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AC 4434(1) TAUNTON

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

1912

BY
HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond., F.I.C., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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1913



BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1912.

Population of Borough (census 1911)	..	..	22,563
Estimated Population to middle of 1912..	..	..	22,710
Area in Statute Acres	..	..	1,390
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	19.3
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	13.6
Zymotic Death-rate	..	..	.8
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	..	..	93.1

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Health of the Borough of Taunton during the year 1912.

Speaking generally it will compare very favourably with former years. The death-rate has been low, there has been an absence of any serious epidemic, there has been ample supply of good water, and the improvement of the dwellings of the working-classes has come out of the regions of idealism, to the more practical one of realism.

Not only have a number of houses been condemned, and many made good, but a scheme for building good and comfortable dwellings has been developed.

Proceeding as in former years I will first deal with the Vital Statistics of the year, and then consider in detail the Sanitary work that has been carried out.

I may further add that the year is very remarkable for its rainfall, which although at no time exceptionally heavy was very persistent, so that it was no less than eleven inches above the average

of preceding years. And, notwithstanding, the death-rate was less than in previous years. I shall speak more fully of this when I come to the Meteorology of the year.

II. Vital Statistics.

DEATHS IN 1912.

The gross number of Deaths was 310, or at the rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of the Population.

This is considerably below the average of the preceding ten years which was 18.6 per 1,000.

The Death-rate, however, require correction, for allowance must be paid for residents dying without the District and non-residents dying within.

The number of non-residents dying in the Borough was 29, and the residents dying outside 12. When these have been added and deducted respectively the number is reduced to 293, or at the rate of 12.9 per 1,000. This represents the *net* number of Deaths.

(a) LOCALITIES.

The Deaths occurred as follows :—

In the—

Borough	230
Taunton and Somerset Hospital	47
Union Workhouse	33
	310

The residents dying outside the Borough were 8 in Cotford Asylum, and 4 in the Isolation Hospital.

(b) SEXES.

Of the 310 Deaths, 162 were Males and 148 Females.

(c) AGES AT DEATH.

The following were the various ages (as laid down by the Local Government Board) at which Death occurred :—

Under 1 year	41
1 to 2 years	3
2 to 5 „	9
5 to 15 „	13
15 to 25 „	16
25 to 45 „	36
45 to 65 „	63
Over 65 years	129
	310



(d) DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

80 Deaths occurred in Public Institutions, viz. : 47 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 33 in the Union Workhouse.

(1) *Taunton and Somerset Hospital.*

Urban cases	..	..	..	..	..	32
Rural „	..	..	..	..	..	2
Non-residents from outside the Districts	..	..				13
						—
						47

(2) UNION WORKHOUSE.

Urban cases	..	..	..	..	..	19
Rural „	..	..	..	..	..	14
						—
						33

III. Causes of Death.

(a) ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

This is a term originally used by Dr. Tarr, of the Registrar General's Department, in 1842, and includes Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (Typhoid, continued, and Typhus), and Diarrhœa.

Of these there were 19 Deaths, 11 from Whooping Cough, 4 from Diphtheria (Urban cases which died in the Isolation Hospital), and 4 of Diarrhœa.

This makes a Zymotic Death-rate of .8 per 1,000.

(b) DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The other more frequent causes of Death were as follows :—

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	43
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	11
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	9
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	34
Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	3
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bright's Disease	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	6
Premature Births	..	..	..	..	..	6

Fuller particulars and the Ages at Death will be found in Table III, which accompanies this Report.

IV. Births during 1912.

The number of Births registered in 1912 was 440, or at the rate of 19.3 per 1,000.

28 of these Births were illegitimate.

The average Birth-rate for the preceding ten years was 22.5 per 1,000.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

This Act adopted in 1908 has been of great value, in fact without it the work of a Health Visitor would be of no avail.

During the year I received 417 such notifications.

209 were sent to me by midwives, 89 by the parents, and 59 by the doctor in attendance.

V. Infantile Mortality.

This is better than in the preceding year but is much higher than it should be.

There were during this year 41 Deaths of infants under one year.

This is at the rate of 93 per 1,000 births: in other words 93 out of every 1,000 children born die within the year.

A few years ago the Death-rate was 130 per 1,000, so there is a steady though somewhat slow improvement.

The fact that so many married women go to work and leave their infants for a considerable portion of the day, no doubt tends to increase the Mortality.

The Maternity Benefits of the National Insurance Act will be very beneficial in providing comforts for mother and infant previously unknown, and so further still diminish future mortality.

I may also mention that voluntary help is promised by the Taunton Infants' Health Society. A number of ladies have undertaken to assist voluntarily the Health Visitors, and provide milk and other food when required. The President of the Society is Mr. T. S. Penny and Mrs. Whittingham the Secretary, and it has received the approval of your Health Committee. It has been adopted in many cities and towns of the country, and will I feel sure be of great good, if carried out with tact and discretion.

VI. Sickness during 1912.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(a) TUBERCULOSIS,

The Local Government Board Regulations, 1908, made it obligatory on Poor Law Medical Officers to report all such cases.

They do not appear to have been numerous in Taunton, for from one District I received no notification, and from the others very

few from that time to the present, or on the other hand they have not been notified.

In 1911, New Regulations were issued extending this to all Hospital cases, and in 1912 all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

Again, in December, 1912, New Regulations were issued which does not confine notification to pulmonary cases but to all cases affecting any part of the body. It also necessitates the reporting all such cases to the County Medical Officer of Health weekly by the Medical Officer of Health receiving the notification, as well as sending numbers of all Infectious Diseases weekly both to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer of Health.

An elaborate Register of Cases is also required, as well as enquiries into all Tuberculosis cases.

It will thus be seen that an enormous amount of additional work has been thrown on the Medical Officer of Health.

Some other Diseases have also been made notifiable.

This was first done by your Council on the recommendation of the Health Committee, and shortly afterwards they were made generally notifiable by the order of the Local Government Board.

(b) ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

One was Acute Poliomyelitis.

This is a disease due to a micro-organism which affects the spinal cord, occurs chiefly in young children, and is infectious. It is somewhat rare but several outbreaks have occurred in several parts of the country. By isolation and disinfection its spread may be prevented.

It is the cause of Infantile Paralysis and may end fatally.

(c) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Or Ophthalmia of the new-born.

This disease requires great care and cleanliness, and if neglected may cause the loss of sight of the infant.

To obviate this, "Official" recognition of the disease is necessary. This is, too, fortunately a somewhat rare disease.

(d) CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Which had been previously optionally notifiable was by the Local Government Board circular of August, 1912, also made generally notifiable.

The total number of Notifications received by me during the year was 114, and were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	21
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	43
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	43
						114

Of these, 21 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 39 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

(e) SCARLET FEVER.

These cases were scattered, appearing in various parts of the town, at generally monthly intervals.

In no case did it spread to other inmates of the house in which it appeared, and there was no appreciable cause for it, except in one case when it was introduced from Devonshire. Early removal to Hospital, Disinfection, and a sharp look-out on the schools checked it.

Unlike Measles, and Whooping Cough, it does not appear in periodical outbreaks, but isolated cases usually occur every year.

(f) DIPHTHERIA.

These cases occurred chiefly at the beginning of the year and was a legacy left by 1911.

They, too, occurred in various parts of the town, but chiefly in the East Ward.

They grew less in number as the year advanced.

They were nearly all removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The majority of the cases were of a mild type, but four ended fatally at the Hospital.

VI. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

43 cases of this Disease were notified to me during the year, and 8 Deaths occurred from it which were not notified to me at all.

Beyond inspection of premises, giving advice, providing gratuitously spitting flasks, and insisting on the infectivity of the Disease little at first could be done.

But the establishment of Sanatoria under the National Insurance Act, and the provision of a Tuberculosis Dispensary with a Tuberculosis Medical Officer and Health Visitor has greatly advanced matters in regard to the prevention of this very common and fatal Disease.

There is no doubt that taken in its early stage, and placed under conditions which are favourable, the Disease is curable. But more than this, the outlook that can be kept on these cases, should prove of untold good to the rest of the community.

The infectivity of the Disease has been overlooked and hence in the past persons living in the same house have breathed the same air vitiated by swarms of Tuberculous Bacilli.

No steps were taken to provide the patient with a separate bedroom, no destruction of the expectoration was carried out.

Now all this is changed—Fresh air, Sanatoria, Shelters, and Disinfection are all provided and when the scheme has had time to get into good working order, a marvellous change may be expected.

The County Council have the control of the working of the requirements of the Local Government Board.

Dr. Short, the County Tuberculosis Officer, pays a weekly visit to Taunton at the Dispensary in Priory Avenue, the diagnosis of doubtful cases is made certain and directions given for the future conduct of the cases.

The "Contacts" or persons coming into contact with a patient may require to be looked after as much as the patient, so as to check the first appearance of the Disease.

Besides all this there can be no doubt that in the future a great work has to be undertaken in the matter of milk supply. There are an enormous number of Tuberculous cows in the country, and the Milk Bill brought in by the President of the Local Government Board will, it is to be hoped, prove most beneficial in checking this means of spreading the Disease.

Meanwhile milk should be sterilized before being used as I have mentioned in my former Reports.

It is hardly necessary for me to add that the Sanitary Condition of Houses and their surroundings is a very important factor in checking the spread of this Disease.

In looking back to the Mortality from it during the past 40 years I find that the annual number of Deaths during the decade 1873 to 1882 was 37; 1883 to 1892, 30; 1893 to 1902, 22; and 1903 to 1911, 21. As the Population was very much smaller in the former years these figures hardly represent the improvement that has taken place.

It is to the better sanitary conditions in which people live that this reduction, however small, is, I believe, due.

VII. Isolation Hospital.

The Hospital has been of great use during the year.

86 cases were admitted, of which 62 were Urban and 24 Rural cases.

33 were cases of Scarlet Fever, 50 of Diphtheria, and 3 of Enteric Fever.

VIII. Medical Inspection of Schools.

As School Medical Officer I inspected 778 children in the Elementary Schools of the Borough during the year.

I found a steady improvement in the children both in health and cleanliness.

Full particulars will be found in my Annual Report for 1912, which follows this one.

IX. Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The work under this Act has proceeded vigorously during the year.

411 Houses were inspected for the purposes of the Act.

Of these Closing Orders were made in 28 cases.

24 of these were made habitable and the Closing Order determined.

In 156 cases defects were remedied without Closing Orders being made.

Demolition Orders were made in four cases.

Seven Houses were demolished during the year.

An important step was taken towards providing Workman's Dwellings. Plans and Estimates were drawn up by your Borough Surveyor (Mr. D. Edwards, A.M.I.C.E.), and to him I am indebted for the following details:—

Twelve Houses in three Blocks of four, are to be erected on the East side of String Lane.

Each House has two rooms on the ground floor, and three above.

The Living Room is 12ft. x 13ft. x 8ft. 3in. high, and has a tip-up Bath in it.

The Scullery behind is 8ft. x 8ft. x 8ft. 3in. high, and has a Copper boiler, water from which can supply the bath.

The three Bedrooms have the following dimensions :

1. 15ft. 3in. x 8ft. x 8ft. high.
2. 10ft. x 7ft. 3in. x 8ft. „
3. 12ft. 9in. x 7ft. 3in. x 8ft. „

Each House is provided with a Pantry, Coal House, and W.C.

The walls to prevent dampness are hollow.

The Town water is laid on to each House and the Drainage is into the Town Sewer which runs along the adjoining road.

The front of the Houses are 7ft. 6ins. from the road.

At the back of each House is a 4ft. 3in. brick pavement and beyond a garden, 100 feet long.

The cost of each House including fencing, sewer and street works (but not including land) is estimated at £140.

The rental will be 4s. per week and the first tenancy will be offered to the inmates of the Courts of the Town, as in these light, air, and ventilation is worse than in other parts.

Years ago I expressed the hope that the time might arrive when all these Courts might be abolished and the open spaces convertible into gardens for the Houses fronting the street to take their place.

The first step towards the accomplishment of this much desired scheme has now been taken and every one who has the health and happiness of the people at heart must wish it God's speed.

It is not so much for the adult population that this is so desirable, but for the children, whose future lives so much depend upon their surroundings.

The Houses planned by your Surveyor appear in all respects admirable both in appearance and design. The garden plots are of great importance, and will tend greatly to keep men interested and employed, and away from the vitiated atmosphere of the Public House.

X. Sanitary Inspection of District.

Beyond the inspection made by me and your Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act, your Inspector (Mr. Northcombe) reports as follows:—

Total Inspections and Re-Inspections of Houses,

Premises, &c.	1,380
Informal Notices served	211
Verbal Notices „	434
Statutory Notices „	71
Houses and Premises Cleansed and Repaired	226
Cases of Overcrowding	4
Number of Wells Condemned	7
Defective Roofs Repaired	32
Court Yards Repaired	22
Animals Improperly Kept	13

Other details will be found in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances attached to this Report.

It is to be regretted that any wells are still existent in the Town. They are not many, but remembering their condition years ago they must be looked upon as a danger.

DISINFECTION.

The number of Houses disinfected during the year were 107, and the number of articles disinfected at the Steam Disinfector, 2,421.

XI. Water Supply.

The supply of water has been ample and good and calls for no special remark.

XII. Food Supply.

The Milk Supply is good, and the Cowsheds in the Borough, of which there are 6, in a Sanitary Condition.

The Dairies and Milkshops numbered 38.

As in previous Reports, I cannot too strongly insist on these being kept scrupulously clean.

In the Milkshops no perishable stuffs should be allowed, and the Milk should always be covered to keep flies out of it. Formerly it was a common thing to see in a small shop in which rabbits and vegetables were sold, open pans of milk, well sprinkled with dust and dotted over with drowning flies.

If it were realized that these flies swarm with micro-organisms fresh from the dung-heap or dustbins, and may convey the *Bacillus* of almost any Infectious Disease, more care would be taken than at present in guarding the Milk and keeping it pure.

No case of Tuberculous Milk has come under observation.

(b) OTHER FOODS.

Some cases of Diseased Meat came under notice and 5 Pigs were seized and destroyed.

Slaughter Houses.

The number of Slaughter-houses in the Town are the same as last year, 10 in all, 2 being licensed and 8 registered.

It is unfortunate that they are not all licensed as then the substitution of a Public Abattoir for those now existing would be comparatively easy. Now legal points arise and the difficulties are great, and the expense considerable.

That it will come there can be no doubt, and the sooner from a sanitary and humane point of view the better.

Bakehouses.

There are 28 Bakehouses in the Town, 4 less than in 1911.

There is no Underground Bakehouse.

These as well as the Slaughter-houses are frequently inspected by your Inspector so as to ensure their being kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition.

Common Lodging-Houses.

These are two in number and frequently inspected.

Two other Houses formerly licensed have fallen under the attention of the Police during the year for carrying on their business unlicensed.

One of them I found in a filthy condition and a Closing Order had to be served.

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

The number of Factories (within the meaning of the Act) is 54.

There are also 184 Workshops, 133 Domestic Workshops, and 18 Workplaces.

115 Inspections were made of Factories and 4 Written Notices were served for defects.

471 Inspections were made of Workshops, with 6 Notices served, and 192 Inspections of Workplaces, making a total of 778 Inspections, and 10 Notices served.

All particulars are tabulated in a Report which accompanies this.

It will be seen that 40 Defects were found.

A list of Home-workers and Registered Workshops is also given.

Meteorology of 1912.

In my Report on the weather of 1911 I began by saying that the year was remarkable for its amount of brilliant sunshine.

A different story must be given for 1912.

It was remarkable for its excessive Rainfall.

The average of the preceding ten years was 28.20 inches, during 1912 I registered 39.23, or more than 11 inches above the average.

In six months out of the twelve, the rainfall during each month exceeded four inches.

However bad this may have been for agriculture, it had no deleterious effect on the health of the community.

During August, when the rain was heaviest (5.58 inches), the Death-rate was only 12. per 1,000.

The steady downpour appears to have washed both earth and air, still plentiful sunshine during the coming year would be a boon to man and land.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Health Committee for the assistance they have given me and for the readiness they have always shown to do all in their power to advance the Sanitary Condition of the Town.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

General Principles.

The first principle is that the earth is a sphere, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The second principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The Earth, the Atmosphere, and the Waters.

The third principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

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The tenth principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The eleventh principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The twelfth principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The thirteenth principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

The fourteenth principle is that the earth is a solid body, and that the surface of the earth is everywhere equally distant from the centre.

HENRY J. ALLEN, M.D., F.R.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1912 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.		
		Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
		Number	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1907	21,945	556	25.3	366	16.6	41	11	77	138.5	336
1908	2,2096	483	20.1	384	17.4	59	5	64	132.5	323
1909	22,243	466	20.9	335	15.0	34	5	53	113.7	305
1910	22,392	472	21.0	284	12.6	32	10	36	76.2	262
1911	22,563	482	21.3	356	15.7	24	17	54	112.0	349
1912	22,710	440	19.3	310	13.6	29	12	41	93.1	293
										12.4

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	1,390	}	Total population at all ages	...	22,710	} At Census of 1911.
			Number of inhabited houses	...	5,121	
			Average number of persons per house	...	4.4	

TABLE II. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year, 1912.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							WARDS.			Total cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						North.	West.	East.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.					65 and upwards.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	22	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	43	9	27	5	2	...	...	8	...	...	...	41
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	4	2	...	2	1	3	...	...
Scarlet fever	21	2	14	3	2	...	...	12	3	6	...	21
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	43	...	2	17	18	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	5	...	...
Totals ...	114	11	43	25	26	8	...	41	37	36	...	62

TABLE III.
TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
Causes of and Ages at Death during Year 1912.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.									DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
			All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
I			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	Certified (c) ..	..	310	41	3	9	13	16	36	63	129	80
	Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	11	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza ..	..	..	7	1	..	..	1	3	1	1	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	..	..	21	..	..	3	8	8	2	..	..	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	4	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	3
Cancer, malignant disease ..	..	..	34	..	..	..	1	2	18	13	..	7
Rheumatic fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	..	..	20	1	..	1	2	3	6	7	..	8
Bronchitis ..	..	..	9	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	4	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	11	3	..	2	1	..	1	2	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory organs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Partu- rition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ..	..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Death Excluding Suicide ..	..	..	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	2	5
Suicides ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	..	..	162	16	1	4	4	5	12	24	96	46
Diseases ill-defined or un- known ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All causes ..	..	..	310	41	3	9	13	16	36	63	129	80

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1912.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One
Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes { Certified ..	10	4	..	..	14	6	4	7	10	41
{ Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	5	9
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3
Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	4
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	4	2	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	6
Atrophy, Debility and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marasmus	5	2	..	..	7	3	..	1	..	11
Other causes	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	4
	10	4	..	..	14	6	4	7	10	41

Net Births in the year { Legitimate .. 412
 { Illegitimate .. 28

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1912.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January	29.87	30.47	28.99	39.2°	53°	17°	44.	17	4.04	21
February	29.58	30.09	28.84	42°	58°	16°	60.5	10	3.17	18
March	29.66	30.28	28.76	47.3°	58°	28°	102.5	4	4.94	24
April	30.14	30.43	29.73	47.2°	72°	28°	226	...	.19	5
May	29.95	30.33	29.51	50.8°	73°	33°	176	4	1.77	13
June	29.79	30.06	29.35	57.8°	72°	40°	177	4	4.45	22
July	29.90	30.20	29.55	62.7	86°	39°	150	4	2.58	17
August	29.72	30.12	29.23	56.9°	68°	35°	115	5	5.58	23
September	30.10	30.41	29.33	51.6°	68°	30°	139	2	1.13	5
October	29.88	30.58	29.25	46.2°	63°	25°	134	5	4.58	15
November	30.00	30.36	29.27	44.8°	59°	27°	47.5	12	2.32	13
December	29.85	33.33	29.52	45.3°	56°	24°	43.5	15	4.48	25

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1912,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TAUNTON,

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

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	In- spections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	115	4	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	471	6	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	192	0	...
Total	778	10	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Reme- died. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	19	19	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	2	2	...	...
Sanitary { insufficient	1	1	...	...
{ unsuitable or de- accommo- fective	6	6	...	...
{ not separate for dation sexes	...	...	...	...
<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)	11	11	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report).	1	1	...	...
Total	40	40	...	...

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1902

SECTION I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of the City or Town: *Wilmington, Delaware*

No.	Name of the Person	Number of	
		Persons	Animals
1	John Doe	1	1
2	Jane Smith	1	1
3	John Smith	1	1
4	Jane Doe	1	1
5	John Doe	1	1
6	Jane Smith	1	1
7	John Smith	1	1
8	Jane Doe	1	1
9	John Doe	1	1
10	Jane Smith	1	1
11	John Smith	1	1
12	Jane Doe	1	1
13	John Doe	1	1
14	Jane Smith	1	1
15	John Smith	1	1
16	Jane Doe	1	1
17	John Doe	1	1
18	Jane Smith	1	1
19	John Smith	1	1
20	Jane Doe	1	1
21	John Doe	1	1
22	Jane Smith	1	1
23	John Smith	1	1
24	Jane Doe	1	1
25	John Doe	1	1
26	Jane Smith	1	1
27	John Smith	1	1
28	Jane Doe	1	1
29	John Doe	1	1
30	Jane Smith	1	1
31	John Smith	1	1
32	Jane Doe	1	1
33	John Doe	1	1
34	Jane Smith	1	1
35	John Smith	1	1
36	Jane Doe	1	1
37	John Doe	1	1
38	Jane Smith	1	1
39	John Smith	1	1
40	Jane Doe	1	1
41	John Doe	1	1
42	Jane Smith	1	1
43	John Smith	1	1
44	Jane Doe	1	1
45	John Doe	1	1
46	Jane Smith	1	1
47	John Smith	1	1
48	Jane Doe	1	1
49	John Doe	1	1
50	Jane Smith	1	1
51	John Smith	1	1
52	Jane Doe	1	1
53	John Doe	1	1
54	Jane Smith	1	1
55	John Smith	1	1
56	Jane Doe	1	1
57	John Doe	1	1
58	Jane Smith	1	1
59	John Smith	1	1
60	Jane Doe	1	1
61	John Doe	1	1
62	Jane Smith	1	1
63	John Smith	1	1
64	Jane Doe	1	1
65	John Doe	1	1
66	Jane Smith	1	1
67	John Smith	1	1
68	Jane Doe	1	1
69	John Doe	1	1
70	Jane Smith	1	1
71	John Smith	1	1
72	Jane Doe	1	1
73	John Doe	1	1
74	Jane Smith	1	1
75	John Smith	1	1
76	Jane Doe	1	1
77	John Doe	1	1
78	Jane Smith	1	1
79	John Smith	1	1
80	Jane Doe	1	1
81	John Doe	1	1
82	Jane Smith	1	1
83	John Smith	1	1
84	Jane Doe	1	1
85	John Doe	1	1
86	Jane Smith	1	1
87	John Smith	1	1
88	Jane Doe	1	1
89	John Doe	1	1
90	Jane Smith	1	1
91	John Smith	1	1
92	Jane Doe	1	1
93	John Doe	1	1
94	Jane Smith	1	1
95	John Smith	1	1
96	Jane Doe	1	1
97	John Doe	1	1
98	Jane Smith	1	1
99	John Smith	1	1
100	Jane Doe	1	1

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESALE PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN IN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers.						Prosecutions.				Instances.	Orders made (s. 110).	Prosecutions (sections 109, 110).			
	Twice in the Year.		Once in the Year.		Outworkers.		Notices served on Occu- piers as to keeping mit in- sending lists.	Fail- ing to keep or per- to spec- tion of Lists.	Fail- ing to keep or per- to spec- tion of Lists.							
	Lists.	Con- tractors	Work- men.	(4)	Lists.	Con- tractors				Work- men.						
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
(1)	48	6	1,030	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	..	1	..	..		
Wearing { (1) Making, &c. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Apparel { (2) Cleaning & washing . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Household Linen . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Lace, lace curtains and nets . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Curtains and furniture hangings . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Furniture and Upholstery . .	4	..	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Electro-plate . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
File making . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Brass and brass articles . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Fur pulling . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Cables and chains . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Anchor and grapnels . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Cart gear . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Locks, latches and keys . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Umbrellas, &c. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Artificial flowers . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Nets, other than wire nets . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Tents . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Sacks . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Racquet and tennis balls . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Paper, &c., boxes, paper bags . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Brush making . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Pea picking . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Feather sorting . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Stuffed toys . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Basket making . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Chocolates and sweetmeats . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total . . .	52	6	1,100	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	..	1	..	..		



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	28
	Dressmakers, Milliners, Tailors, Glove and Gaiter ...	61
	Boots and Shoes, Dyer, Laundry, Jeweller, Basket ...	18
	Brush & Clogs, Cabinet & Upholsterers, Plumber and Painter	13
	Sadler, Rags, Carpenter, Carriage, Cycle, Motor Garage	23
	Smith and Wheelwright, Engraver, Guns, Sculptor ...	18
	Scales, Tinmen, Box (paper), Organ, Piano	9
	Sugar Boiler, Photographer, Picture, Wool Store, Bottle Washing, Acetylene Welding	14
	Domestic Workshops	133
	Workplaces	18
	Total number of workshops on Register * ...	335

* 184 Workshops, 133 Domestic Workshops, and 18 Workplaces

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (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) ...	(Notified by H.M. Inspector ... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
Other	11
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	<i>nil</i>
In use at the end of the year	<i>nil</i>

February, 1913.

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

Medical Officer of Health.

TACSON URBAN SANITARY

DISTRICT

REGISTERED WORKERS

For the year ending 31st March 1911

The following table shows the number of registered workers in the district for the year ending 31st March 1911, classified by sex and occupation.

Sex	Occupation	Number	
Male	General	100	
	Domestic	50	
	Industrial	200	
	Commercial	150	
	Professional	100	
	Public	50	
	Unemployed	100	
	Other	50	
	Female	General	100
		Domestic	50
Industrial		200	
Commercial		150	
Professional		100	
Public		50	
Unemployed		100	
Other		50	

Total number of registered workers in the district for the year ending 31st March 1911: 1,000.

OTHER MATTERS

The following table shows the number of other matters in the district for the year ending 31st March 1911, classified by sex and occupation.

Sex	Occupation	Number	
Male	General	100	
	Domestic	50	
	Industrial	200	
	Commercial	150	
	Professional	100	
	Public	50	
	Unemployed	100	
	Other	50	
	Female	General	100
		Domestic	50
Industrial		200	
Commercial		150	
Professional		100	
Public		50	
Unemployed		100	
Other		50	

Total number of other matters in the district for the year ending 31st March 1911: 1,000.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1912 (J. W. Northcombe, F.I.S.E., Cert. Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer		36
Number of Inspections		1,790
Results of Inspections.	Number of Informal Notices served	211
	Number of Verbal Notices given	434
	Number of Statutory Notices served	71
	Houses, Premises Cleansed, Repaired, &c.	226
	Pollution of Stream remedied	..
Drains (House).	Soil Pipes Repaired or Renewed	4
	Drains Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	154
Water Closets.	Repaired	409
	Supplied with Water	3
	New Provided	10
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed	6
	Cisterns Cleansed	..
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water	6
	Wells Condemned, filled up	7
Animals Removed, improperly kept		13
Removal of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse		55
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered	2
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to	232
	Regularly Inspected. Bakehouses	28
	Licensed Cowsheds	6
	Dairies, Milkshops, &c.	38
	Licensed Slaughter-houses	2
	Registered Slaughter-houses	8
	Gut Scraping Premises	1
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Illness		107
Articles of Bedding, &c., Disinfected at Steam Disinfector		2,421
Pigs Destroyed		5

Taunton Education Committee.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer for the Year 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Municipal Buildings,
Taunton,

February, 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Fifth Annual Report as School Medical Officer of the Elementary Schools of Taunton.

It can be divided into three sections :—

- I. The work done during the year.
- II. The General Condition of the Children and the Schools.
- III. The work requiring to be done.

1, The Work done during the Year.

My Inspection of Children, which took place weekly, during the year was more satisfactory than in former years.

The Inspections were more frequent and the number of children at each Inspection fewer, thus allowing more time for fuller examination.

Re-examination of Children previously found in any way defective was carried out frequently.

All such cases were moreover "followed up" and kept under surveillance.

The total number of Children I inspected was 778.

These included all brought to me by the Head Teachers, as "New Comers" or "Leavers" (over 12 years of age), or of the age of 8 years.

Of Children under 5 years of age I inspected 219, one of which was two years, 119 were three, and 99 four years of age.

167 were between the ages of 5 and 8, 201 between 8 and 12 years, and 191 over 12 years of age.

Of these 778 Children, 395 were Boys, and 383 Girls.

The largest numbers were in the North Town Council Schools, 167, of which 92 were Boys and 75 Girls.

Next was St. Andrew's School with a total of 135, 65 Boys and 70 Girls.

The next was South Street School with 92, 48 Boys and 44 Girls.

The rest in the following order as regards the numbers inspected.

Trinity School, 82 children; St. James', 77; The Central (Girls and Infants), 74; St. John's, 56; The Askwith Memorial, 37; The Memorial and Original Infants, 21 each, and St. George's School, 16.

Table I will show the Total Number Examined, arranged according to their Schools, Sexes, and Ages.

The Physical and Mental Condition of the Children was enquired into. The sight was tested in all except those under six years of age.

The various Defects found will be mentioned under Section 2, and are tabulated in Table IV.

The "Attendance" of the Children was inquired into and out of the 778 Children only five were found to be "bad" in their attendance, and 12 were "fair" only.

I found 12 were "Half-timers." A very general complaint was made by the Teachers of this serious break in the Educational Curriculum, and there can be no doubt that it interferes very seriously with their work.

The various Standards of the Children, arranged according to School, Age, and Sex will be found in Table II.

Besides the ordinary Inspection of the Children I have paid a number of visits to the Schools at various times to ascertain their Sanitary Condition and Requirements.

In this as in former years in the month of August I made a careful Inspection of all the Schools, their Class-rooms, Lavatories, Cloak-rooms, Desks, &c., and drew up a full Report on the requirements necessary to put them in a good, clean and sanitary condition for the coming School Year.

This I laid before your Committee and the necessary works were carried out.

TABLE I.
Children Inspected, 1912, 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.	TOTAL.		
	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		14 6	13 11	6 5	6 3	3 7	26 4	1 4	... 3	13 2	10 25	... 5	92	75	167
St. Andrew's		9 9	9 9	7 9	6 4	4 10	4 ...	4 1	4 ...	4 4	9 24	5 ...	65	70	135
Central		10 9	8 11	7 7	1 4	1 3	... ..	... ..	... ..	... 1	... 7	... 5	27	47	74
Trinity		... 1	7 11	6 7	... 6	5 1	4 2	2 2	1 ...	2 1	... ..	10 11	2 1	39	43
St. James'		4 11	4 4	2 5	1 2	1 ...	... ..	... ..	2 ...	15 6	1 18	... 1	30	47	77
South Street		8 8	4 4	9 6	2 4	5 2	8 6	2 1	... ..	4 1	6 9	... 3	48	44	92
Memorial							3 1	... 1	... ..	... 1	7 4	1 3	11	10	21
St. John's			1 ...	1 1	... 2	1 3	5 3	2 2	6 2	6 6	5 7	1 2	28	28	56
Original Infants'		7 6	3 3	1 1	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	11	10	21
St. George's		2 ...	1 ...	... 2	1 1	2 2	1 ...	... 1	... 1	... ..	... 2	... ..	7	9	16
Askwith Memorial							8 ...	7 ...	8 ...	7 ...	7 ...	... ..	37	...	37
Total		61 60	49 49	33 42	22 21	21 29	57 16	17 10	22 7	49 21	55 107	9 20	395	383	778

TABLE I

Children Instructed and Tested

Age		Instruction		Test	
Years	Months	Days	Hours	Days	Hours
6	0	1	0	1	0
6	0	2	0	2	0
6	0	3	0	3	0
6	0	4	0	4	0
6	0	5	0	5	0
6	0	6	0	6	0
6	0	7	0	7	0
6	0	8	0	8	0
6	0	9	0	9	0
6	0	10	0	10	0
6	0	11	0	11	0
6	0	12	0	12	0
6	0	13	0	13	0
6	0	14	0	14	0
6	0	15	0	15	0
6	0	16	0	16	0
6	0	17	0	17	0
6	0	18	0	18	0
6	0	19	0	19	0
6	0	20	0	20	0
6	0	21	0	21	0
6	0	22	0	22	0
6	0	23	0	23	0
6	0	24	0	24	0
6	0	25	0	25	0
6	0	26	0	26	0
6	0	27	0	27	0
6	0	28	0	28	0
6	0	29	0	29	0
6	0	30	0	30	0
6	0	31	0	31	0
6	0	32	0	32	0
6	0	33	0	33	0
6	0	34	0	34	0
6	0	35	0	35	0
6	0	36	0	36	0
6	0	37	0	37	0
6	0	38	0	38	0
6	0	39	0	39	0
6	0	40	0	40	0
6	0	41	0	41	0
6	0	42	0	42	0
6	0	43	0	43	0
6	0	44	0	44	0
6	0	45	0	45	0
6	0	46	0	46	0
6	0	47	0	47	0
6	0	48	0	48	0
6	0	49	0	49	0
6	0	50	0	50	0
6	0	51	0	51	0
6	0	52	0	52	0
6	0	53	0	53	0
6	0	54	0	54	0
6	0	55	0	55	0
6	0	56	0	56	0
6	0	57	0	57	0
6	0	58	0	58	0
6	0	59	0	59	0
6	0	60	0	60	0
6	0	61	0	61	0
6	0	62	0	62	0
6	0	63	0	63	0
6	0	64	0	64	0
6	0	65	0	65	0
6	0	66	0	66	0
6	0	67	0	67	0
6	0	68	0	68	0
6	0	69	0	69	0
6	0	70	0	70	0
6	0	71	0	71	0
6	0	72	0	72	0
6	0	73	0	73	0
6	0	74	0	74	0
6	0	75	0	75	0
6	0	76	0	76	0
6	0	77	0	77	0
6	0	78	0	78	0
6	0	79	0	79	0
6	0	80	0	80	0
6	0	81	0	81	0
6	0	82	0	82	0
6	0	83	0	83	0
6	0	84	0	84	0
6	0	85	0	85	0
6	0	86	0	86	0
6	0	87	0	87	0
6	0	88	0	88	0
6	0	89	0	89	0
6	0	90	0	90	0
6	0	91	0	91	0
6	0	92	0	92	0
6	0	93	0	93	0
6	0	94	0	94	0
6	0	95	0	95	0
6	0	96	0	96	0
6	0	97	0	97	0
6	0	98	0	98	0
6	0	99	0	99	0
6	0	100	0	100	0

II. The General Condition of Children and Schools.

(a) THE CHILDREN.

I found the General Condition of the Children much improved.

Their Clothes were as a rule good and they were much cleaner than formerly. Allowance must of course be made for the fact that the Mothers were aware that they were to be presented for Inspection, but this applies to the preceding years as well as the present, and if the first year (1908) be taken and compared with 1912, the improvement is great.

The cases of "Bad Clothing" of 1908 is reduced from 18 to 8 in 1912, the Dirty Bodies and Heads from 56 to 6, the Verminous Heads from 107 to 14, and the cases of Ringworm from 12 to 2.

And the improvement has been gradual year by year.

The same applies to other defects. The cases of Carious Teeth in 1908 were 316, in 1912 only 83.

The Defective Vision cases; 172 in 1908, were 43 in 1912, and the Ill-nourished were reduced from 17 to 9.

This, considering what the homes of some of the children are, is, I consider, remarkable.

In the happy future when new, bright, well-ventilated homes, and cleanliness and temperance replaces some of the undesirable abodes and surroundings that now exist, a still further improvement will take place.

And not only did I find them as a rule well dressed and cleanly, but they were in good health, and active and intelligent.

The fresh air of the large playgrounds in which exercise can be taken between School hours, and which are found in the newer Schools, are infinitely preferable to the small court-yards or streets which do duty for playgrounds in some of the older ones.

At the end of the year an outbreak of German Measles broke out chiefly among the Infants.

Being within a fortnight of the Christmas Holidays I saw no reason to advise the Closing of the Schools.

Whilst on the subject of the Closure of Schools, on which there appears to be a good deal of misapprehension, I would mention that the object from a Sanitary point of view of Closing a School is to prevent the Spread of Disease.

To render this effective it should be done, if at all, at an early period, and not when the Disease has got a firm hold on the Children.

The Code (1912) lays down two ways in which a School may be closed. Section 53 says that the Closure must be done by the School Medical Officer. The only way a Medical Officer of Health

can act in the matter is by advising his Sanitary Authority, who, if they consider it desirable, have power to do so (Section 57).

But School Closure should not be had recourse to except in exceptional cases.

The healthy children are much better at School than running about the streets of the Town.

Exclusion is by far the best means to be adopted, that is to say the exclusion of the affected child, and in the case of an Infant Department the exclusion of *all* the children from an infected House.

The Teachers are all provided with a Tabular Chart which shows the duration of exclusion of affected children and the non-affected, in all cases of Infectious Diseases, both when the child is removed to the Isolation Hospital or remains at home. Also the periods when children may safely return to School after discharge from Hospital, Disinfection of House, etc.

One other subject which came under consideration during the year was the age at which infants attend the School.

I, this year, inspected 219 children under five years of age, one at 2 years, 119 at 3, and 99 at 4 years.

Of course being so young they are more liable to be absent from School than the older children.

This is especially the case where the weather has been so unpropitious as it was during last year.

This, of course, causes loss of Grants, but as there are no *Crèches* in the Town the little ones are infinitely better off at School than at home.

The idea that they are too young for School might be entertained if the ordinary curriculum were maintained, but seeing that what they are taught is of the nature of a Kindergarten, it is beneficial as it teaches them observation, and sharpens their intelligence.

Any one who would visit the Infant Departments of some of our Schools could not fail to be struck by the happiness of the children and the good it does them.

(b) THE SCHOOLS.

Of the condition of the Schools generally I can speak favourably.

Of course there can be no comparison from a health point of view between the new up-to-date and the old Schools.

Two of the latter will ere long be closed, viz. : the South Street and Original Infants, and the new Schools in the Priory will be opened.

A new School for Boys has been opened during the year, viz., the Askwith Memorial School.

This is the North Town School on a small scale, and combines

all its advantages, and is surrounded by a good playground and garden.

In the latter the boys take great delight during their play-hours and this cannot fail to be of great advantage to them.

In the smaller Schools a little more window opening and a more liberal use of Soap and Water would be beneficial.

Besides the many visits I pay to the Schools during the year I made, as before stated, in the month of August a thorough Inspection of all the Schools, to ascertain what works were necessary to keep them into a good Sanitary Condition before the opening of the coming Educational Year, and presented a full Report to your Committee on the subject.

There was the general work required in all the Schools of general Cleansing, but there was not much Structural Work required this year.

In some Schools I found a bad habit of nailing black oil-cloth on the walls and allowing it to remain there—the result is an accumulation of dirt behind which in some cases was offensive.

If this oil-cloth is necessary (and I am told that it is for the Children to draw on) I suggested that wooden laths be nailed to the wall and the oil-cloth be attached to them. There would then be air behind, and it would allow of frequent cleansing.

Another habit was that of pinning and tacking paper pictures on the walls. This, however, only damages the walls and is not insanitary.

I found in many cases iron drinking cups used by the Children. Some of these had become rusty and dirty.

Enamelled Cups should be substituted for them.

As Diphtheria is known to be spread by the use of cups, whenever there are any cases of Sore Throats they should be removed entirely.

The roofs and walls of some of the older Schools required attention as they allowed damp to get through.

All these works, and a great deal of painting and limewashing were carried out, and on a subsequent inspection I found all in a satisfactory condition.

III. The Work Requiring to be Done.

So far an Inspection of the Children has been made, and all cases requiring attention through some defects have been "followed up," and been brought again for re-inspection either at the School, at my next visit, or more frequently to my Office to see what progress the case has made.

But much more requires to be done. Advice is given to Parents

and Children, but so far the treatment of the various ailments has not been undertaken by your Committee.

In June, at their request, I drew up a lengthy Report for your School Attendance Sub-Committee on this subject.

I mentioned the three means which your Committee might adopt.

- I. Treatment under Special Acts of Parliament.
- II. Treatment under the Poor Law.
- III. Treatment under Section 13 Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.

I. Treatment under Special Acts of Parliament.

There are six Acts which refer to the Treatment of Children.

1. Public Health Act, 1875—Sections 131-133. This gives power to provide Hospitals.
2. Isolation Hospital Act, 1893—Section 3. This is for Infectious Cases only and has been in existence since 1879, and cases have been admitted and treated there to the present time.
3. Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools—Art. 2 (g) and 18. These refer to School premises and Physical training.
4. Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.
5. Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic) Act, 1899.
6. Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, for feeding the under nourished.
7. Children's Act, 1909, for the treatment of neglected and verminous Children.

Many of these Acts have been used by your Committee or by the Sanitary Authority.

II. Treatment under the Poor Law.

This only applies to Children attending Workhouse Schools, Poor Law Schools, or Poor Law Children attending Elementary Schools, and "Boarded-out Children."

III. Treatment under Section 13 etc.

Besides Medical Inspection, this gives powers to make arrangements as may be sanctioned by the Board of Education for attending to the Health and Physical Condition of the Children in Elementary Schools.

Co-operation may be adopted with Voluntary Agencies if this is feasible instead of adopting a larger scheme.

Four things may be carried out :—

1. Employment of School Nurse. This has been done since 1908.
2. Provision of Spectacles. This is only partially done by Voluntary help.
3. Contributions to Hospitals. It is doubtful if this were offered whether it would be accepted.
4. Establishment of School " Clinic."

There are three classes of cases requiring treatment :—

1. Minor ailments—such as Skin, and External Eye Diseases.
2. Diseases requiring Surgical Operation—such as Adenoids, Enlarged Tonsils, &c.
3. Special Diseases—Eyes, Ears, Teeth, Tuberculosis.

1. Minor ailments might be carried out by any Medical Practitioner.

2. Those requiring Surgical Operation would appear to be cases for the Hospital.

3. As regards Eye Cases, including not only the defect which exists and its proper treatment, but also the examination of Eyes for Spectacles an Oculist is necessary.

Dental cases of course require the help of a Dentist.

Before considering my Report in any way, your School Attendance Sub-Committee asked your Town Clerk to communicate with half-a-dozen Towns of the size of Taunton to ascertain what action had been taken.

The replies were to the effect that cases were sent to Hospital (Eye or General) or " No arrangements had been made."

Acting upon the last item of information your Sub-Committee determined to follow suit, and the consideration of my Report was adjourned *sine die*.

I have done what I have been able in the way of " following up " cases, and we have now two School Nurses, who each take one half of the Town, so that as far as advice and supervision goes we may do a great deal.

On many matters parents are very ignorant.

" Prevention is better than cure " and it is possible by taking ordinary care to prevent much disease that is so common.

This is especially the case with the teeth. If parents only knew that the food taken has much to do with dental decay much might be avoided.

Some foods have a cleansing and others a non-cleansing effect upon the teeth. Sugary and farinaceous foods tend to produce dental caries. Fibrine food, vegetables, fruit, have a preventative tendency.

Thorough mastication of food and the use of the tooth-brush also act in a similar way.

The habit of leaving soft farinaceous food between and in the interstices of the teeth is a fine breeding ground for the countless bacilli that cause decay of the Teeth.

Tuberculosis and Open-air Schools.

I have come across very few cases of Tuberculosis as yet in my Inspections. The new Tuberculosis Regulations (by which *all* cases, Pulmonary and others) will have a very beneficial effect in time.

The County Council have appointed a Tuberculosis Medical Officer who visits Taunton weekly at the Tuberculosis Dispensary in Priory Avenue.

Already this has done good. A boy I discovered with the Disease, was examined by him, a shelter is provided for him in the garden of his home, he is visited by the County Health Visitor, and given every chance of getting better. More than that he is kept from School, where he would be infecting other children around him.

The Education of these Children should not however be neglected, and it is to be hoped that in the near future an open-air School in some healthy and elevated spot may be established.

I strongly advise that wherever and whenever it can be adopted classes be conducted in the open-air instead of within doors. I was pleased to see that during the past summer this was done in several instances.

Another point of great importance is the Physical Training of the Children. The development of the muscular system, the avoidance of mouth breathing, the means of proper respiration, by full, deep, inspirations, and a number of other details all go to ensure that physical and mental health which is so much to be desired.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

This Act, which came into force in the year 1906, has not yet been applied here, but I am now making enquiries at all the Schools to ascertain the number of Children (if any) who would be benefitted by it.

A healthy agricultural town like Taunton is very different from the crowded slums of a great city. Still there may be some children who may sorely at times need a good meal. The subject will be shortly reported on by me to your Committee.

Another matter which requires help, especially during the Winter Months, is the provision of Boots and Shoes to those who, owing to poverty, are often in a pitiable condition.

Thanks to the voluntary assistance of the Charitable this has been carried out during the last two or three years, and it is to be hoped that it will continue.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the action of your Committee recently in dividing the Town into two halves and appointing two School Nurses as School Attendance Officers.

In the past the School Attendance has not been satisfactory.

As Sir George Newman has pointed out there should be a constant intercommunication between the School Medical Officer and the School Attendance Officers.

This has not been the case.

I consider as regards the Medical work all should go through the office of the School Medical Officer, and that he and the School Attendance Officers and School Nurses should be in touch if the work is to be conducted in a business-like way.

This has now been brought about by the alteration I have mentioned. Every morning the Nurses see me and all matters regarding absentees due to illness or other causes can be discussed.

Nurse Reynolds has taken the Southern half of the Town and Nurse Collins has been appointed to the Northern. She has the Sanitary Institute Qualification and has had great experience at the Birmingham Isolation Hospital and other places as a Nurse, and a good knowledge of her duties.

I feel sure that in the near future the Attendance of the Children will greatly increase and School-work be greatly improved.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

School Medical Officer.

A second important point is that the United States is a very different from the other countries of the world. It is a country which has been built up by the efforts of a people who have been free to develop their own ideas and to follow their own path.

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TABLE II.
Standards and Attendances of Children.

SCHOOL.	Infants.		1st Standard.		2nd Standard.		3rd Standard.		4th Standard.		5th Standard.		6th Standard.		7th Standard.		TOTAL.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
North Town C.	42	29	21	5	...	3	6	5	2	2	16	9	4	12	1	10	92	75
St. Andrew's ...	34	37	1	...	5	3	...	1	5	1	12	18	8	10	...	...	65	70
Central ...	27	30	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	...	4	...	...	27	47
Trinity ...	18	26	6	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	2	10	4	4	7	4	39	43
St. James' ...	12	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	14	1	10	...	...	...	...	30	47
South Street ...	30	23	...	...	9	8	...	1	...	2	3	4	6	2	...	4	48	44
Memorial ...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	5	7	3	...	...	...	11	10
St. John's ...	2	...	...	1	6	5	4	5	4	4	6	9	6	4	...	...	28	28
Original Infants'	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10
St. George's ...	4	4	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	7	9
Askwith Memorial ...	...	...	...	...	5	...	17	...	9	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	37	...
Total ...	180	182	30	13	26	24	28	12	38	25	47	72	34	37	12	18	395	383

Date		Description		Amount	
1890	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Jan 10	Received from A. B.		50.00	
	Jan 20	Received from C. D.		25.00	
	Jan 30	Received from E. F.		75.00	
	Feb 10	Received from G. H.		100.00	
	Feb 20	Received from I. J.		50.00	
	Feb 30	Received from K. L.		25.00	
	Mar 10	Received from M. N.		75.00	
	Mar 20	Received from O. P.		100.00	
	Mar 30	Received from Q. R.		50.00	
	Apr 10	Received from S. T.		25.00	
	Apr 20	Received from U. V.		75.00	
	Apr 30	Received from W. X.		100.00	
	May 10	Received from Y. Z.		50.00	
	May 20	Received from A. B.		25.00	
	May 30	Received from C. D.		75.00	
	Jun 10	Received from E. F.		100.00	
	Jun 20	Received from G. H.		50.00	
	Jun 30	Received from I. J.		25.00	
	Jul 10	Received from K. L.		75.00	
	Jul 20	Received from M. N.		100.00	
	Jul 30	Received from O. P.		50.00	
	Aug 10	Received from Q. R.		25.00	
	Aug 20	Received from S. T.		75.00	
	Aug 30	Received from U. V.		100.00	
	Sep 10	Received from W. X.		50.00	
	Sep 20	Received from Y. Z.		25.00	
	Sep 30	Received from A. B.		75.00	
	Oct 10	Received from C. D.		100.00	
	Oct 20	Received from E. F.		50.00	
	Oct 30	Received from G. H.		25.00	
	Nov 10	Received from I. J.		75.00	
	Nov 20	Received from K. L.		100.00	
	Nov 30	Received from M. N.		50.00	
	Dec 10	Received from O. P.		25.00	
	Dec 20	Received from Q. R.		75.00	
	Dec 30	Received from S. T.		100.00	
	Total			2500.00	

TABLE III.

Previous Illnesses of Children Tabulated according to School and Sex.

SCHOOL.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Other Illnesses.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
North Town Council	49	45	39	27	25	19	6	1	...	1	6	3
St. Andrew's	29	48	22	39	11	22	2	2	1	2	1	1
Central	7	23	6	20	6	6	...	1	1	...	2	...
Trinity	22	27	13	17	6	6	1	2	...	1	4	...
St. James'	23	35	11	23	11	18	...	2	...	...	...	...
South Street	29	25	11	24	14	10	...	1	...	2	2	1
Memorial	6	7	2	3	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
St. John's	25	20	10	9	8	9	...	1	...	1	...	1
Original Infants'	7	8	5	6	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. George's	4	6	3	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Askwith Memorial	20	...	12	...	7	...	1	...	1	...	1	...



TABLE IV.

Classified Statement of Defects Found.

DEFECTS.						Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
1. CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
2. NUTRITION.								
Below Normal ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
3. CLEANLINESS AND CONDITION OF SKIN.								
Dirty Body ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Heads ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Vermineous Heads ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
Ringworm ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Impetigo ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
Eczema ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Herpes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
4. TEETH.								
Carious Teeth ...	...	...	...	...	...	45	38	83
5. NOSE AND THROAT.								
Cleft Palate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Enlarged Tonsils ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Adenoids ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Goitre ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
6. EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.								
Blepharitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Squint ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ptosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Obstructed Lachrymal Duct ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
7. VISION.								
Defective Vision ...	...	...	...	...	...	16	27	43
Right Eye ...	...	...	...	...	...	15	21	36
Left Eye ...	...	...	...	...	...	16	21	37
8. EAR DISEASE AND HEARING.								
Deaf ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Discharge from Ear ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Stammers ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
9. MENTAL CONDITION.								
Mental Deficiency ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
10. HEART AND CIRCULATION.								
Anæmia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
11. LUNG DISEASE.								
Nil ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. NERVOUS DISEASE.								
Nil ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. TUBERCULOSIS.								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
14. DEFORMITIES AND SPINAL DISEASE.								
Pigeon-breasted ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Flat Foot ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Wry Neck ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3

TABLE V.
Average Height and Weight of Children at Various Ages.

Age.	Height.		Weight.		Sex.
	in.	cm.	lb.	kg.	
1 year	29.5	75.0	22.0	10.0	M
1 year	29.0	73.7	21.5	9.8	F
1 year	28.5	72.4	21.0	9.5	M
1 year	28.0	71.1	20.5	9.3	F
1 year	27.5	69.9	20.0	9.1	M
1 year	27.0	68.6	19.5	8.9	F
1 year	26.5	67.3	19.0	8.6	M
1 year	26.0	66.0	18.5	8.4	F
1 year	25.5	64.8	18.0	8.2	M
1 year	25.0	63.5	17.5	8.0	F
1 year	24.5	62.2	17.0	7.7	M
1 year	24.0	60.9	16.5	7.5	F
1 year	23.5	59.6	16.0	7.3	M
1 year	23.0	58.3	15.5	7.0	F
1 year	22.5	57.0	15.0	6.8	M
1 year	22.0	55.7	14.5	6.6	F
1 year	21.5	54.4	14.0	6.4	M
1 year	21.0	53.1	13.5	6.1	F
1 year	20.5	51.8	13.0	5.9	M
1 year	20.0	50.5	12.5	5.7	F
1 year	19.5	49.2	12.0	5.4	M
1 year	19.0	47.9	11.5	5.2	F
1 year	18.5	46.6	11.0	5.0	M
1 year	18.0	45.3	10.5	4.8	F
1 year	17.5	44.0	10.0	4.5	M
1 year	17.0	42.7	9.5	4.3	F
1 year	16.5	41.4	9.0	4.1	M
1 year	16.0	40.1	8.5	3.9	F
1 year	15.5	38.8	8.0	3.6	M
1 year	15.0	37.5	7.5	3.4	F
1 year	14.5	36.2	7.0	3.2	M
1 year	14.0	34.9	6.5	2.9	F
1 year	13.5	33.6	6.0	2.7	M
1 year	13.0	32.3	5.5	2.5	F
1 year	12.5	31.0	5.0	2.3	M
1 year	12.0	29.7	4.5	2.0	F
1 year	11.5	28.4	4.0	1.8	M
1 year	11.0	27.1	3.5	1.6	F
1 year	10.5	25.8	3.0	1.4	M
1 year	10.0	24.5	2.5	1.1	F
1 year	9.5	23.2	2.0	0.9	M
1 year	9.0	21.9	1.5	0.7	F
1 year	8.5	20.6	1.0	0.5	M
1 year	8.0	19.3	0.5	0.2	F
1 year	7.5	18.0	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	7.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	6.5	15.4	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	6.0	14.1	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	5.5	12.8	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	5.0	11.5	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	4.5	10.2	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	4.0	8.9	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	3.5	7.6	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	3.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	2.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	2.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	1.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	F
1 year	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	M
1 year	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	F

