6
Phthisis	25	19
Bronchitis	23	11
Influenza	10	1
Tuberculous Disease	10	5
Heart Disease	32	16

Although the seasons to the casual observer were most unpropitious, from a health point of view, they were quite the reverse. To the absence of extremes of temperature, rendering it more equable, and to the thorough cleansing of air and earth by the excessive rainfall, I believe much of this is due.

In fact, in the month of June, the Death-rate was reduced to its record minimum, viz., 3·6 per 1,000.

III. Births in 1910.

The total Births in 1910 were 472, or at the rate of 21.0 per 1,000. Of these 26 were illegitimate.

Infantile Mortality.

It is a subject for congratulation that at last the Infant Mortality is diminishing.

This "Slaughter of the Innocents," as it has been termed, has been for years a scandal. This year the mortality is the lowest on record. The total Deaths under one year were only 36, or at the rate of 76.2 per 1,000 Births.

Although this should, and I believe will be in time greatly reduced, a glance at the following Table will show that much has been accomplished.

INFANTILE DEATH-RATE FOR THE YEARS 1901-10.

Year.	Number of Births.					Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births.	
1901	..	..	..	502	..	..	135.4
1902	..	..	..	485	..	..	131.0
1903	..	..	..	532	..	..	161.0
1904	..	..	..	503	..	..	97.4
1905	..	..	..	515	..	..	100.9
1906	..	..	..	489	..	..	122.7
1907	..	..	..	556	..	..	138.4
1908	..	..	..	483	..	..	132.5
1909	..	..	..	466	..	..	111.5
1910	..	..	..	472	..	..	76.2

This reduction I believe to be entirely due to the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, and the appointment of a Health Visitor.

The former tells me of the Births which occur day by day in the Borough, and the visits of the Health Visitor put us in possession of the facts with regard to the home life of the Infant and ensures to a great extent that its feeding, clothing and general condition is

what it should be. If this be done a diminished Death-rate must result.

I regret to have to state that a few cases have occurred during the year where early Deaths due to Enteritis have been registered where the Birth was not notified, and I have advised your Health Committee that legal steps should be taken under the Act if this continues. Ignorance may be pleaded by the Father, but one can hardly imagine that *all* present at the Birth do not know of the existence of the Act, and it is the duty "of any person upon attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after, the Birth" to give notice to the Medical Officer of Health.

However, generally speaking, notice is in nearly all cases freely and gladly given.

The total number of notifications of Births I received during the year was 424.

IV. Sickness during 1910.

(a) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of Notifications received were 63, which were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	49 cases.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	4 „
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	3 „
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	7 „
						—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	63

This is at the rate of 2·8 per 1,000 of the Population.

35 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria and 1 case of Enteric Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The two other cases of Enteric Fever were in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 15 cases of Scarlet Fever were in a School in the town, and were removed to the Isolation Hospital as there was no means of thorough Isolation. Strange to say, the same thing happened in the same School two years ago.

(b) OTHER CASES OF SICKNESS.

The chief Disease prevailing during the year was Measles. The cases were all reported to me as School Medical Officer on their occurrence by the Teachers of the various Schools. It was almost entirely confined to the Infant Departments, and spread very rapidly, one School after another being affected, so that I had to advise the closing of the Infant Departments of 6 Schools.

The School Nurse visited the homes of all the cases, and I believe it was greatly due to her supervision that the Mortality was so low, only 3 out of over 400 cases. The complications of Measles, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and the like, often brought on by carelessness, in former outbreaks always caused a heavy mortality, as I have already mentioned.

The outbreak of Enteric Fever, which I mentioned in my last year's Report, and which originated in a case in the House of the Milker at the Farm whence the milk was supplied, entirely disappeared on the supply being stopped.

V. Medical Inspection of Schools.

During the year 1910 I inspected 966 children in the Elementary Schools of the Borough.

As the subject is fully treated in my Annual School Report, which accompanies this, I will only say that I found a marked improvement in the children, both as regards cleanliness and general healthiness.

I cannot say as much for some of the School Buildings, which required the attention not only of the Education, but also of your Health Committee.

VI. Condition of Housing of Working Classes.

A great advance has been made during the year in legislation to provide for the better Housing of the Working Classes.

The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, supplements the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and renders action more simple and more efficient.

All Houses reported to your Authority as being so injurious or dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation, can now be dealt with at once without an application to the Courts. If satisfied with the report an order is to be made prohibiting the use of the dwelling-house for human habitation until, in the judgment of the local Authority, the dwelling-house is rendered fit for that purpose.

Notice of a closing order is to be served forthwith on the owner, and any owner aggrieved by such order may appeal to the Local Government Board within 14 days after the order is served upon him.

When the closing order becomes operative, nothing having been done, notices are to be served on the Tenants to cease to inhabit the house, and in default an eviction order may be served, and if the condition of the house is not due to the wilful act of the Tenant, he may be compensated by the Local Authority, and this may be recovered from the owner.

If, however, the dwelling-house is made habitable, the Local Authority shall determine the closing order.

If, however, a closing order has remained operative for a period of three months, the subject of demolition of the house must be considered.

Notice of this must be given to the owner, who may appear before the Authority, and if aggrieved may appeal to the Local Government Board.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Further than this, the Local Authority on an official representation of an unhealthy area, must consider, and if satisfied of the truth of it, must declare the area to be unhealthy, and proceed to make an improvement scheme.

It will thus be seen that the powers vested in Sanitary Authorities are greatly enlarged and strengthened.

It is my duty to inspect the District and report the results to your Authority.

This I have begun during the past year, with the following results :—

25 Closing Orders were served affecting 44 Houses.

6 of these Closing Orders have become operative, and 5 were determined.

12 Notices were served on the owners of 20 Houses *re* Demolition Notices, and 5 Orders for Demolition were made affecting 10 Houses.

12 Houses have been demolished. These were in a ruinous and wretched condition, and in many instances obstructed light and ventilation of the surrounding area. By their disappearance the adjoining Houses have greatly benefitted.

54 Houses have also been dealt with under Section 15 of this Act, and the necessary repairs have been carried out.

All this work is outside the action which has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1875. No less than 172 Notices having been so served.

Sufficiency of open space around Dwelling-houses is most necessary, and in some places in the town is very deficient.

These will have to be dealt with, and my inspection is being continued, and I hope by the time it is completed that a great improvement will be made.

Two obstacles stand in the way of these improvements. First, the unwillingness of the owners or their agents in many cases to carry out the necessary work. The dirty habits of the Tenants, and the difficulty of getting the rent, being their chief arguments.

Secondly, the inability of Tenants to pay anything but a very small rent.

There can be no doubt that in the future the difficulty will have to be solved by the provision by the Local Authority of proper dwellings for the working classes, such dwellings being so situated and constructed as to fulfil all sanitary requirements, and at the same time to be of such a moderate rent as to be within the means of the Tenants.

The power to carry out these schemes is afforded by the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Statistics will be found in the Tabular Report of the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Northcombe), which accompanies this Report, of the work that has been carried out during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

This during the year has been ample and constant.

My Quarterly Analysis of the water shows that it quite maintains its quality.

The excessive rainfall has caused the reservoirs not only to be full but to run to waste.

As I have previously remarked, to render it perfect for table use, it should be run through a Pasteur or Berkefield Filter.

For washing purposes it cannot be excelled, on account of its softness.

SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works have well continued their work during the year. Some of the contact beds have required renewal, otherwise they call for no remark.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

These number 37, and are frequently inspected and are well kept.

The Milk supply is good and wholesome. No cases of Tuberculous Milk have been noticed.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are now 32 in the Borough ; no underground one exists.

They are inspected and periodically lime-washed according to the Bye-laws.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 2 licensed and 8 registered Slaughter-Houses in the Town.

A Public Abattoir is what is required to replace the present existing private Slaughter-Houses, which as a rule are in close proximity to dwellings.

This would ensure the discovery of Tuberculous and other Diseased Meat more easily than at present exists.

I have no doubt that the difficulty will be solved by legislation before long.

No cases of Tuberculous Meat were discovered and no unsound food during the year.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

I inspected these during the year, and found several sanitary defects, the result was that the license was withdrawn in one case, and two were granted after the necessary works were carried out.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

82 Inspections were made of the Factories in the Town, 519 of the Workshops, and 27 of the Workplaces during 1910. Their general condition was satisfactory.

Defects from time to time crop up, and as will be seen by the Table, 70 such have been dealt with. They were chiefly due to want of cleanliness, and as regards Bakehouses, want of lime-washing.

Section 22 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, is in force in the District, and the Sanitary accommodation is both sufficient and satisfactory.

For further particulars I would refer you to my Annual Report on the administration of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, which is attached to this Report.

METEOROLOGY OF 1910.

The year 1910 was remarkable chiefly for its very heavy rainfall, its low amount of sunshine, and the absence of great extremes of temperature.

The rainfall was very much above the average. It amounted to 42.90 inches, the average being 27.79, it was thus no less than 15.11 inches above the average. It frequently doubled, and on two occasions trebled the Monthly Average.

The only months in which less than an inch fell were March and September.

On the last three months of the year no less than 17·94 inches fell, and it rained on 61 days of the 92.

This is without precedent in my experience, which extends over a number of years.

Notwithstanding this, and possibly partly in consequence of this, the year has been as I have previously stated remarkably healthy, far more so than in former years.

I have given in a Table attached to this Report the Monthly Register of both the Barometer and Thermometer, their mean and maximum and minimum, and also the hours and days of sunshine, and the inches of rain, and number of days on which it fell.

A Chart is kept in the Hall of the Municipal Buildings on which these various items are daily recorded.

TABLES.

Eight Tables accompany this Report, five deal with the Sickness and Mortality of the District, one with the work done under the Factory and Workshops Act, another is a Meteorological Table, and the last Table supplied by the Sanitary Inspector of the work done by him during the year.

In concluding this Report I cannot but express the belief that it is in every way satisfactory.

The Death-rate is low, so too is the Zymotic Death-rate, and also (which I look upon as a special subject for congratulation) the Infantile Mortality has very materially diminished.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1910 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.						Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.							Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*							
								5	6					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1900	20,395	535	26.2	84	157.0	427	19.2	77	46	8	389	19.2		
1901	21,078	502	23.8	68	135.4	335	14.2	80	41	7	301	14.2		
1902	21,227	488	22.9	64	131.1	353	16.6	94	45	12	320	15.0		
1903	21,367	532	24.8	85	159.7	380	17.7	63	26	9	363	16.9		
1904	21,516	503	23.3	49	97.7	340	15.8	96	44	19	331	15.3		
1905	21,647	515	23.7	52	100.9	306	14.1	76	41	8	273	12.6		
1906	21,796	489	22.4	60	122.7	381	17.4	112	55	13	339	15.5		
1907	21,945	556	25.3	77	138.4	366	16.6	101	41	11	336	15.3		
1908	22,096	483	20.1	64	132.5	384	17.4	112	59	5	323	15.2		
1909	22,243	466	20.9	53	113.7	335	15.0	85	34	5	305	13.7		
Averages for years 1900-1909		506	23.3	65	128.9	360	16.4	89	41	9	328	14.9		
1910	22,392	472	21.0	36	76.2	284	12.6	86	32	10	262	11.7		

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)... }
1,435

Total population at all ages ... }
Number of inhabited houses ... }
Average number of persons per house ... }

At Census of 1901.
21,078
4,514
5

TABLE II.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1910
and previous years.

YEAR.	TAUNTON REGISTRATION DISTRICT.			
	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under One Year.
1900	20,395	535	427	84
1901	21,078	502	335	68
1902	21,227	488	353	64
1903	21,367	532	380	85
1904	21,516	503	340	49
1905	21,647	515	306	52
1906	21,796	489	381	60
1907	21,945	556	366	77
1908	22,096	483	384	64
1909	22,243	466	335	53
Averages of years 1900-1909		506	360	65
1910	22,392	472	284	36

TABLE III.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (includi'g Membranous Croup)	4	1	...	2	...	1	...	3
Erysipelas	7	...	...	...	1	3	3	...
Scarlet fever ..	49	...	7	37	4	1	...	35
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	1	..	...	...	...	1	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	64	1	7	39	5	9	3	41

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year, 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Other continued ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ...	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	13	8	1	..	..	2	2	2
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	19	..	..	..	3	12	4	1
Other tuberculous diseases	5	..	2	1	..	2	..	4
Cancer, malignant disease	23	..	..	..	..	15	8	10
Bronchitis	11	1	2	..	..	5	3	1
Pneumonia	6	1	2	..	..	1	2	2
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of respira- tory organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of liver } ...	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	2
Venereal diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases... ..	16	..	..	..	..	12	4	7
Accidents	4	..	..	2	..	1	1	2
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	167	17	6	4	13	44	83	52
All causes	284	36	16	7	16	102	107	86

TABLE IV. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Report of the Sanitary Officer, 1891.

Wards.	Population.		Deaths.		Burials.		Males.		Females.		Total.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
St. Andrew's	1,200	1,150	15	12	18	15	600	580	600	570	1,200	1,150
St. George's	1,500	1,450	20	18	22	20	750	720	750	730	1,500	1,450
St. James's	1,800	1,750	25	22	28	25	900	870	900	880	1,800	1,750
St. John's	2,000	1,950	30	28	32	30	1,000	980	1,000	970	2,000	1,950
St. Mary's	2,200	2,150	35	32	38	35	1,100	1,080	1,100	1,070	2,200	2,150
St. Michael's	2,500	2,450	40	38	42	40	1,250	1,220	1,250	1,230	2,500	2,450
St. Peter's	2,800	2,750	45	42	48	45	1,400	1,380	1,400	1,370	2,800	2,750
St. Thomas's	3,000	2,950	50	48	52	50	1,500	1,480	1,500	1,470	3,000	2,950
St. Vincent's	3,200	3,150	55	52	58	55	1,600	1,580	1,600	1,570	3,200	3,150
St. William's	3,500	3,450	60	58	62	60	1,750	1,720	1,750	1,730	3,500	3,450
Total	20,000	19,500	250	230	270	250	10,000	9,800	10,000	9,700	20,000	19,500

TABLE V. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
All causes.	Certified	13	3	2	..	18	3	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	1	..	1	36
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
I. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
II. Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diarrhoea (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis (Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis)	..	..	1	..	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	13
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal catarrh	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Premature birth	8	1	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
III. Wasting Diseases.	Congenital defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of breast-milk, Starvation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, debility, marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Tuberculous meningitis	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
IV. Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous peritonitis: tabes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Other Causes.	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	Meningitis (not tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlying	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Other causes	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
		13	3	2	..	18	3	1	4	1	1	2	3	1	1	..	1	36

Births in the year - Legitimate, 258 ; illegitimate, 26.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 284.

Population, estimated to middle of 1910, 22,392.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1910.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January ...	29.52	30.50	29.17	40.3 ⁰	54 ⁰	15 ⁰	63.0	14	4.18	20
February ...	29.39	30.23	29.06	41.6 ⁰	55 ⁰	30 ⁰	90.5	7	4.56	22
March ...	30.08	30.51	29.73	43.0 ⁰	59 ⁰	24 ⁰	161.5	3	.51	6
*April ...	29.48	30.44	29.02	46.2 ⁰	61 ⁰	25 ⁰	138.0	4	2.79	18
May ...	29.85	30.34	29.44	53.5 ⁰	76 ⁰	29 ⁰	223.0	1	2.69	18
June ...	29.87	30.34	29.46	59.3 ⁰	76 ⁰	43 ⁰	182.0	4	3.16	14
July ...	29.88	30.16	29.49	58.8 ⁰	78 ⁰	44 ⁰	179.0	3	2.42	16
August ...	29.84	30.20	29.45	60.0 ⁰	76 ⁰	43 ⁰	183.5	1	4.34	21
September ...	30.21	30.45	29.87	54.6 ⁰	70 ⁰	31 ⁰	156.5	1	.31	4
October ...	29.98	30.54	29.68	51.8 ⁰	69 ⁰	39 ⁰	63.5	13	6.64	18
November ...	29.62	30.20	28.84	40.3 ⁰	57 ⁰	21 ⁰	91.0	8	4.86	21
December ...	29.60	30.47	28.82	40.9 ⁰	56 ⁰	24 ⁰	47.5	10	6.44	21

WELDON JACOBSON 1910

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the Year 1910,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TAUNTON,

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

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

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.)	82	...	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries.)	519	7	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	27	...	...
Total	628	7	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

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	29	29	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	3	3	...	...
Sanitary { insufficient	1	1	...	...
{ unsuitable or de- accommo- fective	8	8	...	...
{ not separate for dation sexes	1	1	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	28	28	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report.)	...	...	...	...
Total	70	70	...	...

FOR THE YEAR 1901
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AND TERRITORIES

Published by the Surgeon-General, War Department

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Medical Clinics	415
Medical Hospitals	425
Medical Asylums	435
Medical Dispensaries	445
Medical Out-patient Departments	455
Medical Ambulances	465
Medical Trains	475
Medical Ships	485
Medical Airships	495
Medical Automobiles	505
Medical Bicycles	515
Medical Motorcycles	525
Medical Tractors	535
Medical Locomotives	545
Medical Steamships	555
Medical Steamships	565
Medical Steamships	575
Medical Steamships	585
Medical Steamships	595
Medical Steamships	605
Medical Steamships	615
Medical Steamships	625
Medical Steamships	635
Medical Steamships	645
Medical Steamships	655
Medical Steamships	665
Medical Steamships	675
Medical Steamships	685
Medical Steamships	695
Medical Steamships	705
Medical Steamships	715
Medical Steamships	725
Medical Steamships	735
Medical Steamships	745
Medical Steamships	755
Medical Steamships	765
Medical Steamships	775
Medical Steamships	785
Medical Steamships	795
Medical Steamships	805
Medical Steamships	815
Medical Steamships	825
Medical Steamships	835
Medical Steamships	845
Medical Steamships	855
Medical Steamships	865
Medical Steamships	875
Medical Steamships	885
Medical Steamships	895
Medical Steamships	905
Medical Steamships	915
Medical Steamships	925
Medical Steamships	935
Medical Steamships	945
Medical Steamships	955
Medical Steamships	965
Medical Steamships	975
Medical Steamships	985
Medical Steamships	995

...

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

3.—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.																			OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESALE PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN IN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110		
NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.							Addresses of Outworkers.		Notices served on Occu- pied as keeping to other or sending lists.	Prosecutions.		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.	Instances.	(14)	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (s. 110).	Prosecutions (sections 109, 110).				
	Twice in the Year.		Once in the Year.		Re- ceived from other Coun- cils.	For- warded to other Coun- cils.	Fail- ing to keep or per- mit in- spec- tion of Lists.	Fail- ing to send Lists.																
	Lists.	Con- tractors	Work- men.	Lists.					Con- tractors		Work- men.													
												(2)									(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)						
Wearing Apparel—																								
(1) Making, &c.	44	...	475	...	...	...	...	747	...	...	...	327	8	5	...	1	2	...	...	...				
(2) Cleaning and washing	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Lace, lace curtains and nets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Artificial Flowers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Nets, other than wire nets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Tents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Sacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Furniture and Upholstery	4	...	48	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Fur pulling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Feather sorting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Umbrellas, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Paper Bags and Boxes	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Basket making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Brush making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Racquet and Tennis Balls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Stuffed Toys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
File making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Electro Plate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Cables and Chains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Anchor and Grapnels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Cart Gear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Locks, Latches and Keys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Pea picking	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Total	52	...	529	...	...	...	1	773	...	...	...	381	8	5	...	1	2	...	...	...				

FROM 1801-1802

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
(1)		(2)
Important classes of Workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	32
	Dressmakers, Milliners, Tailors, Glove and Gaiter ..	43
	Boots & Shoes, Dyer, Laundry, Jeweller, Basket ...	24
	Brush and Clogs, Cabinet and Upholsterers, Plumber and Painter	23
	Saddler, Rags, Carpenter, Carriage, Cycle	39
	Smith and Wheelwright, Engraver, Guns, Sculptor ...	16
	Scales, Tinmen, Box (paper), Organ, Piano	8
	Sugar Boiler, Photographer, Picture, Wool Store, Bottle Washing	10
	Domestic Workshops	136
	Work-places	13
Total number of workshops on Register *		344

* 195 Workshops, 136 Domestic Workshops, and 13 Workplaces.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
(1)	(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) ...	8
Other	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	
Certificates granted during the year	...
In use at the end of the year	...

February, 1911.

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1910 (J. W. Northcombe, F.I.S.E., Cert. Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer		50	
Number of Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c. ...		1,924	
Results of Inspection.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c. P. H. Acts	172	
	Notices under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	102	
	Houses closed. H. and T. P. Act, 1909	44	
	Houses demolished. H. and T. P. Act, 1909	12	
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Lime-washed, &c.	267	
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character	98	
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test	295	
	Pollution of Stream	1	
Drains (House)	Soil Pipes Repaired or Renewed	14	
	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	156	
Water Closets.	Repaired	190	
	Supplied with Water	9	
	New Provided	10	
Dust Bins.	Repaired, Covered, &c.	1	
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed	2	
	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c.	2	
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water	7	
	Wells unfit for Use and Condemned	1	
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered	2	
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to	314	
	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse	56	
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept	34	
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses	32
		Licensed Cowsheds	5
		Dairies and Milkshops, &c.	37
		Licensed Slaughter-houses, 2 ; Registered, 8	10
Articles of Bedding, &c., Disinfected at Steam Disinfector ...		3,006	

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer for the Year 1910.

To the Taunton Education Committee.

Taunton, January, 1911.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as Medical Inspector of the Children in the Elementary Schools of the Borough during the year 1910.

In accordance with the Code of the Board of Education the children that have been inspected were chiefly those leaving Schools, for which I took all over twelve years of age, and new comers.

Amongst these latter have been taken all those who have been moved up from the Infant Departments to the Higher School, but who have not been examined before, as well as new comers to the School.

As on former years I will take the various matters seriatim.

I. NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

The total number inspected was 966. The number of boys and girls was, strange to say, the same—483 of each.

This makes a total of 3,084 examined in the three years—1908, 1909, and 1910.

Table I. shows the numbers in the ten schools of the town.

TABLE I.

SCHOOLS.				Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
North Town Council	..	..	..	112	69	181
St. Andrew's	..	..	..	81	100	181
Central	..	..	..	49	82	131
Trinity	..	..	..	72	66	138
St. James'	..	..	..	60	54	114
South Street	..	..	..	37	36	73
Memorial	..	..	..	34	36	70
St. John's	..	..	..	16	16	32
Original Infants	..	..	..	17	21	38
St. George's	..	..	..	5	3	8
Total	..	..	..	483	483	966

The largest number was in North Town Council School and St. Andrew's, which were identical—181 in each.

The Central and Trinity Schools were about the same—131 and 138.

II. AGES OF CHILDREN EXAMINED.

Of the 966 children examined 237 were under five years of age, 525 between five and twelve years, and 204 above twelve years.

The ages and sexes examined at the various schools are given in the following Table.

III. PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN.

1. *Previous Illnesses.*

The personal history of each child is enquired into with the following results :—

628 of the children had suffered from Measles, 301 boys and 327 girls.

298 had had Whooping Cough, 133 boys and 165 girls.

182 had had Chicken Pox, 82 boys and 100 girls.

41 had had Scarlet Fever, 17 boys and 24 girls ; and 4 girls Diphtheria.

These will be found detailed in Table III.

TABLE II.

Children Inspected 1910, according to School, Ages, and Sexes.

SCHOOL.	2 years.		3 years.		4 years.		5 years.		6 years.		7 years.		8 years.		9 years.		10 years.		11 years.		12 years.		13 years.		14 years.		TOTALS.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	
North Town Council	..	..	7	9	11	9	9	9	9	9	14	15	12	6	9	6	6	1	9	1	18	3	8	1	..	..	112	69	181
St. Andrew's ..	..	..	8	16	6	15	14	7	3	6	2	16	..	15	2	3	4	..	18	2	21	17	3	3	..	..	81	100	181
Central	..	..	15	8	2	9	6	6	2	8	1	16	..	16	..	2	1	1	3	3	14	11	4	2	1	..	49	82	131
Trinity	..	..	11	7	13	8	12	8	1	6	12	21	6	5	6	1	2	5	2	2	4	1	2	2	1	..	72	66	138
St. James'	..	..	6	7	15	5	8	5	9	6	4	4	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	16	22	2	1	..	..	60	54	114
South Street ..	..	..	3	5	4	8	3	2	4	1	5	1	12	10	4	6	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	37	36	73
Memorial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	4	3	8	2	2	1	2	..	1	13	19	3	..	..	..	34	36	70
St. John's	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	4	3	..	1	..	..	16	16	32
Original Infants ..	..	..	10	8	5	4	1	6	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	21	38
St. George's ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Total	..	..	62	60	57	58	56	46	33	44	49	78	34	62	24	21	15	12	37	14	92	78	22	10	2	..	483	483	966

TABLE III.

Previous Illnesses of Children Tabulated according to School and Sex.

SCHOOL.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Other Disease.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
North Town Council	51	41	..	20	..	18	..	3	..	1	..	..
St. Andrew's	56	67	34	35	20	22	10	7	..	..	3	7
Central	31	53	19	33	7	15	1	1	..	2	1	3
Trinity	50	50	28	28	21	16	2	5	..	1	..	2
St. James'	50	46	13	18	12	11	..	4	..	..	..	..
South Street	18	20	11	12	3	2	3	..	..	..	2	..
Memorial	23	31	12	11	12	11	..	3	..	..	..	..
St. John's	11	9	8	5	2	3	1	1	..	..	1	1
Original Infants	9	9	5	3	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's	2	1	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

2. *Family Medical History.*

This is always enquired into, and I found that Phthisis had existed in 50 families.

IV. STANDARDS AND ATTENDANCES.

With regard to the various Standards, 436 were grouped under the head of Infants, 118 were in the first standard, 121 in the second, 32 in the third, 25 in the fourth, 105 in the fifth, 113 in the sixth, and 16 in the seventh.

The attendances were generally good, only 68 being returned as irregular, of which 46 were fair, and 22 bad in their attendance.

V. GENERAL, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION AND DEFECTS.

1. *Clothing and Footgear.*

This has improved in the children that have come under my notice, 8 only having bad clothes or boots—6 of these were boys and 2 girls.

There is more attention evidently paid to the children by their mothers than formerly.

2. *Nutrition.*

This I found deficient in 36 cases, 15 boys and 21 girls being ill-nourished. Most of these cases were due rather to poverty at home than to any physical deficiency on the part of the child. The School Nurse has paid attention to these cases, and beneficial results have followed.

3. *Condition of Skin.*

This is much improved. The children are much cleaner than formerly.

This is shown by the great diminution in the case of Verminous Heads. These numbered only 55, whereas in the preceding year they were 81, and in the year before 101, so that there has been an improvement of nearly 50 per cent. in the two years.

There were only 5 cases of Ringworm; here again is an improvement of over 50 per cent.

TABLE IV.

Standards and Attendances of Children.

SCHOOL.	Infants.		1st Standard.		2nd Standard.		3rd Standard.		4th Standard.		5th Standard.		6th Standard.		7th Standard.		ATTENDANCE.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Fair.	Bad.
North Town C. . .	36	33	23	19	12	6	6	1	7	..	11	3	11	7	6	..	5	1
St. Andrew's . .	32	50	1	..	1	29	1	..	2	..	25	11	19	10	..	..	5	9
Central . .	26	30	..	16	..	17	..	8	..	8	3	3	19	..	1	..	..	4
Trinity . .	38	27	15	23	4	4	6	3	1	1	2	4	3	1	3	3	..	..
St. James' . .	42	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	15	9	8	2	1	..	..
South Street . .	19	18	..	..	17	18	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	19	5
Memorial . .	..	..	11	7	6	6	2	..	1	3	8	8	6	12	..	..	15	3
St. John's . .	6	8	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	2	3	..	6	..	..	..	2	..
Original Infants	17	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's . .	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Total . .	218	218	53	65	40	81	15	17	11	14	60	45	74	39	12	4	46	22

Both of these were much more frequent in girls than boys, in the ratio of 50 to 10. The long hair of the girls being the cause of its greater frequency.

4. *Condition of Teeth.*

These are very unsatisfactory, no less than 420, out of the 966, having carious teeth.

As regards cleanliness, however, there is an improvement.

When it is considered what an important part sound teeth play in digestion, it is absolutely necessary that something should be done to ameliorate the present evil.

It is very desirable that a Dentist should be appointed to attend to this, and arrangements might be made whereby this could be done. The sooner it is done the better, for when Caries once begins it often rapidly spreads, and the child's teeth are damaged for life.

5. *Nose and Throat.*

17 cases of Enlarged Tonsils, and 14 of Adenoids, came under my notice.

Medical advice was strongly recommended in these cases.

6. *Vision.*

174 cases of Defective Vision were detected. These, as a rule, were of a mild type.

I advised the avoidance of all strain on the eyes, such as is brought about by reading small print, fine needle work, or working or reading with deficient light, or for a prolonged time.

If these points are attended to I am confident that a large number of the cases would improve.

Spectacles were advised in all cases needing them. They can be obtained at a comparatively small cost, and I would urge on your Committee the desirability of providing them free of cost in cases where the parents are too poor to obtain them.

The number of girls with defective sight greatly exceeded the boys.

7. *Ear Disease and Hearing.*

Only 1 case of Partial Deafness was found.

There were 3 cases of Ear Disease, which are always of a serious nature, and medical treatment was insisted on.

8. *Mental Condition.*

4 cases of Dull Intellect were discovered, 2 being girls and 2 boys.

9. *Heart and Circulation.*

1 case of Valvular Disease of the Heart (probably congenital) and 2 cases of Anæmia came under observation.

10. *Lung Disease.*

No case of Lung Disease or Tuberculosis was discovered.

11. *Nervous System.*

1 case of Infantile Paralysis was found. It had, however, greatly improved.

12. *Deformities and Spinal Disease.*

2 cases of Ricketts, 1 of Club-foot, 1 of Knock-knee, and 1 of Deformity, due to excision of hip joint, came to my notice.

13. *Infectious Disease.*

The only case of Infectious Disease was one of Mumps, which was promptly sent home.

Towards the end of the year Mumps and Measles appeared and rapidly spread. They were not confined to the town, but prevailed in parts of the neighbouring Rural Districts and the County generally.

I advised the closure of the Infant Departments of 6 schools, viz., St. James', St. Andrew's, North Town Council School, the Central, Trinity, and the Original Infant School.

A large number of cases of Measles occurred, but only 3 were fatal. The School Nurse visited and saw that the patients were properly looked after, and to this I believe, to a great extent, is due the low mortality.

The whole subject of School Closure is a difficult one, but especially is this the case with Measles.

The patient, being in an infective state before the rash appears, no notice is taken, and the mischief is already done as regards the risk of its spreading.

If one listened to the wishes of some of the Teachers and Managers one would close the schools on the slightest pretext, but I do not believe that that would be for the benefit of the children.

The object of the School Medical Officer and the Managers are not quite similar, the former's object is to take steps to prevent the spread of the Disease, the latter's is not to lose the grant.

Hence a difference of opinion is apt to arise.

The intervention of the Christmas Holidays fortunately put an end to the epidemic, and the schools reopened after the vacation with a good attendance.

VI. HEIGHT AND WEIGHT OF CHILDREN.

A Table is given of the average Height and Weight of the children examined at the various ages—from 3 to 13 years.

These are expressed in the English and Metric systems.

The sexes are differentiated, and as was to be expected, the boys exceeded the girls both in height and weight as a rule.

VII. GENERAL CONDITION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL PREMISES.

I have frequently and also at stated intervals visited the various schools to ascertain the condition in which they were kept.

Before the summer holidays I drew up a Report of what I considered should be done to put them in a thorough sanitary condition, and with only two or three exceptions the work was carried out.

A grave responsibility rests upon the Managers to see that the Caretakers perform their duties efficiently.

Not only are dirty schools detrimental to the health of the children, but, as I before remarked, they form a very bad object lesson to them. One cannot expect children to be cleanly in their persons if they see that the school premises are dirty and untidy.

TABLE V.

Average Height and Weight of Children at Various Ages.

AGES.					HEIGHT.		WEIGHT.		
					English ft. ins.	Metric Centi- metres.	English. st. lbs.	Metric Kilograms.	
Boys—									
3 years	..	..	..	..	3 2	96·7	2 6	15·4	
4 "	..	..	..	..	3 4	101·6	2 7	15·9	
5 "	..	..	..	..	3 5	104·2	2 8	16·3	
6 "	..	..	..	..	3 7	109·2	3 1	19·5	
7 "	..	..	..	..	3 8	111·8	3 3	20·4	
8 "	..	..	..	..	3 7	109·2	3 5	21·4	
9 "	..	..	..	..	4 0	121·9	3 8	22·7	
10 "	..	..	..	..	4 5	134·6	4 5	27·7	
11 "	..	..	..	..	4 6	137·2	4 5	27·7	
12 "	..	..	..	..	4 6	137·2	5 1	32·2	
13 "	..	..	..	..	4 7	139·7	5 1	32·2	
14 "	..	..	..	..	4 9	144·8	5 3	33·1	
Girls—									
3 years	..	..	..	..	3 1	94·0	2 6	15·4	
4 "	..	..	..	..	3 4	101·6	2 6	15·4	
5 "	..	..	..	..	3 5	104·2	3 2	19·9	
6 "	..	..	..	..	3 6	106·6	2 9	16·8	
7 "	..	..	..	..	3 9	114·3	3 3	20·4	
8 "	..	..	..	..	3 7	109·2	3 5	21·4	
9 "	..	..	..	..	4 0	121·9	3 6	21·8	
10 "	..	..	..	..	4 4	132·0	4 1	25·8	
11 "	..	..	..	..	4 5	134·6	4 5	27·7	
12 "	..	..	..	..	4 1	124·4	4 6	28·1	
13 "	..	..	..	..	4 9	144·8	5 2	32·6	
14 "	..	..	..	..					

I consider that in many of the schools more strict supervision of the Caretakers is necessary.

In my opinion the floors should be scrubbed more frequently, and greater attention paid to dusting.

The ventilation of many of the schools should be looked to, and the opening of windows be more rigidly enforced.

VIII. GENERAL REMARKS.

The Head Teachers have during the year kept me well supplied—on Forms provided for that purpose—with all cases of Contagious and Infectious Disease, and also of other cases of illness which are keeping the children from school.

By this means the cases are looked up. The homes are inspected, and proper medical treatment insisted on; and in this way many children have returned to school at a much earlier period than they otherwise would have.

I am always glad to examine any child the Teachers may wish looked to, and the School Nurse is most energetic in her work in visiting them at their homes, and to do all in her power for their welfare.

Miss Bradley, the former School Nurse, having obtained a similar post in Leicestershire, resigned, and Miss Reynolds was in April last appointed in her place. She has the great advantage of knowing the town thoroughly, and also most of the people in it.

One other subject I would refer to, and that is to the treatment of the various defects and ailments detected.

Mere statistical statements are of little value, and even inspection is of but comparatively small use unless it is followed up by treatment.

I do not consider in a small town like this a School Clinic is necessary. The existence of Medical Clubs to which a large number of children belong, the plentiful supply of doctors, and the existence of a General and Isolation Hospital ought to be sufficient for the majority of cases requiring treatment. But I venture to repeat an opinion I have already expressed, that a Dentist should be

appointed to look after the teeth of the children, which in such a large number of cases are faulty.

In conclusion I wish to thank your Committee and Sub-Committees for the great assistance they have always been to me, and for the readiness shown me in adopting and in helping me to carry out the various works I have thought necessary.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,
School Medical Officer.



