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NEW WORKMEN'S BUILDINGS, TAUNTON, 1913.

The Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

OF

THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

FOR THE YEAR

1913

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.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1913.

Population of Borough (census 1911)	22,563
Estimated Population of middle of 1913 ..	22,857
Area in Statute Acres	1390
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	18.2
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	15.6
Zymotic Death-rate	.8
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	124.4

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 during the year 1913.

The various subjects will be taken in the following order :—

1. Vital Statistics.
2. Sickness during 1913.
3. Isolation Hospital.
4. Medical Inspection of Schools.
5. Housing, &c., 1909 Act and Workmen's Dwellings.
6. Public Baths.
7. Water Supply.
8. Meteorology.

Vital Statistics.

1. Deaths in 1913.

The gross number of Deaths in the Borough during the year 1913 was 357, or at the rate of 15.6 per 1,000 of the population.

These numbers require correction so as to arrive at the net number. Those Residents dying outside the District must be added and those dying in the Borough, being "Non-residents," must be deducted.

Those outside the District include six Deaths in Cotford Asylum, four in the Isolation Hospital, both in Taunton Rural District, and nine in various parts of the Country, making 19 in all.

The Non-residents dying in the Borough numbered 45, 39 in the Hospital, and six in the Union Workhouse.

If these be deducted from the gross number and the 19 previously mentioned be added we arrive at a net number of 331, which makes a net Death-rate of 14.4 per 1,000.

2. Localities.

The Deaths occurred as follows :—

In the—

Borough	258
Taunton and Somerset Hospital	76
Union Workhouse	23

3. Sexes.

Of the 357 Deaths, 179 were Males, and 178 Females.

4. Ages at Death.

The Ages at Deaths were :—

Under 1 year	52
1 to 2 years	16
2 to 5 ,, ...	12
5 to 15 ,, ...	17
15 to 25 ,, ...	14
25 to 45 ,, ...	51
45 to 65 ,, ...	59
65 years and over	136
	357

5. Deaths in Public Institutions.

Ninety-nine Deaths occurred in Public Institutions, 76 in the Hospital, and 23 in the Workhouse. The cases were distributed as follows :—

(1) TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

Urban cases	37
Rural ,, ...	9
Non-residents from outside the Borough ..	30
	76

(2) UNION WORKHOUSE.

Urban cases	17
Rural ,, ...	6
	23

II. Causes of Death.

1. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

These Diseases caused 19 Deaths.

Measles	11
Diphtheria	1
Enteric Fever	2
Diarrhœa	5
	19

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

To these should be added four Deaths from Diphtheria which occurred in the Isolation Hospital which is outside the Borough. The corrected Zymotic Death-rate would then be 1.0 per 1,000.

2. DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The other more frequent causes of Deaths were :—

Heart Disease	21
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14
Other Tuberculous Diseases	8
Pneumonia	18
Bronchitis	29
Influenza	3
Cancer	23
Appendicitis	7
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	8
Violent Deaths	11
Suicides	4
Premature Births	20
Puerperal Fever	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Enteritis	11

These and other Causes of Deaths and the various Ages will be found in Table III.

III. Births.

The number of "registered" Births were 418, or at the rate of 18.2 per 1,000.

Notification of Births.

The number notified to me was 405, 90 of these were notified by the Doctors in attendance, 253 by Midwives, and 62 by the Parents.

These leave only 13 not-notified. This a great improvement on previous years and show that the Act is better known than formerly. Of course if it were not carried out the good work done by the Health Visitor and the Infant Health Society would be nullified.

IV. Infantile Mortality.

I am sorry that this is higher again this year.

The number of infants dying under one year was 52, or at the rate of 124.4 per 1,000 Births.

This increase is partly due to the large number of Deaths caused by premature Birth, which is largely in excess of former years—18 Deaths of the 52 being due to this cause.

There is no doubt that the Health Visitors have had too much work thrown upon them during the year, as with these duties have been added not only those of School Nurse, but also the arduous work of School Attendance Officers. Fortunately this will be altered in the future. One Nurse will act as Health Visitor and attend the newly established "Clinic," and two others will act as School Attendance Officers and School Nurses.

The Taunton Infants' Health Society has done excellent work during the year. Not only have they given time and assistance in all necessary cases, but a Mother's Meeting has been established, which meets weekly, when lectures and advice are given to the mothers who attend, followed by a tea. That these meetings are appreciated by the mothers is shown by their large attendance at the meetings.

The average number of mothers attending is 30; they bring their babies with them, and these are periodically weighed.

Larger Rooms and increased funds are urgently needed.

This is a voluntary undertaking which I cannot too highly recommend and is well deserving of public support.

V. Sickness in 1913.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

I received 201 Notifications from the Medical men in the Borough during the year.

By far the larger proportion of these were cases of Tuberculosis.

The Notifications were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	34 cases
Diphtheria	70 ,,
Enteric Fever	3 ,,
Erysipelas	5 ,,
Puerperal Fever	1 ,,
Poliomyelitis	1 ,,
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1 ,,
Ophthalmia Neanotorum	1 ,,
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	81 ,,
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 ,,
	201 cases.

Scarlet Fever.

A large number of these cases were due to an outbreak in a large Educational Establishment in the town.

Fortunately by careful isolation and rigid disinfection it was stopped. But such an outbreak is a very serious matter, and too much care cannot be taken during the holidays in seeing that none of the boys are brought in contact with infectious disease.

The first fortnight after the return of boys from their holidays is a most anxious time for Head Masters, and Parents cannot be too careful as to the condition in which their children are returned to School.

I have found that an outbreak is generally due to some carelessness in this direction.

The other cases were isolated cases in the Town occurring at varying intervals.

The Town is now quite free from it.

Diphtheria.

Seventy cases is a large number to have notified in one year. Fortunately they were nearly all of a mild type. I did all in my power to discover the cause of its prevalence.

The cases had nothing in common—it was not confined to any School, or to any Milk Supply.

It was most prevalent during the months of July and September.

The cases were all at once removed to the Isolation Hospital—a dose of Antitoxin being often administered before admission by the Doctor sending them in.

Thorough Disinfection was carried out. The Healthy Children were kept from School, and other inmates from work for a period until the danger of Infection had passed. The Head Teachers

of the Schools, and the Employers of labour were informed of the fact in each case.

The presence or absence of the Disease is now determined by the presence or otherwise of the characteristic Bacillus in " Swabs " taken from the throat or nose.

When the extreme minuteness of the Bacillus and the fact of its strong resemblance to other Bacilli is taken into consideration it can easily be imagined that a mistake may be made.

Added to this it is very necessary that a " Swab " be properly taken by a person who is thoroughly reliable.

I have been led to make these remarks in consequence of the fact that many cases notified to me as Diphtheria by the usual Medical Attendant has been after a short period (sometimes only a few days) notified to me by the Medical Attendant of the Isolation Hospital as " not Diphtheria," and have been discharged.

I was thus placed in a very awkward position, and to prevent any misunderstanding in the future, every Medical man in the Town is provided with a sterilized outfit, so that he can take a " Swab " and send it to the Bacteriological Laboratory at Weston, and have a " positive " or " negative " reply sent free of all charge to himself.

Means should be provided at the Isolation Hospital whereby " suspicious " cases could be placed in a ward away from other patients, so that there should be no chance of infection either from Nurse or Patient until the Diagnosis of the case is fully established.

It must not be lost sight of that Diphtheria may exist in a child and not be evident to others about him. The mucous membrane of the nose may alone be affected and thus the Disease be spread, the child being an unconscious " carrier " of the infective Bacillus.

Too much care cannot be taken on all hands in dealing with a Disease, which frequently is so fatal.

Tuberculosis.

As I referred fully in my last year's Report to the way in which cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the County Council I need not here repeat them. Suffice it to say that the work is very efficiently and thoroughly carried out.

We are fortunate in Taunton in having a Tuberculosis Dispensary which is attended once a week by Dr. Short, the County Tuberculosis Officer. We have also a Tuberculosis Health Visitor, who is very energetic in her work.

By Notifications received from Medical men I am kept acquainted with cases as they occur.

When a Patient is removed to a Sanatorium or to another House I am informed by the Superintendent of the Sanatorium or by the Health Visitor and the necessary Disinfection is carried out.

Before this machinery was put in force things were not at all satisfactory.

A Town Committee sent cases to Winsley Sanatorium, but as no communication was made either to the Sanitary Authority or its Officers, no steps could be taken to ensure isolation, disinfection, examination of premises, and other matters very essential if the spread of Tuberculosis is to be checked.

Now all is changed and one may anticipate before long a great diminution in the number of cases. The watch-word of Sanitation is "prevention" not "cure." In the past the latter alone was attempted.

I received in all 85 Notifications of the Disease during the year, 81 in which the lungs were affected, and four of other forms. These were not all fresh cases, however, but came under Forms C or D, which notify their Admission or Discharge into a Sanatorium or removal to a fresh residence.

Seventy came under Form A or were cases reported for the first time.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases were reported—two in one house. One was a case from outside the District. The others were difficult to account for.

In neither case did the Disease spread.

Puerperal Fever.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified. All necessary steps to prevent its spread were taken and no other cases occurred.

Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis, and Poliomyelitis.

One case of each of these Diseases was reported in Public Institutions.

They came from without the Borough and there was no spread.

Ophthalmia Neanotorum.

Two cases of this Disease were notified. Every care was taken —the Health Visitor visiting them—and they both recovered.

This is a Disease which requires great attention or otherwise total blindness of the child may result. In fact a case of blindness in a School girl came under my notice early in the year which could be traced to this Disease in infancy.

VI. Isolation Hospital.

One hundred and two cases were admitted into the Isolation Hospital during the year—36 cases of Scarlet, 65 of Diphtheria, and one of Enteric Fever.

Eighty-eight of these were Urban and 14 Rural cases.

I consider that it would be a great advantage if the Chairman of your Health Committee were on the Hospital Committee.

Your Council would then be more in touch with the Hospital and know what was going on and how matters were managed. At the present time nothing is known, as although three of your members are on the Committee (with three representing the County Council and three the Taunton Rural District Council) the Committee is an executive one and never reports anything to your Health Committee or Council.

This can hardly be looked upon as satisfactory.

VII. Medical Inspection of Schools.

I inspected 735 children in the Elementary Schools during the year.

The mere tabulation of ages, heights, weights, defects and the like however interesting from a Statistical point of view does not go far towards improving the health and general tone of the children. Towards this object the Education Committee have now established a "Clinic," for Inspection and Treatment, where all necessitous children found requiring either treatment or further examination can be dealt with.

Full particulars with regard to this very satisfactory extension of the School Medical Service will be found fully dealt with in my Annual Report as School Medical Officer which accompanies this Report.

VIII. Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The Housing Act has been energetically carried out during the year.

The number of Houses inspected under the Act was 394.

Twenty-five of these I reported as unfit for human habitation.

One hundred and fifty-eight were defective but not sufficiently to be scheduled as unfit for habitation.

Two hundred and eleven were without Sanitary Defects.

Of the 25 Houses which were unfit, five closing orders were made, the remainder being dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1875.

Ten cases remained over from 1912, where Closing Orders were made. These were afterwards "determined."

Two houses were demolished during the year.

Of those defective Houses not bad enough to be condemned as unfit for habitation, 133 were remedied, and 25 remained defective at the end of the year.

The year was remarkable for the completion and opening of the twelve Workman's Dwellings in String Lane.

In my Report for 1912 I gave full particulars of these dwellings, of their dimensions, cost, &c.

In March, Mr. H. A. Chapman, Local Government Board Inspector, held an Enquiry and in due course consent was given for a loan for £1,722 to carry out the work.

When completed a large number of applications were received for the tenancy of the Houses.

Preference was given to those persons living in Courts and who would most be benefited by a removal to an open and healthy site.

The twelve Houses were at once let and a number of applicants had to be refused.

On the 31st of October the Dwellings were formally opened by Councillor Webber in the presence of the Mayor and a number of visitors.

By the kindness of the Borough Surveyor (Mr. D. Edwards) I am enabled to place a sketch of the Dwellings at the beginning of this Report.

It is to be hoped that before long another series of similar buildings will be ready, which, being no burden to the ratepayers, will be an immense boon to the working classes, especially to the children, whose young growing bodies require all the fresh air and sunlight obtainable.

IX. Public Baths.

One much-needed requisite is the provision of Public Baths. The subject has frequently been discussed by your Council, but has come to nothing.

The importance of personal cleanliness is hardly realised. One of the channels by which the effete and deleterious materials of the body are got rid of is the skin.

Its action is necessarily impeded when all its pores are blocked. The amount of illness due to want of a free use of water is much greater than is generally supposed.

A Scheme on a small scale for Baths which may prove to be the small end of the wedge, was brought forward by Councillor Lane, and favourably considered by your Council during the year. It is to be hoped that soon this great want will be supplied.

The river water (itself impure) at the Bathing Station is but a poor substitute for good Public Baths.

X. Sanitary Inspection of the Town.

Besides the Inspection made under the Housing Act a large amount of work was done.

Your Inspector (Mr. Northcombe) reports as follows :—

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections under the Public Health Act, 1875	..	1623
,, Informal Notices given	.. ..	250
,, Verbal Notices given	.. ..	427
,, Statutary Notices served	.. ..	61
,, Houses and Premises Cleansed and Repaired	.. .. ..	268
,, Cases of Overcrowding	.. ..	10
,, House Drains Repaired, &c.	..	175
,, Water Closets Repaired	.. ..	214
,, Animals Improperly Kept	.. ..	54

The Tabular Report of the Inspector will be found at the end of this Report.

Disinfection.

This has been fully carried out not merely in all cases of ordinary Infectious Disease but in Tuberculosis and other cases where it is considered to be necessary.

Various Disinfectants have been used as sprays, thorough scrubbing and cleansing also insisted on, and bed, bedding, clothes, &c., removed to the Steam Disinfector at Obridge.

The number of Houses, Shelters, &c., disinfected numbered 166, and the articles of Bedding, Clothes, &c., taken to the Steam Disinfector were 4,978.

XI. Water Supply.

The supply of water to the Town has been abundant during the year.

As the rainfall for the year has been greatly above the average this is as it should be.

The quality of the water remains about the same.

The following is a recent Analysis I have made of a sample taken direct from the main :—

	parts per 100,000
Total Solids	20.0
Chlorine	2.0
Nitrates	nil.
Nitrites	nil.
Oxygen Consumed	0.18
Free Ammonia	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008
Hardness	5°

As I have frequently stated in previous Reports in order to get the water in its best condition for drinking it should be run through a " Pasteur " or " Berkefield " Filter. The increase of its brightness when viewed in a two-foot glass tube of the filtered and unfiltered is great.

There is one thing I have long wished to see abolished, and that is the extra charge made for Baths in Houses.

It looks like a tax upon cleanliness. Cleanliness is always taught to be one of the chief sanitary virtues, and it is an anomaly to find a Sanitary Authority making an extra charge on every householder who uses a bath.

One can understand this if the Water Supply was small, but when one frequently hears from your Water Inspector that the reservoirs (capable of holding 160,000,000 gallons) are overflowing, and when one considers that a portion of the Country Parishes outside the Borough are also provided with water, making in all 130 Houses, it cannot be on the grounds of economy of water that the charge is made.

The extra charge for Baths varies according to the rateable value of the Houses, going from 4/- per annum for each Bath in houses which do not exceed £20, up to 10/- per annum to those exceeding £40

If the water supply were a private concern one can quite understand the wish of its promoters to make it pay well, but when it is in the hands of a Sanitary Authority whose first object should be to encourage cleanliness and everything tending to health, one is rather surprised at the method adopted.

It is to be feared that its commercial success, rather than the promotion of cleanliness, is the prime motive of those who manage its affairs.

That this is so an extract from one of your Water Manager's Report during the past year will show.

In his Report, May 13th, 1913, he says :—" I was much gratified by your Water Committee being in the position, financially, to hand back £500 towards the relief of the rates. It is the aim of your Committee that this sum should not only be continued but increased annually, and that, with a view to its accomplishment, every consumer may assist."

Ratepayers and not consumers are thus the first to be considered.

Matters have recently been brought to a climax. As I have already stated twelve Workman's Dwellings have been erected and in each is a Bath, to encourage the tenants in cleanliness.

Your Health Committee did all in their power to make the houses complete and at the same time to be able to let them at a rental which would enable the proper tenants to take them.

Economy on all sides was required. It seems hardly credible that in the face of this the Water Committee should insist on a charge of 4/- a year for each house, and that, notwithstanding an appeal from the Health Committee they should remain obdurate!

XII. Food Supply.

Milk.

The Milk Supply is good, and the Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops are frequently inspected and kept in a good sanitary condition.

There are six licensed Cowsheds, and 37 Dairies and Milkshops.

No case of Tuberculous Disease has come under notice.

Slaughter Houses.

There are eight registered and two licensed Slaughter-houses in the Town.

The existence of these "registered" houses is the obstacle to the provision of a Public Abbatoir.

Until this is provided I feel sure that the public cannot rely on the safety of the meat sold.

Unfortunately in this matter you are far behind not only Continental Towns, but also many Towns in our own Country. Self-interest and prejudice are difficult to overcome.

Your Council has during the year petitioned the Local Government Board to legislate on the matter.

Bakehouses.

There are 27 Bakehouses in the Town which are regularly inspected, and are in good order.

There are no underground Bakehouses.

Common Lodging-Houses.

There are only two licensed Lodging-Houses, which considering their antiquity are kept in good condition.

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

The number of Inspections of Factories during the year was 140, and 509 Inspections of Workshops, and 283 of Workplaces was made.

Five written Notices were served.

Forty-four Defects were found—24 of these were Nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1875, seven due to Insanitary Accommodation, and 13, breach of Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses,

making 44 in all. Of these 40 were remedied by the end of the year.

The details regarding Home-Work will be found in the Table following this Report.

The registered Workshops were 342.

Meteorology of 1913.

The results of my daily Meteorological Observations will be found in a Table at the end of this Report.

The rainfall during the year although less than in the preceding year, when it measured 39.23 inches, was still in excess of former years.

The average is about 28 inches, in 1913 it measured 33.93 inches.

The heaviest rainfall was in January when it was 6.12 inches, the least in July when it was only .47 inches.

During the three months of June, July, and August it only measured just 3 inches and the soil became very parched and dry.

During October, November, and December 10.22 inches fell, which somewhat compensated for the previous drought.

The number of days rain fell was 177.

The hours of sunshine during the year numbered 12,410.

The greatest amount was in the months of May, June, and July, when it reached 620 hours ; the least was in January when there were only 33 hours.

The highest temperature was reached in July and August when a maximum of 81° was reached.

The lowest was in February and December when the minimun was 20°.

In conclusion I venture to hope that our Town which has so frequently led the van in various beneficial works, will ere long add to this list a Public Abattoir and Public Baths.

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 1913 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births. Nett.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of Age.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1908	22,096	483	20·1	384	17·4	59	5	64	132·5	323	15·2
1909	22,243	466	20·9	335	15 0	34	5	53	113·7	305	13·7
1910	22,392	472	21·0	284	12·6	32	10	36	76·2	262	11·7
1911	22,563	482	21·3	356	15·7	24	17	54	112·0	349	15·4
1912	22,710	440	19·3	310	13·6	29	12	41	93·1	293	12·4
1913	22,857	418	18.2	357	15.6	45	10	52	124.4	331	14·4

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 1,390

Total population at all ages 22,710
Number of inhabited houses 5,121
Average number of persons per house ... 4.4
} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year, 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.								Wards. North West East			Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards,	North.	West.	East.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	70	...	19	31	9	11	...	...	12	18	40	57
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	4	...
Scarlet fever ...	34	...	4	19	11	...	...	...	26	2	6	31
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	2	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	81	...	...	16	22	33	8	2	29	14	38	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
Opthalmia Neanotorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	201	1	24	66	47	50	11	2	70	37	94	88

TABLE III.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of and Ages at Death during Year 1913.

Causes of Death.	Net Deaths of Residents 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	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes Certified ..	306	51	14	10	12	10	36	45	128	99
Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Small pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	11	6	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12	..	..	..	..	2	7	3	..	3
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	1	3
Cancer, malignant disease ..	20	..	..	..	..	1	1	9	9	10
Rheumatic fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	20	..	..	..	1	..	5	3	11	2
Bronchitis	30	2	2	2	..	..	..	4	20	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	16	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	17	11	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	7
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	8	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	3
Puerperal fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Death Excluding Suicide	8	..	..	3	1	..	1	2	1	8
Suicides	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ..	124	15	..	1	4	3	8	19	74	53
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All causes	306	51	14	10	12	10	36	45	128	99

* "Residents" and "Non-Residents."

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1913.

Nett 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 4 weeks.	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 ..	21	..	..	1	22	13	8	2	7	52
All causes — Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	6
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	4
Enteritis	..	..	..	1	1	3	3	..	1	8
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Premature birth	18	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	18
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	5
Other causes	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
	21	..	..	1	22	13	8	2	7	52

Net Births in the year { Legitimate .. 399
Illegitimate 19

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1913.

Month.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January ...	29.69	30·27	29.03	38.4°	53°	26°	33	15	6.12	20
February ...	30.12	30·63	29.63	41.4°	56°	20°	51.5	9	1.17	12
March ...	29.24	30·51	28.94	45.0°	57°	24°	106	7	4.12	17
April ...	29.80	30·13	29.24	47.0°	67°	32°	111	7	3.57	19
May ...	29.95	30·29	29.33	53.5°	80°	32°	214,5	2	2.86	17
June ...	30.09	30·38	29.75	52.8°	78°	38°	230	2	.75	12
July ...	30.34	30·35	29.76	61.6	81°	45°	182.5	2	.47	4
August ...	30.05	30·25	29.73	61.7°	81°	41°	178	4	1.81	12
September ...	29.93	30·34	29.35	57.7°	76°	41°	105	7	2.20	13
October ...	29.77	30·36	29.07	51.7°	66°	30°	110.5	4	4.79	20
November ...	30.20	30·44	29.18	45.0°	61°	24°	77	4	2.99	17
December ...	30.08	30·60	29.42	41.9°	56°	20°	42	14	2.54	14

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1913,

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.

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).	140	3	...
WORKSHOPS ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries).	509	2	...
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	283	...	...
Total	932	5	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	24	24	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient ...	3	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes	1	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	13	13	...	...
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).	...	...	...	...
Total	44	40	...	...

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.									Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108.			Outwork in infected Premises, Sections 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Prosecutions.							
	Twice in the Year.			Once in the Year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Failing to send Lists.						
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.					Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (s. 110).	Prosecutions (sections 109, 110).
		Contractors	Workmen.		Contractors	Workmen.									
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Wearing Apparel (1) Making, &c.	50	6	1,070	3	..	12	..	..	..	4	3	..	2	2	..
Wearing Apparel (2) Cleaning & washing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Household Linen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lace, lace curtains and nets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Curtains and furniture hangings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Furniture and Upholstery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electro-plate	4	..	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
File making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brass and brass articles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fur pulling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cables and chains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anchors 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	54	6	1,136	3	..	12	..	..	..	4	3	..	2	2	..

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Important classes of Workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	
Bakehouses	27
Milliners, Dressmakers, Tailors, Boots	65
Glove and Gaiter, Dyer, Laundry	4
Jeweller, Baskets, Brush and Clogs	8
Cabinet and Upholstery, Plumber & Painter	12
Saddler, Rags, Carpenter, Carriage	19
Cycle, Motor Garage, Engraver, Guns, Smith and Wheelwright	21
Sculptor, Scales, Tinman, Box (paper), Organ, Piano, Sugar Boiler	16
Photo, Picture Frames, Woolstore, Bottle-Washing, Acetylene Welding	14
Domestic Workshops, 137, Workplaces, 19	156
Total number of workshops on Register	342

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	16
Other	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	*nil*
In use at the end of the year	*nil*

February, 1914.

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 1913 (J. W. Northcombe, F.I.S.E., Cert. Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer			19
Number of Inspections			1,623
Results of Inspections.	Number of Informal Notices given		250
	Number of Verbal Notices given		427
	Number of Statutory Notices served		61
	Houses, Premises Cleansed, Repaired, &c.		268
	Defective Roof Repaired		12
	,, Courtyards Repaired etc.		30
	,, Windows Repaired		36
	,, Shutes Repaired		49
	,, Floors Repaired		19
	Waste Troughs fixed		9
	Overcrowding Abated		10
Drains (House).	Soil Pipes Repaired or Renewed		5
	Drains Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.		175
Water Closets.	Repaired		214
	Supplied with Water		2
	New Provided		3
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed		12
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water		—
	Wells Condemned, filled up		1
	Pumps Removed		2
Animals Removed, improperly kept			54
Removal of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse			26
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered		2
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to		340
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses	27
		Licensed Cowsheds	6
		Dairies, Milkshops, &c.	37
		Licensed Slaughter-houses	2
		Registered Slaughter-houses	8
		Gut Scraping Premises	1
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Illness			166
Articles of Bedding, &c., Disinfected			4,978
Pigs Destroyed, (231 lbs.)			3
Plucks, Pieces, etc.			1449 lbs.

The steady improvement in the Clothing of the Children and in their Cleanliness, which I have previously mentioned in former Reports, has been maintained.

The total number of children inspected was 738.

270 of these were infants under five years.

The New-comers or "Entrants" were 344.

Those twelve years and upwards were 211, and the intermediate groups from six to eleven years numbered 183.

I sent a Notice to every Teacher a week before the Inspection, asking that the "Entrants" and "Leavers" should be presented for examination.

This did not appear to be thoroughly understood, especially as regards "Leavers." To ensure their being examined in the future, a list was provided me by the Head Teachers of all Children on the Registers, aged twelve years and upwards and in the future the numbers will be very largely increased.

Of these 738 children inspected 372 were Boys and 366 Girls.

In all cases where any defect was found, special notes was made, and the case was "followed up."

The attendance of the children was very good, only one being returned to me as "bad," and ten as "fairly good."

Sixteen children were Half-timers, which as I have previously reported appears to be very unsatisfactory, as it interferes muchly with their course of study.

(2) The New Priory (Council) School.

The old South Street School which had existed over seventy years, was as a building quite obsolete and finally closed its doors in the month of August.

A new School to take its place has been built on the Priory Estate.

The land on which it is built covers one acre, and cost £500.

On the South side it abuts on the Victoria Recreation Ground, and on the North it is quite open away to the Quantock Hills.

The site is therefore healthy and there is an ample asphalted playground.

The School itself which was built at a cost of £5,880 (including Furniture), consists of a fine Central Hall, and four Class-rooms for Senior, and six for Junior children.

It provides accommodation for 440 children—185 in the Mixed and 255 in the Infant department.

(3) School Attendance Officers.

As I stated in my Report for 1912, two Nurses were substituted for the two male School Attendance Officers which previously existed.

In every way has this been beneficial. The attendance has very greatly improved. The Mothers of children are more sympathetically treated by women than by men, and by Nurses the real cause of the absence of a child is easily obtained, whether through *bona-fide* illness, or other causes.

Being in daily communication with the Nurses I am enabled to know of the existence of prevailing diseases in a way which before was impossible.

(4) The School Clinic.

Towards the end of the year your Committee resolved to have a School Clinic. This has a two-fold object, viz. (1) the further Inspection of Children, and (2) the treatment of necessitous children.

As I have insisted in my former Reports, mere Medical Inspection was of comparatively little practical value unless the cases were followed up by reinspection and treatment and the child put into a good healthy condition.

The first point in the construction of a Clinic was to obtain a suitable site for its work.

This has been satisfactorily carried out through the kindness of the Secondary Education Committee who has allowed the use of the adjoining Technical Institute for the purpose.

Here every thing was found that was needed for the work contemplated. Light, airy, rooms with electric light and water supply were all to hand. As the Institute is only used for lectures, etc., in the evenings, its usual work is in no way interfered with.

In fact it has been previously used at intervals by Dr. Bendle, the County Ophthalmic Inspector.

The work to be carried out is as follows :—

The whole is under the superintendence of the School Medical Officer.

He sees cases previously examined at the School Inspection and who require a periodical re-inspection to ensure their improvement, and furthermore can go into and ascertain more minutely defects from which they are suffering.

This is especially the case with Vision where errors of refraction can be ascertained, and the necessary steps taken to provide suitable spectacles.

Minor ailments are also treated, such as Skin Diseases, Ringworm and Pediculosis.

A great deal of this falls to the lot of the Nurse.

Ears and teeth are likewise treated.

To carry out the latter work, a Dentist was needed and Mr. A. Percy (No. 3, The Crescent) has been appointed.

As regards the Dental work no doubt a great number of Clinic cases require "curative" measures, but the most important are "preventive." The mere extraction of carious teeth will not remedy the evil, especially in the coming generation. It is therefore necessary that the permanent teeth of children of the ages of six, seven, and eight years should be carefully examined and where a flaw however slight is detected, it should be at once dealt with.

This is what Mr. Percy is at present engaged on. He is paying a weekly visit to all the Schools seriatim and discovering all the children who show any signs of commencing caries, and these will then be dealt with.

Thus in the future we may hope to see good, sound, teeth, in the place of the false or decayed ones which are now so prevalent.

Parents too should remember that they can do much themselves towards obtaining this desirable result.

The daily use of the tooth brush, night and morning is essential.

The diet too is a most important factor in the causation of decay.

Soft starchy food if left in the interstices of the teeth soon give rise to colonies of innumerable Bacilli which act in a most prejudicial manner on the teeth.

The Dentist, beside instrumental interference, will advise the Parents on the best means to be adopted to keep the mouth and teeth clean and healthy.

It is now definitely arranged that one Nurse only (Nurse Reynolds) shall be Clinic Nurse.

The other two Nurses (Nurses Bellchambers and Collins) who act as School Attendance Officers will assist me at School Inspections and "follow up" cases which require it and will send them to the Clinic for treatment.

I need hardly remark that the Clinic will in no way interfere with the Patients of the Doctors in the Town. It is only necessitous children, whose parents cannot pay a Doctor that will be treated.

One great advantage of the Clinic is that a child suffering, say, from a bad head, comes *every day* to be seen and dressed by the Nurse. The Mother at home very often goes to work and has no time to devote to the child, and at the end of a week what with an accummulation of ointment and discharge the child's head is worse than ever. A great number of such cases have in the past fallen under my observation.

The mode of Admission to the Clinic is by Ticket.

These are supplied to the Head Teachers, and School Attendance Officers.

The Head Teacher of each School is provided with a Card giving full Particulars of the working of the Clinic, hours of Attendance, etc.

I am endeavouring to get the assistance of a Voluntary School Care Committee.

I have brought the matter before the members of the Infant's Health Committee and they are considering the matter.

Such a Committee might be of very great assistance in looking after the physical welfare of the child.

As in former Reports Table IV gives the number of Children Examined according to School, Age, and Sex. Table V gives the Standards reached by the children arranged in a similar way.

Besides these is a Table (I) according to the model required by the Board of Education which gives the numbers of Entrants and Leavers, with the sexes and totals. This is A. "Code Group"—and B, "Groups other than the Code," gives all the intermediate ages.

The number of "Special Cases," and "Children re-examined" are comparatively small as the Clinic was not then established, but in future years they will be greatly increased.

II.—The General Condition of Children and Schools.

(*a*) The Children.

There is a general improvement in the children. Not only are they physically (with few exceptions) in good health, but it is quite evident that their Mothers take a much greater interest in their wellbeing than formerly.

This is shown in the condition of their clothes and their general cleanliness. As a rule the condition of the child reflects the home.

Those Schools which receive children from the "slums" show a greater percentage of dirty and ill-cared for children than those in the better neighbourhoods.

Proceeding seriatim, this year's Inspection shews the number of defects as follows:—

1.—Clothing. Two children were found altogether bad, and in 10 cases the footgear was very defective.

2.—Skin. Nine had dirty heads and bodies and 37 had verminous heads. These were confined to "nits."

3.—Nutrition. This was poor in eight cases, and in all there was poverty at home.

4.—Vision. There were 39 cases of Defective Vision in one or both eyes.

This is at the rate of 5.2%.

The right eyes were affected more frequently than the left, in the proportion of 25 to 14.

The defects as shown by Snellen's Test were as follows:

$\frac{6}{9}$	—	2	children.
$\frac{6}{12}$	—	12	,,
$\frac{6}{18}$	—	9	,,
$\frac{6}{24}$	—	8	,,
$\frac{6}{36}$	—	8	,,

As regards the Sexes affected 24 were Boys and 15 Girls.

I may explain these figures by saying that a child with good vision should read the type marked $\frac{6}{6}$, at a distance of six metres or 20 feet. The top figure in all cases gives the distance of the child from the type test. Where a child can only read at six metres types marked 18 or 24 he can only read at six metres type that he should, if his vision were good, read at 18 or 24 metres.

There were two cases of squint, both in girls.

5.—Throat. There were nine cases of Enlarged Tonsils, five Mouth Breathers, and five cases of Adenoids.

The enlarged Tonsils were slight, but the Adenoids required operation.

6.—External Eye. Five cases of external Eye Disease were found, three being due to Blepharitis, which was much agravated by dirt and want of cleanliness.

7.—Ear Disease. There were three cases of Otorrhœa requiring constant treatment.

This Disease if neglected is liable to cause disease of the bones of the internal ear, and consequent deafness.

8.—Teeth. Referring only to bad and very palpable cases of carious teeth 73 were found.

But of the very early evidence of disease in the permanent teeth a very much larger number was probably present.

I have spoken of this in another part of my Report.

9.—Lungs. Two cases of Bronchial Catarrh, three of Tuberculosis and one of suspected Tuberculosis were detected.

Dr. Short (the County Tuberculosis Officer) has been of great assistance to me in the early detection of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

10.—Nervous System. One case of Chorea was noted.

11.—Skin Diseases. Fewer of these were found this year. Only one case of Ringworm was found, four of Impetigo, and two of Eczema.

12.—Mental Condition. One case of Mental deficiency was discovered, but of a mild type.

13.—Other Diseases. There were two cases of Rickets, three of Deformities, one of Defective Speech, and one of Stammering.

The cases of Deformities discovered were six in number.

One of Lameness the result of an excised hip, one of Talipes, one of Bowlegs, two of Stiff Shoulders, one the result of disease and the other of excision, and one case of Pigeon-breast.

The general health in all these children was good.

In all these cases there was the usual "following" up, but not always with very satisfactory results.

Parents were advised to take their children to a Doctor or to the Hospital.

Those Children who were suffering from an Infectious Disease were kept from school, and also those in an infected house, until thorough disinfection had been carried out and the usual period of the infectivity of the disease had passed.

The chief Disease which occurred during the year was Diphtheria. Of this I received 70 Notifications. The great majority of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, but of course it also necessitated the absence from School of the other children of the house for a limited period.

None of the cases of Diphtheria could be traced to "contact" at School. They were nearly all very mild cases, occurring in all parts of the Town and in children from all Schools. Fuller particulars of this disease will be found in my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, which accompanies this Report.

Measles, German Measles, and Chicken Pox, were other Infectious Diseases which affected the Infants in some of the Schools, but not to any large extent.

The Head Teachers kept me well informed during the year of all cases of Infectious Diseases occurring amongst their Children.

Especially was this the case with those which do not come under the Notification of Infectious Disease Act, 1889.

They notified 232 cases in all.

With regard to the Defects found in the Children examined full particulars will be found in Table II of the Board of Education, which is attached to this Report.

It gives Returns showing the Physical Condition of Children inspected. They are divided into Entrants, Leavers, and intermediate Group. Also the numbers according to the Sexes, and the totals and percentages found.

This gives a full account at a glance and has the advantage of uniformity throughout the Country.

With regard to Table III which gives a numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area the numbers are not great.

There is one partially blind girl who has been attending a Public Elementary School, and one attending a Certified School for the blind.

There were no Deaf or Dumb Children.

As regards the Feeble-minded there were three at School, and one in a Certified School for mentally defective children.

There was one Epileptic girl at School. Three Cripples were found during the year attending School.

The Dull and Backward (retarded two years) were ten in number, six Boys and four Girls.

(*b*) The Schools.

I made the usual Annual Inspection of all the Schools previous to the Summer Holidays and drew up a Specification of all work I considered necessary to be done to put them in a good sanitary condition.

The work was carried out during the Holidays and completed before the School re-opened.

The plentiful use of soap and water and supply of fresh air is required all the year round.

(*c*) Provision of Meals.

Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

In March I presented a Report to your Committee on this subject and it was fully discussed.

The result arrived at by a majority was that it was not necessary to adopt it, and that all cases discovered (which were considered to be few) might be dealt with by private charitable means.

General Health during 1913.

Speaking generally the Health of the Schools during 1913 was good.

An outbreak of Measles in the early part of the year suddenly attacked young Children, and in the month of May it was necessary to close the Infant Departments of the Central, Trinity, North Town, St. Andrew's and South Street Schools and the Original Infant School.

The only other Diseases that were somewhat prevalent among the Children were German Measles and Chicken Pox, but these were not to any very great extent.

The cases of Diphtheria I have already alluded to.

Previous Illness of Children.

Of the Children inspected by far the largest number had suffered from Measles contracted in previous epidemics.

479 had been so affected, 237 Boys and 242 Girls.

213 had suffered from Whooping Cough, 89 Boys and 124 Girls.

147 from Chicken Pox, 65 Boys and 82 Girls.

24 had had Scarlet-fever, six Boys and 18 Girls; 9 Diphtheria, two Boys and seven Girls; and 33 from other Diseases, 17 Boys and 16 Girls.

These will all be found set out in Table VI.

Heights and Weights of Children.

Table VII gives the various Heights and Weights of the Children inspected at their various ages.

They are recorded in English feet and pounds and Metric Centimetres and Kilogramms.

There is not much deviation from former years, the girls however being on an average a little taller than the boys, and also a little lighter.

There is a very great variety, however. Not long since I found a girl of twelve and three-quarter years, 4ft. 9ins. in height, and 7st. 4lbs. in weight; whereas the next girl to be examined of the same age was 4ft. 4ins. in height and weighed only 4st. 8lbs.

In conclusion I must thank your Committee for the assistance you have given me.

I think that it is only fair to expect, seeing that the School Medical Service will be carried out in its entirety, that the health and general condition of the children will be much improved and the attendance and consequently the Government grant will be increased.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

School Medical Officer.

TABLE I. Number of Children Inspected 1st January to 31st December, 1913.

A. "Code" Groups.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS.					
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
Boys ...	86	59	39	—	—	184	64	18	3	—	85	269
Girls ...	69	56	35	—	—	160	95	30	1	—	126	286
	155	115	74	—	—	344	159	48	4	—	211	555

B. Groups other than "Code."

	Intermediate Groups.							Special Cases.	Number of Children Re-examined.
Ages ...	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total.		
Boys ...	35	20	4	9	9	26	103	—	28
Girls ...	24	22	7	6	7	14	80	—	37
Total ...	59	42	11	15	16	40	183	—	65

TABLE II.

RETURN SHOWING THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

Condition.		Entrants.				Leavers.				Intermediate Group.				Total.				Special Cases.		
		Boys	Girls	Total	per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total	per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total	per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total	per cent.	Boys	Girls	Total
Total Inspected.		184	160	344		85	126	211		103	80	183		372	266	738				
Clothing.	Satisfactory	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	102	79	181		371	365	736				
	Unsatisfactory	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1.09	1	1	2	.27			
Footgear.	Satisfactory	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	93	80	173	5.5	362	366	728				
	Unsatisfactory	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	10	—	10		10	—	10	1.32			
Cleanliness of Head.	Clean (no Nits or Pediculi) ...	184	160	344	100	85	112	197	6.6	103	57	160		372	329	701				
	Nits only	—	—	—		—	14	14			23	23	12.5	—	37	37	5.01			
	Pediculi	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
Cleanliness of Body.	Clean	184	160	344	100	85	125	210		98	77	175		367	362	729				
	Dirty	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	-47	5	3	8	4.3	5	4	9	11.2			
	Pediculi present	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
Nutrition.	Excellent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Normal	184	160	344	100	83	124	207	43	100	78	178		367	363	730				
	Below Normal	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1.4	3	2	5	2.7	5	3	8	1.08			
	Bad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Nose and Throat.	No Defect	184	160	344	100									362	357	719				
	Mouth Breathers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		3	2	5	2.7	3	2	5	.6			
	Tonsils slightly enlarged ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	195	2	5	7	3.8	4	5	9	1.2			
	" much enlarged ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Adenoids slight	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	2.7	3	2	5	.6			
	" marked	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
External Eye Disease.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	84	126	210		99	80	179		367	366	733				
	Blepharitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	-47	2	—	2	1.99	3	—	3	-4			
	Conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—	—	—			—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—	—	—			—	—	—		—	—	—				
	Other Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		2	—	2	1.99	2	—	2	.2			
Ear Disease.	No Disese	184	160	344	100	85	126	211		97	80	177		366	366	732				
	Obstruction R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	" L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Otorrhœa R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1.6	3	—	3	-4			
	" L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1.6	3	—	3	-4			
	Other Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
Teeth.	Sound	184	160	344	100	68	101	169		93	59	152		345	320	665				
	Less than four decayed ...	—	—	—	—	17	25	42	19.9	10	21	31	16.9	27	46	73	.9			
	Four or more decayed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—		—	—	—				
	Septic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—		—	—	—				
Heart and Circulation.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Organic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Functional Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Anæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Other defect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Lungs.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	83	126	209		99	78	177		366	366	732				
	Chronic Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	-95	—	—	—		2	—	2	.2			
	Tuberculosis Suspected ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		3	1	4	2.0	3	—	3	-4			
	Other Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1	1	2	1.0	1	—	1	.1			
Nervous System.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	102	80	182		371	366	737				
	Epilepsy (major or	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
	" minor)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
	Chorea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	.5	1	—	—				
	Other Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—			
Skin.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	52	126	208		99	80	179		365	366	731				
	Ringworm (Body)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—				
	" (Head)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	1	.5	1	—	1	.1			
	Impetigo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1.0	2	—	2	.2			
	Scabies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—		—	—	—				
	Other Disease	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1.4	1	—	1	.5	4	—	4	.5			
Rickets.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	83	126	209		103	80	183		370	366	736				
	Slight	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	.95	—	—	—		2	—	2	.2			
	Marked	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—			
Deformities.	No deformity	184	160	344	100	84	126	210		101	80	181		369	366	735				
	Deformity present	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	-47	2	—	2		3	—	3	-4			
Tuberculosis non-Pulmonary.	No Disease	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	103	80	183	100	372	366	738	100			
	Glandular	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	Other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Speech.	Non-defective	184	160	344	100	84	126	210		102	80	182		371	366	737				
	Defective Articulation ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	.5	1	—	1	.1			
	Stammering	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	-47	—	—	—		1	—	1	—			
Mental Condition.	Normal	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	102	80	182		371	368	737				
	Dull or backward	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	Mentally defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	.5	1	—	1	.1			
	(All grades)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Vision.	6/6 Each Eye Normal Vision	184	160	344	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	6/6 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	6/9 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1.0	—	2	2	.2			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	6/12 R	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	1.89	2	3	5	2.7	6	3	9	1.2			
	L	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	-47	1	1	2	1.0	2	1	3	-4			
	6/18 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	2.0	4	—	4	.5			
	L	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	.95	—	3	3	1.6	1	4	5	.6			
	6/24 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	2.0	3	1	4	.5			
	L	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	-47	3	—	3	1.6	4	—	4	.5			
	6/36 R	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	-47	3	2	5	2.7	3	3	6	.8			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	-47	1	—	1	.5	1	1	2	.2			
	6/60 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	6/0 R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Squint.	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1.0	—	2	2	.2			
Hearing (Whisper).	20ft. each Ear (normal hearing)	184	160	344	100	85	126	211	100	103	80	183	100	—	—	—	—			
	20ft. R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	10ft. R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	5ft. R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			

TABLE III.

Numerical Returns of all exceptional Children in the Area.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total
Blind (including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	1	1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	...	1	1
		Not at School	...	...	...
Deaf and Dumb (including partially Deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	...
		Not at School	...	...	...
Mentally Deficient.	Feeble Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally defective Children ...	1	...	...
		Not at School			
	Imbeciles.	At School	...	...	...
		Not at School	...	...	...
	Idiots.	—	...	...	...
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	1	1
		Attending Certified Schools for Epilleptics	...	...	...
		Not at School	...	...	...
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically defective Children ...	...	...	...
		Not at School	1	6	...
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically defective Children ...	...	...	...
		Not at School	...	...	...
	Cripples other than Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically defective Children ...	...	...	...
		Not at School	...	...	...
Dull or Backward.		Retarded two years	6	4	...
		Retarded three years	...	...	...

TABLE IV.

Children Inspected, 1913, according to School, Ages, and Sexes.

School.	3 years.		4 years.		5 years.		6 years.		7 years.		8 years.		9 years.		10 years.		11 years.		12 years.		13 years.		14 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.	
North Town Council	18	11	11	4	5	6	8	4	1	7	...	1	...	2	...	4	...	5	16	20	8	5	...	...	67	69	136
St. Andrew's ...	14	9	10	17	10	15	6	3	4	3	1	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	18	18	3	4	2	...	70	73	143
Central	9	8	5	9	5	4	5	4	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	5	...	1	24	51	75
Trinity	12	13	8	6	8	6	5	2	10	2	1	1	2	2	...	1	1	2	5	7	1	7	...	...	53	49	102
St. James'	6	9	6	6	2	1	1	3	3	2	...	1	...	...	3	1	13	4	1	4	...	1	...	...	35	32	67
Priory, Council ...	16	11	10	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	8	3	2	...	...	34	31	65
Memorial	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	14	2	4	...	...	9	19	28
St. John's	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	4	2	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	1	3	9	...	2	...	...	17	19	36
Original Infants' ...	8	6	7	3	4	3	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	14	37
St. George's ...	3	2	2	2	2	...	1	2	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	19
Askwith Memorial	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	5	...	7	...	10	...	1	...	1	...	30	...	30
Total ...	86	69	59	56	39	35	35	24	20	22	4	7	9	6	9	7	26	14	64	95	18	30	3	1	372	366	738

TABLE V.

Standards 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.	43	28	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	8	2	17	12	5	10	6	67	69
St. Andrew's ...	39	48	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	10	11	11	8	2	70	73
Central ...	24	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	16	...	3	...	...	24	51
Trinity ...	34	27	9	2	3	3	2	4	...	1	...	1	1	4	4	7	53	49
St. James' ...	18	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	13	5	1	4	...	1	35	32
Priory Council	26	20	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	8	7	2	...	1	34	31
Memorial ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	5	3	11	...	...	9	19
St. John's ...	6	7	1	...	1	1	3	...	1	...	5	8	...	3	...	...	17	19
Original Infants'	23	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	14
St. George's ...	8	7	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
Askwith Memorial ...	...	...	2	...	1	...	6	...	11	...	9	...	1	...	...	...	30	...
Total ...	221	203	12	5	6	4	13	9	15	15	47	70	36	43	22	17	372	366

TABLE VI.

Previous Illnesses of Children Tabulated according to School and Sex.

School.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Other Diseases.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
North Town Council ...	36	56	12	28	8	20	...	8	...	5	4	4
St. Andrew's	34	19	21	10	7	9	5	4	1	2	...	...
Central	18	33	2	16	3	8	...	1	...	...	...	2
Trinity	35	35	15	24	12	14	...	...	...	...	4	1
St. James'	34	17	12	8	16	3	...	3	1	...	2	1
Priory Council	18	28	5	13	3	4	...	...	...	...	3	3
Memorial	8	13	5	8	5	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
St. John's	16	18	9	9	10	10	...	2	...	...	...	1
Original Infants'	14	15	...	4	3	3	...	...	...	...	4	2
St. George's	10	8	...	4	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	2
Askwith Memorial ...	14	...	8	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE VII.

verage Height and Weight of Children at Various Ages.

Ages.	Height.			Weight.		
	English ft.	English ins.	Metric Centi-metres.	English. st.	English. lbs.	Metric Kilograms.
Boys—						
3 years	2	8	.81	2	4	14.5
4 ,, ...	3	3	.99	2	8	16.3
5 ,, ...	3	4	1.02	2	8	16.3
6 ,, ...	3	6	1.07	3	3	20.4
7 ,, ...	3	8	1.12	3	5	21.3
8 ,, ...	3	10	1.17	3	8	22.7
9 ,, ...	4	1	1.24	4	0	25.4
10 ,, ...	4	3	1.29	4	3	26.7
11 ,, ...	4	4	1.32	4	11	30.4
12 ,, ...	4	5	1.35	5	0	31.7
13 ,, ...	4	6	1.37	5	5	34.0
14 ,, ...	4	7	1.39	5	8	35.4
Girls—						
3 years	3	1	.94	2	3	14.0
4 ,, ...	3	2	.96	2	5	15 0
5 ,, ...	3	5	1.04	2	9	16.8
6 ,, ...	3	6	1.07	3	0	19.0
7 ,, ...	3	7	1.09	3	1	19.5
8 ,, ...	3	9	1.14	3	3	20.4
9 ,, ...	4	0	1.22	3	8	22.7
10 ,, ...	4	1	1.24	4	0	25.4
11 ,, ...	4	2	1.27	4	1	25.8
12 ,, ...	4	4	1.32	4	3	26.7
13 ,, ...	4	5	1.35	4	4	27.2
14 ,, ...	4	6	1.37	4	5	27.6