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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

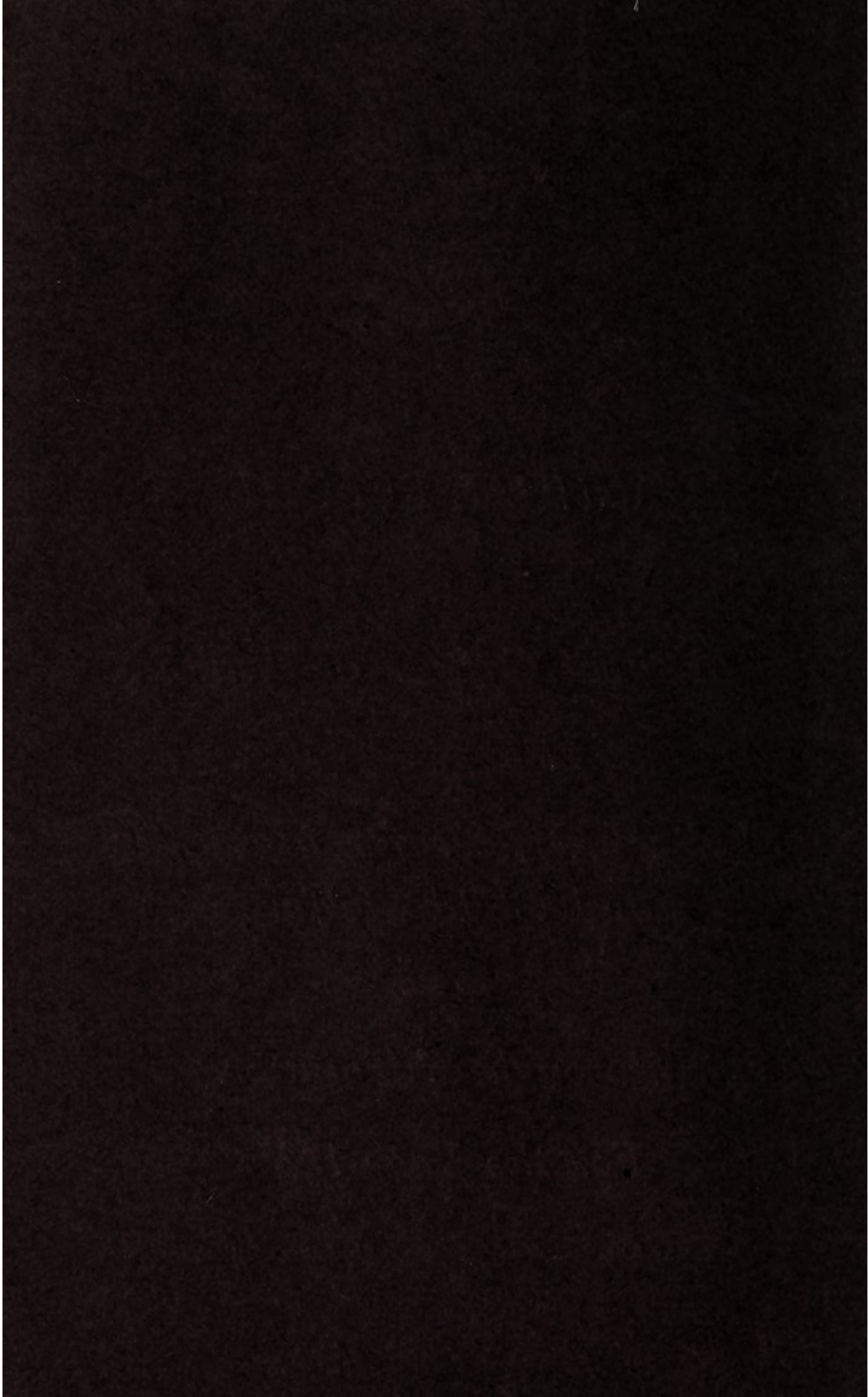
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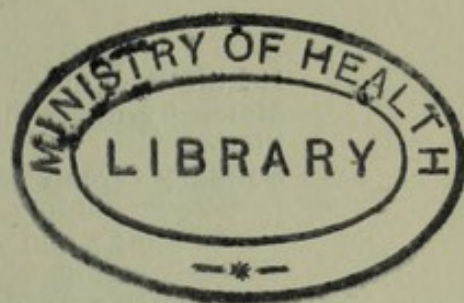
*Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare*

OF THE

Borough of Taunton

For the Year 1925.





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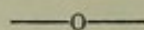
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For the Year 1925.

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Public Health Department,

Corporation Street,

Taunton,

11th June, 1926.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1925.

In accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health this is a Survey Report and includes particulars of progress made during the past five years.

It would appear from the estimate of the Registrar General that the population shows a decrease of 210 from 1924. In calculating this figure various factors have been taken into account—including the Parliamentary Register, which shows a decrease in the total number of voters.

Many new Acts and Regulations came into force in 1925, including the Public Health Act, 1925, the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Housing Act, 1925, the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and the Tuberculosis Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. These have caused a corresponding increase in the work done.

Several changes in the staff have occurred.

After the resignation of Mr. F. M. Westcott in January, Mr. E. C. Farr, a qualified Sanitary Inspector, was appointed. Mr. Northcombe retired after over 35 years' service in September, when Mr. Farr was designated Senior Sanitary Inspector and a second Sanitary Inspector appointed.

Miss N. W. Dudfield commenced duty as Health Visitor in January.

Mr. A. W. Good resigned his position as Clerk on being appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Borough of Bridgwater, and was succeeded by Mr. G. J. A. Wilkinson.

I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the lively interest he has shown in all details of the work and to all Members of the Committee for their continued support of measures likely to further the well-being of the inhabitants.

I have also to thank the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation and zeal.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor and to the Manager of the Waterworks for particulars relating to their departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman West (Chairman).

Mr. Councillor Beel	Mr. Councillor Howell-Spencer
Mr. Councillor Clode	Dr. Councillor Joscelyne
Mr. Councillor Down	Mr. Councillor Lane
Mr. Councillor Maynard	Mr. Councillor Lewis

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

In addition to the above:—

Mr. Alderman Penny	
Mrs. Councillor Barnicott	
Dr. J. A. Macdonald	... { Representing the Medical Profession.
Mrs. Fowler	... { Representing Working
Miss Upton	... { Infant Health Society.
Mrs. Walker	... { Representing the Taunton Women's Organisations.

STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health	...	{ John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
*Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare	and	
*School Medical Officer	...	
*Consulting Medical Officer	...	Henry J. Alford, M.D., F.I.C.
*Chief Sanitary Inspector	...	{ E. C. Farr, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.A. (SCOT.), M.I.H., A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E.
*Sanitary Inspector	...	A. W. G. Corner, A.R.S.I.
*Health Visitor	...	Norah W. Dudfield, C.M.B.
Clerk	...	G. J. A. Wilkinson.

*Salary contributions made by Exchequer Grants or under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The rainfall on the watershed amounted to 33.58 inches at Blagdon and 33.45 inches at Leigh.

At the end of the year the reservoirs were almost full, having 14 million gallons in store, against a total capacity of 16 million gallons.

The reconstruction of the shaft at Forches Corner was completed in June and provides 54 million gallons per year.

A sample of this water was taken from the base of the bore hole and analysis showed that it was extremely soft, there being no temporary hardness while the permanent hardness amounted to only 1.8 per cent.

Samples of water are taken at monthly intervals from a main tap in the town and sent to the County Analyst at Weston-super-Mare for examination.

His reports on samples taken at the end of the year showed some lack of efficiency in the filter beds at Fulwood. There are three of these; one has been regenerated and one is now being regenerated. It appears that it is only possible to clean these during the wetter months owing to the large quantity of water required for washing the sand.

It was not possible to commence the laying of the additional twelve-inch water main between the town and Fulwood during 1925; work on this was begun early in 1926.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The destructors were remodelled in 1924 at a cost of £3,437. There are now four cells with a total capacity of 24 tons per day.

The sewage disposal works have been remodelled on the Bio Aeration System on the Sheffield plan. Work was commenced in May, 1924, and completed in June, 1925.

These are designed for a dry weather flow of 750,000 gallons per day and are calculated to meet the requirements of the town until 1953.

Scavenging and Refuse Removal.

The horse drawn vehicles have now been superseded by three electric and two petrol lorries.

The first electric vehicle was delivered in 1919, the second in 1920 and the third in 1921. Each of these has a capacity of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

One petrol lorry has a capacity of 30 cwt., while the other, which is kept as a stand-by, has a capacity of 20 cwt.

The amount of refuse removed is about 200 tons per week. This is double the amount collected four years ago.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1925 there were 5,830 houses in the Borough, and of these only 31, or 0.5 per cent., were dependent upon cess-pits or privies for the disposal of excreta. Of these 31 houses 22 have cess-pits, 5 have pail closets, 2 have privies and 2 have earth closets.

It has been found impossible to compel the owners to provide water carriage for any of these by legal methods, owing either to the distance from a sewer or the fact that the cess-pits are maintained in a satisfactory state.

The courts are all provided with water closets and a standard of one water closet for every ten persons is maintained.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.

Prior to the 22nd January, 1922, the trades coming within this description were:—

- Blood Boiler or Drier.
- Bone Boiler.
- Tanner.
- Fell-monger.
- Leather-Dresser.
- Soap-Boiler.
- Tallow-melter.
- Fat-melter or Extractor.
- Tripe-boiler.
- Glue-maker.
- Size-maker.
- Gut-scraper.

These were allowed by the Local Government Board on 27th April, 1883, with appropriate bye-laws.

An Order made by you on 10th January, 1922, added to these the trades of:—

Dealer in Rags and Bones.

Fish Frier.

Dealer in Hides and Skins

with appropriate bye-laws. These were confirmed on 22nd January, 1922.

It is therefore illegal to establish a new business of any of these types without your formal consent and approval.

The offensive trades existing in this area are:—

Fell-monger, Tanner and Leather dresser	...	1
Tripe Boilers		8
Gut Scraper		1
Rag and Bone Dealers		9
Fish Friers		7
Hide and Skin Dealers		2

Premises occupied at 18, Magdalene Street as a Fried Fish Shop have ceased to be used for this purpose during the year.

Other Premises and Occupations.

There are Regulations or Bye-laws for the control of:—

Bakehouses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

Common Lodging Houses.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Slaughterhouses.

Removal of Noxious or Offensive Matter.

Nuisances.

Bakehouses.

There are 22 of these; none are of the underground type.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two of these. One, at 79, East Reach, has accommodation for 33 single men with a room divided by a partition having accommodation for two married couples and one child. The other, at 32, Upper High Street, was first registered in January, 1924, and now has beds for 12 single men.

These are both kept in a very satisfactory condition. Bye-laws for the control of Common Lodging Houses were made in January, 1879.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are two open spaces in the town which are frequently used by van-dwellers and travelling shows—one at Jarvis's Field, Canal Road, and the other at the Poor Ground, East Reach.

In order to have better control over these, bye-laws were made on 25th October, 1921. By virtue of these each of these grounds now has a water tap laid on to the main and a brick structure containing separate closet accommodation for each sex.

Slaughterhouses.

The number in use is twelve. Seven of these were in existence before 1875 and are in consequence registered while five have been erected since that date and are licensed. The conditions of the licensed slaughterhouses are reviewed every twelve months, licences being granted for a period of twelve months and expiring on 30th November each year.

There are nineteen butchers using the twelve slaughterhouses.

The following table shows the increase since 1920:—

		In 1920.		In Jan., 1925.		In Dec., 1925
Registered		7	...	7	...	7
Licensed		2	...	5	...	5
		—		—		—
	Total	9	...	12	...	12
		—		—		—

Actually one new slaughterhouse has been opened since 1920 while the other two were brought in by the extension of the Borough in 1921. Another licensed slaughterhouse was also included by the extension of the Borough, but use of this ceased in May, 1924, and later application to re-open it was refused owing to the totally unsuitable nature of the building.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

These came into force on 21st April, 1925. There are six parts:—

PART I. Consists of definitions and a regulation to prevent the employment of a person in the slaughter or handling of meat while suffering from an infectious disease.

PART II. Contains rules for the regulation of slaughtering and requires the butcher to fix certain dates and times or to give three hours' notice prior to slaughter. If it appears to the butcher that any part of a carcase is or may be

diseased immediate notice must be given to the Medical Officer of Health.

The practices of gut-scraping, tripe-cleaning or the preparation of any food and various other domestic activities within a slaughterhouse are prohibited; nor may it be used for the killing of any animal which is not intended for human food.

PART III. This is the only permissive section, and enables an authority, if approved by the Ministry, to have a special stamp and to mark all meat inspected with it.

As this would require the whole-time service of an additional Inspector I have not advised its adoption.

PART IV. Contains regulations for the control of stalls. Its requirements include—the display of the name and home address of the occupier, the proper protection of its contents if the stall is not in an enclosed place, the provision of a proper receptacle for waste, details as to cleanliness and the prevention of contamination by flies.

PART V. Contains somewhat similar requirements for shops and stores and in addition some sanitary requirements forbidding direct communication with a water closet or urinal or a sleeping place. Provisions for cleanliness and limewashing and a vague provision against the contamination of meat by filth, mud, etc.

PART VI. Deals with the care of meat during transport and contains requirements for the cleanliness of the vehicle, the adequate covering of meat when not transported in a closed vehicle and prohibits the carrying of live animals in the same van with meat.

A copy of the regulations was sent to every butcher in the area and by arrangement with the Taunton members of the Master Butchers' Association a joint meeting between them and the sanitary officers concerned was held on the 4th February, 1925. The regulations were then considered in detail and where possible explanations given on doubtful points.

Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations have to be given to the Medical Officer of Health either at his office in Corporation Street, or if out of office hours at his residence in Castle Green.

After this a visit was made to all butchers' shops in the town and some minor defects indicated and subsequently rectified.

The covered market was also inspected and as a result of several visits the following alterations were suggested to the Market Trustees:—

- (1) The removal of live poultry from the covered portion.
- (2) The separation of meat stalls from other stalls, such as those selling vegetables and plants.
- (3) Repair of the butchers' benches.
- (4) Provision of a proper storage place for meat left over at the end of the day, or the removal of the meat from the market.

The live poultry market has now been separated from the remainder by a partition, vegetables of an earthy character have to be sold in the lower part and the benches have been repaired. Sanitary bins have also been supplied for the storage of waste and trimmings. The Market Trustees have also (in August) issued regulations for the control of the market and have included in these various sections from the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and a requirement to the stallholders to make proper arrangements for meat left over at night.

In June the Ministry issued a circular concerning some points about which there had been considerable controversy. According to this circular cooked meats, such as ham and sausages and also lard, should not be included as being within the scope of the Regulations, while the provision of closed glass fronts to butchers' shops depended on the circumstances of individual cases.

The circular is, however, very definite in stating that under no circumstances must meat be allowed to project outside the limits of the shop. A suggestion that "where meat has to be kept near to an open window it should be covered with clean muslin except when a brisk trade is being carried on" is of no practical value.

To my mind the chief value of these Regulations lies in Section 8, whereby slaughter can only take place between fixed times, so enabling a more frequent inspection; and Section 9, whereby the butcher is required to inform me at once when any

part of the carcase or internal organs appears to him to be diseased or unsound.

The number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to slaughterhouses are more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ times those made in 1924, while diseased or unsound meat surrendered has increased from approximately 28 cwt. in 1924 to 69 cwt. in 1925.

Condemned meat is disposed of by incineration at the refuse destructor, where a special door was made into a flue during the reconstruction of these in 1924.

The Tuberculosis Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries came into operation on 1st September, 1925, and by it any person having possession or care of a cow with either chronic disease of the udder, tuberculous emaciation or chronic cough with other signs of tuberculosis is required to give notice of this to the Town Clerk. On receipt of such a notice the cow is examined by a veterinary surgeon and if the presence of the disease is confirmed by him arrangements are then made for the slaughter of the cow.

Under Tuberculosis Order No. 2 notice that slaughter of such an animal will take place has to be given to the Medical Officer of Health in order to avoid the possibility of the meat of such an animal being used for human consumption.

No notices of slaughter under this Order were received by me during 1925.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number of premises on the register on the 31st December, 1925, was 57.

These were classified as:—

	Premises.		Total.
	In Borough.	Out of Borough.	
Wholesale distributor only	1	—	1
Producer only	7	—	7
Producer and Retailer ...	6	8	14
Retailer only	35	—	35
	—	—	—
	49	8	57
	—	—	—

No licences have been applied for in respect of the distribution of pasteurised, graded or certified milk. Some enquiries have been made to me as to the possibility of obtaining Grade A. or Certified milk in this area, and I am certain that there would be a sale for either of these milks if retailed in this area.

An exhaustive examination was made into the cleanliness of the milk (as judged by bacteriological methods) supplied in 1924 and was summarised on pages 8 and 9 of my report for 1924. From these it appeared that the milk supplied was above the average for cleanliness and that some of the producers would have little difficulty in supplying Grade A. milk.

Three persons have ceased to retail milk and have in consequence been taken off the register, while three businesses have been transferred.

I would here take the opportunity to mention that registration under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, is in respect of both the premises and the person, and that when a business is likely to change hands it should be borne in mind that the Sanitary Authority may withhold registration of a new retailer unless considerable alterations to the premises are carried out.

When the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, came into force it was decided to register several small shops where milk was being sold with other articles, but that if any of these businesses should change hands they should not again be registered until more suitable provision was made.

Ten of the thirty-five retailers have premises of this kind and it may now be advisable to require more suitable provision or the cessation of the sale of milk.

New measures for the prevention of tuberculosis by milk include:—

- (1) The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, which came into force on 1st September, 1925.

Under Section 4 of this Act the Medical Officer of Health is required, if he has reason to believe that certain milk is likely to cause tuberculosis, to trace the source of origin and inform the County Medical Officer of Health.

Section 5 prohibits the sale or use of milk from a cow which has given tuberculous milk or is suffering from

emaciation due to tuberculosis or from tuberculosis or chronic inflammation of the udder.

Section 8 gives power to take samples of milk for examination (*e.g.*, for the presence of tubercle bacilli).

Section 21 (3) will repeal, from 1st September, 1926, Sections 31 to 39 of the Taunton Corporation Act, 1900, which gave us similar powers to those now made general by the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

No samples of milk have been taken for this purpose during 1925; arrangements have been made for the examination of samples during 1926.

- (2) The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, dated 31st July, 1925.

By these Regulations you have power to prevent any person known to have infectious tuberculosis of the lungs from handling milk.

I have no information of any case of this kind during 1925.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The diseases generally notifiable are:—

Small-pox.
Cholera.
Typhus Fever.
Relapsing and Continued Fevers.
Scarlet Fever and Scarlatina.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.
Enteric and Paratyphoid Fever.
Puerperal Fever.
Pneumonia, Acute Primary and Influenzal.
Erysipelas.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.
Acute Poliomyelitis.
Encephalitis Lethargica.
Acute Polio-encephalitis.
Malaria.
Dysentery.
Trench Fever.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Tuberculosis.

The following diseases are also notifiable in this area:—

Measles.
German Measles.
Chicken-pox.
Anthrax.

A table giving details of the cases is shown on page 33.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified was 51; one of these was subsequently withdrawn as an error in diagnosis.

Thirty-nine cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The average number of cases notified per year for the past ten years was 28.9.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	5	—	9	6	2	9	5	5	2	2	3

All the cases appeared to be of a mild type and there were no deaths.

There were three return cases occurring in connection with children discharged from the Isolation Hospital. These followed the discharge of two children to separate homes on the same date and who had both been in hospital for six weeks. In one home there were two other children and both of these developed Scarlet Fever within one week of the return home of their sister; in the other home there was one child and this also developed the disease within one week of the return of her brother.

An ordinary return case rate is usually 3 per cent. of the cases discharged and the rate here is well under this.

Diphtheria.

Thirteen cases were notified but three of these were withdrawn later. Eleven cases (including two of those cancelled, were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

The disease did not appear to be of a severe type in any of the cases.

Notifications during the past ten years show a marked fall in the incidence of this disease. The numbers are for:—

Year.				Cases.			Deaths.
1915	...	...	...	55	...		6
1916	...	...	...	68	...		1
1917	...	...	...	36	...		—
1918	...	...	...	15	...		1
1919	...	...	...	6	...		—
1920	...	...	...	25	...		2
1921	...	...	...	33	...		1
1922	...	...	...	32	...		1
1923	...	...	...	12	...		—
1924	...	...	...	11	—		—

The average number of cases a year for the past ten years is 29. There appears to have been a steady decline in the incidence of the disease and its severity; it may, however, for reasons which are at present unknown, increase again and become more virulent in type. It is possible by the injection of certain material to raise the resistance to this disease to such a degree that the risk of a person so treated contracting the disease becomes almost negligible.

Antitoxin or Anti-diphtheria Serum.

This is kept at my office in phials of 8,000 units each. Four of these were supplied to medical practitioners during the year.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Swabs for this purpose are kept at my office. They are sent for examination to the County Bacteriologist at Weston-super-Mare, and when these are received by me before noon they are at once sent by passenger train and it is then possible to receive a report on them by telephone at noon on the day following.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	—	3	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	—

Enteric Fever.

One case was notified in January. This was a patient in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and it was difficult to assign the source of her infection.

Pneumonia.

Influenzal. Eight cases were notified, two of which were treated in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Four deaths occurred.

Acute Primary. Twenty-four cases were notified, four of these were treated in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Three deaths occurred.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Inf.	—	1	—	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ac.P.	1	4	—	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	5	4

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Four cases, all adults, were notified. One was removed to the Isolation Hospital. One died; one has, after twelve months, made only a partial recovery and two appear to have recovered completely.

There did not appear to be any connection between these or any other known cases.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

Measles.

The epidemic which arose in the autumn of 1924 continued until March, 1925. There had been 831 cases in 1924 while there were 176 in 1925, giving a total of 1,007 cases for the outbreak.

The measures taken to deal with it were given on pages 15 and 16 of my report for 1924. Similar methods were used in 1925. The nurse specially engaged for the work continued this until 14th February when the Health Visitor took over the few cases requiring nursing. During 1925 the measles nurse paid 188 visits to cases, 158 of these being to children under 5 years of age.

Medical assistance was given by me to 9 cases, 32 visits being made to these.

The success of the methods adopted may be judged by the fact that there was not one death although 553 of the 1,007 cases were under five years of age. The last epidemic occurred in 1919-20, when 731 cases were notified and there were five deaths. In that epidemic nursing aid was provided at the request of the doctor in attendance only whereas in the latter one the nurse visited all cases and re-visited where this appeared advisable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases of this disease were notified; all made complete recoveries with apparently no damage to the eyes.

One case was the subject of a prosecution of the parents for neglect. The child was born in a tent in another area and the parents were seen with it when only a few days old in this town, the eyes being closed and purulent matter running down its face. The parents were apprehended by the police and the child taken to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital where it was admitted as an in-patient. It was there under treatment for three months before being discharged as cured. As the result of the prosecution the father was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and the mother to three months.

Nursing aid was not required for the case treated at home.

Cases.			Final Result.			
Notified.	Treated.		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	1	2	3	nil.	nil.	nil.

Small-pox.

This disease is now endemic in certain parts of the Midlands and North of England, and while it is generally of a mild type there is no guarantee that the type may not change and become virulent. I have therefore, owing to some resemblance of this disease to chicken-pox, advised that the latter disease continue to be notifiable.

Accordingly you have under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, resolved that chicken-pox be notifiable for a period of twelve months from 21st January, 1926. Public notice of this resolution has been made in the press and by exhibition of posters.

Arrangements for the control of this disease have been modified since my last report in that I now only visit and examine cases reported by parents or the nurses and not confirmed by a doctor, while the school nurses or the health visitor visit those notified by doctors to obtain a list of children attending school in order to arrange for exclusion if they have not had the disease, exclusion being for a period of 21 days.

Fifty-five cases were notified by general practitioners while I visited and examined 47 cases notified by the nurses or parents.

Sixty-three contacts of small-pox have been under observation during the year; sixty-one of these were time-expired soldiers returning from abroad. None developed any signs of the disease.

Two re-vaccinations were performed by me under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917; both were successful.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF CHICKEN-POX.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
19	14	3	5	22	18	6	—	4	2	8	1

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of this disease numbered 78, 61 being of the lungs and 17 of glands, bones or other forms; details are given on page 34.

Deaths from this cause numbered 23. In two of these no notification had been made and enquiry showed that in one the doctor believed the case had been notified by a former medical practi-

tioner while in the other the disease was only discovered as the result of a post-mortem examination to ascertain the cause of death.

The average number of cases notified over the past ten years was, for the pulmonary variety, 64, and for the non-pulmonary 18; while deaths for the same period averaged for the pulmonary 23 and for the non-pulmonary 6.

At the end of 1925 the number of cases of this disease in the town was:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	145	149	294
Non-pulmonary ...	25	22	47
	170	171	341

Further powers for the prevention of tuberculosis are given by Section 6 of the Public Health Act, 1925. Under this Act you have power to require the removal to hospital of any person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract in an infectious form from a place where proper precautions to prevent the spread of the infection are not or cannot be taken; or when there is a serious risk of infection to other persons.

Under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, you also have power to prevent a person in a similar condition from handling milk.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.

I received information from the Health Visitor and School Nurses of 64 cases of this disease. There were five deaths, chiefly due to the complication of broncho pneumonia.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF DEATHS.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Mumps.

From similar sources I received information of 104 cases of this disease, chiefly in the last quarter of the year.

I find that many adults were infected.

The regulations regarding exclusion from school have been modified in accordance with the joint memorandum on exclusion from school issued by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education and contacts of this disease are not now excluded from the public elementary schools.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under two years).

Three deaths were ascribed to this disease. All were bottle fed, two having cows' milk and the other a dried milk. The home conditions of two were good; but the third, a family comprising both parents and three children, had one room only for both living and sleeping.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF DEATHS.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

There appears to be an increasing tendency among sections of the public to demand disinfection where a person has died of this disease. It should therefore be recognised that cancer is not an infectious disease and that there is no risk in using such a room, and therefore disinfection is without any value from a preventive point of view.

Deaths from this cause in 1925 numbered 33.

Age and sex incidence:—

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
10—	—	—	—
20—	—	—	—
30—	—	—	—
40—	3	3	6
50—	3	2	5
60—	3	5	8
70—	4	6	10
80—	—	3	3
90—	1	—	—
Total	14	19	33

Site and sex incidence:—

Site.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach ...	—	3	3
Bowel ...	3	2	5
Liver ...	2	3	5
Rectum ...	2	1	3
Breast ...	—	6	6
Uterus ...	—	2	2
Throat ...	—	—	—
Mouth ...	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	7	2	9
Total	14	19	33

HOUSING.

General Conditions in the Borough.

The census taken in 1921 and modified according to the Extension of the Borough in November of that year showed that there were 5,376 houses, including 4,570 of working class type. Since the end of 1921, 225 more houses (including 63 working class type) have been erected, while none had been closed or demolished. There were therefore at the end of 1925, 5,540, including 4,732 of working class type.

At least 700 of these houses are of the back-to-back type; that is, they have no through ventilation in consequence of there being no openings of any kind in the back wall. These houses lie in rows, usually entered by a narrow opening from a main street.

I have no precise information as to the extent of the shortage of houses, but some indication of this can be gathered from the fact that at the end of March, 1926, the applications received for Council houses numbered 666. This number includes some repeat or duplicate applications—but even if these were 5 per cent. of the total there remain over 600 applicants who need houses. My visits to houses for various purposes have also shown me that there are many cases of gross overcrowding and that in some cases families have only one room for both living and sleeping.

To meet this shortage there have been built since 1920 162 houses of working class type, and in January, 1925, the Town Council resolved to build 200 houses in 1925 and 1926. At the end of 1925 about 82 of these were nearing completion.

It has been impossible to deal by any satisfactory method with the majority of the cases of overcrowding which have come to my knowledge, owing to the fact that if the people causing the overcrowding are required to move they almost invariably give rise to a similar state of affairs in the next house into which they move. My impression is that inability to pay the rents demanded is the cause of many of these cases.

Action was taken in nine cases only during the year.

Fitness of Houses.

The fact that there has been no complete survey of the town under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, makes it difficult to give any precise information on this.

A start on the housing survey was made in 1920 and I have records of the inspection of 782 houses. Out of these one was

found unfit for habitation, and 350 had defects of one kind or another which could be remedied. In other words over 45 per cent. of the houses inspected on a definite scheme and quite apart from complaints made by the tenants had defects which could be made good.

In Trinity Ward during 1925, 261 houses were inspected and over 60 per cent. of these had defects requiring attention.

As regards the nature of these defects the principal one was dirty internal walls and ceilings, and then in order of frequency—defective roofs, windows which would not open, lack of a sink for washing up, shutters and gutters which would not hold rain and floors with defective boards.

None of these were of the no-backlet type.

In thirteen cases only did the defects appear to be due to lack of care on the part of the tenants and in these notices to remedy the defects were served on the tenants themselves.

I do not know of any scheme in action among property owners whereby the houses are given a regular inspection at definite intervals but am convinced that such a plan would be of benefit both to landlord and tenant. This scheme has been adopted for the Council houses and all these are now examined by the Sanitary Inspectors at least once a year and oftener if the condition of the house shows that this is advisable.

A report is presented as a result of this survey.

As regards the remedying of defects found either as a result of the house-to-house inspection or as a sequel to a complaint made, 78 per cent of the defects found were remedied without formal notices being required and in only 15 per cent. had it been found necessary to send a formal notice, while the 7 per cent. remaining were under consideration at the end of the year. Of the 63 formal notices required 56 were made under the Public Health Acts and 7 under the Housing Acts.

The 700 houses without backlet present a very difficult problem. They consist generally of a living room, with a window and door on the same side; from this living room a narrow stair goes to a room above which is frequently divided by a partition of wood. There may also be a further room above this. These houses have no internal water supply or waste water sink.

Water is obtained from a tap in the court and waste water got rid of by pouring down a gully in the court.

The common water closets are usually placed at the end of the court and as far as possible a standard of one closet for every ten persons in the court is maintained. Difficulty arises with these at times owing to their improper use by some of the occupants. I am able to state that all the courts are provided with water closets with flushing tanks.

These houses are not as readily converted into through ventilation type as are those as are really back to back; for in the latter one through ventilated house can be made by knocking two adjoining houses into one; whereas in this type without backlet the back of the house usually abuts the passage in the next court and which also belongs to a different owner.

The rents charged for these houses are usually 3/- to 4/6 per week.

It would appear that the only way of remedying many of these is by dealing with them as unhealthy areas.

Unhealthy Areas.

In 1919 a report was made on some areas which contained many houses of this type and the following were given:—

1. East Reach, South side.
2. East Street, North side.
3. High Street, East and West sides.
4. King Street and Duke Street.
5. Upper High Street (Rice's College).

At this time these contained 346 houses and these were occupied by 1,117 persons. One area—King Street-Duke Street—was reported to me but lack of any other accommodation for the tenants who would be displaced rendered it impossible to take any action.

A very valuable principle has been adopted as regards the selection of tenants for the 200 new houses in course of erection, namely, that priority shall be given to those with the greatest number of children under 16 years of age.

I have carefully considered the desirability of recommending the adoption by you of the bye-laws for houses let in lodgings, the object of these being the more effective control over houses where a room or rooms are sublet to other tenants; but as these bye-laws would require additional staff to ensure that they were properly obeyed I feel it is better not to adopt them and to deal with any cases which may arise under the Nuisance section of the 1875 Act.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Home.

Delay in the progress of the scheme for the erection of a home on a site in the occupation of the Taunton District Nursing Association has arisen owing to difficulty in the sale of the land. This ground is vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands and an order has to be obtained from this body before such a sale can be contemplated. Steps have been taken to obtain this and to have a valuation. When these are obtained it should be possible to submit a scheme to the Town Council.

Births.

The number registered was 356, 201 being males and 155 females. Of these 20 were known to be illegitimate.

This gives a birth rate of 14.4 per thousand and an illegitimate birth rate of 0.8 per thousand.

Notifications of births under the Notification of Births Act, 1907, numbered 385. Of these 273 complied with the requirements of the Act in that they were made within 36 hours after birth. Of these 53 were made by medical practitioners, 215 by midwives and 5 by parents.

These notifications include 8 still births, giving a still birth rate of 22.4 per thousand registered births.

Infant Deaths.

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 61.8 per thousand.

Deaths of infants under one month old numbered 10—almost half the total number of deaths. Nine of these were due to causes operating before the birth of the child and indicate the necessity for greater ante-natal care of the mother.

Three deaths required inquests, including two from overlying (one of these was the only illegitimate death) and one where a congenital defect was stated to be the cause of death.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

I have to record a most successful year. The Centre was open on 51 occasions. The attendances of mothers totalled 2,626 and consultations given numbered 1,510. There was an average attendance per session of over 51 mothers and of over 29 consultations. New babies coming for the first time numbered 199.

The usual afternoon is Tuesday and the time from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Miss Dudfield has accepted the post of hon. secretary to the voluntary section of the work and has shown great energy in reviving this. There are now sewing classes and demonstrations, including instruction in bathing for which some mothers have nobly supplied the only object on which this can be properly learned, namely, a real baby.

A new departure has been a series of demonstrations to girls from the elementary schools who were in their last year at school, that is over 13 years old. These included:—

- (1) What infant welfare centres are for. By the Medical Officer of Health.
- (2) Bathing and Dressing. By Miss Upton, the Lady Superintendent of the Taunton District Nursing Association, and her staff.
- (3) Feeding. By Miss Dudfield, Health Visitor.
- (4) Clothing. „ „ „
- (5) Cots, and how to make them. By Mrs. Tyson.

The girls attended each lecture in batches of twenty to twenty-five and appeared most interested.

The Centre is working at full pressure and appears to be valued by the mothers. If more ladies would volunteer it would be possible to expand the social work in many useful directions.

There are, however, still mothers who do not realise that it is better to bring the children at regular intervals, even if they are quite well. It would indeed be useful if arrangements could be made to send a reminder before the birthday of each child so that it could be brought up for a complete overhaul; lack of clerical assistance alone prevents my putting this scheme into action.

Any particulars regarding the previous history of the child are summarised from the birth records kept by the Health Visitor and the Infant Consultation Records for the school record card, and arrangements have been made for the particular note of any cases of squint in order that these may be seen by the Ophthalmologist as soon as possible after the child attends school.

Crippling Defects.

The Somerset County Council have adopted a scheme to provide treatment for children with defects of this nature.

The central unit is the Combe Park Orthopædic Hospital at Bath, where the Somerset County Council have agreed to maintain 24 beds. In connection with this clinics have been established at various centres in the county, one of which is held in the Municipal Offices here.

Miss Forrester-Brown, M.S., M.D., who is one of the surgeons at the Bath Hospital, attends the clinic here on the second Friday in each month, while a specially trained after-care Sister who has been appointed by the Somerset C.C. attends the clinic on every Friday except the third in each month.

All new cases seen at the Infant Welfare Centre are submitted for the first time on the surgeon's day and attend for any subsequent massage or other remedial treatment as instructed by the Sister.

Mrs. Scott, the hon. secretary of the Taunton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee, has very kindly agreed to organise the voluntary section of the work and has gathered a very capable band of ladies for this purpose.

You have decided to participate in this scheme as regards children from birth and until they attend school or become of school age.

The first clinic was held on the 11th September, 1925, and two other surgeon's days were on the 13th November and the 4th December.

Eight infants were recommended to attend and seven attended. Of the seven who attended operative treatment at the Central Hospital was advised for three. One agreed and has had this while two refused. Manipulation and remedial treatment was advised for four who have all attended for this.

Some part of the charges made for the infant who went to the Central Hospital has been recovered from the parents.

Foster Children.

The Board of Guardians, who are the responsible authority, have a special woman officer for the supervision of these children, but as the Health Visitor and School Nurses have many opportunities for the inspection of foster children, they report to me any cases where the conditions are not satisfactory.

The Clerk to the Board of Guardians also informs me when any person in the Borough receives an infant for hire or reward.

As a result of reports made to me by the nurses and confirmation by myself I have reported to the Board of Guardians that in my opinion the homes in which six of these children were kept were unsuitable for this purpose.

Co-operation of this kind appears most necessary in the interests of the children.

Work of the Health Visitor.

Miss N. W. Dudfield commenced duty on the 1st January, 1925, and has proved a most capable and efficient health visitor. Her efforts have much to do with the increase in the number of infant consultations and the value of her work is reflected in the fact that the death rate of infants under one year of age is only 61.8 per thousand as compared with 74.0 for other towns of a similar character.

Her work may be summarised as:—

First Visits.			Re-Visits.		
Under 1 year	...	405	Under 1 year	...	1,641
Ante-natal cases	...	72	Between 1 and 2 years	...	1,060
Still births	...	10	Between 2 and 3 years	...	823
Other visits	...	75	Ante-natal cases	...	31
		—	Other visits	...	16
		562			—
		—			3,571
					—

Total visits 4,133.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders.

Milk was supplied free of cost during 1925 to either nursing mothers, women in the last three months of pregnancy, or to children under three years of age.

Before this is supplied the whole income of the family is investigated and then compared with a scale varying according to the size of the family. This scale was graded at 70 per cent. above pre-war prices in January, then increased to 80 per cent. in April and at 75 per cent. in November.

The number of families supplied was 66; the quantity 10,737 pints (or equivalent in dried milk) and the cost £134 11s. 0d.

Orders for the milk are made out for 28 days and renewed on application if there has been no increase in the income and if the children are brought to the Centre for weighing and inspection.

STATISTICS & TABLES, 1925.

Appendix I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, in statute acres	2,015
Population, estimated at mid-year—	
for death rate	24,460
for birth rate	24,660
Number of inhabited houses, 1921—	
(a) pre-extension	5,021
(b) post-extension	5,664
Sum represented by a penny rate	£435

Appendix II. VITAL STATISTICS.

Density of population over whole area, per acre	12.2
Births registered—	
Male	201
Female	155
	— 356
Births registered as illegitimate—	
Male	15
Female	5
	— 20
Birth rate	14.4
Birth rate, illegitimate	0.8
Deaths, after correction for transfers—	
Male	155
Female	129
	— 284
Death rate, crude	11.2
Death rate, standardised	10.2
Deaths of infants under one year—	
Legitimate	21
Illegitimate	1
	— 22
Infant mortality per thousand births	61.8
Infant mortality (under one month) per thousand births...	28.0
Still births per thousand births registered	28.0

Deaths, female, in consequence of child birth—

(a) from sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) from other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Puerperal Fever rate per thousand births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Death rate, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.8
Death rate, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.1
Death rate, Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.3
Natural increase per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.9

VITAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1925.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	75.0

Smaller Towns.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	74.0

Appendix III. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1925.

							Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	9	10	19
11.	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	14	19	33
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc	...	...	...	...	...	17	10	27
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	27	13	40
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	15	11	26
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
20.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
21.	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
26.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	26	35	61
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
							155	129	284

Appendix IV. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

AGE GROUPS OF ALL CASES NOTIFIED.

DISEASE.		AGE GROUPS OF ALL CASES NOTIFIED.											Total of all Ages	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over		
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	3	5	2	28	5	4	2	—	—	—	50	39
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	1	—	—	—	10	9
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	2	4	5	3	7	—	24	3
Influenza	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	1	8	4
Erysipelas	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	2	13	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	4	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Measles	...	...	8	15	10	11	56	52	6	3	—	—	—	176	1
German Measles	...	...	—	1	1	3	9	19	5	7	—	—	—	74	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	5	12	5	3	6	12	4	1	—	—	—	102	—
Anthrax	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Pneumonia—6 cases treated in Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Appendix V.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 —	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
5 —	6	5	2	1	—	—	—	—
10 —	10	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
20 —	2	6	2	2	1	1	1	—
25 —	4	7	1	2	3	4	—	1
35 —	3	3	—	—	—	2	1	—
45 —	2	2	—	1	4	2	—	—
55 —	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	33	28	9	8	9	10	3	1

Appendix VI.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1925.

CAUSE.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles						1			1	2
Whooping Cough ..										
Chicken Pox							1			1
Tuberculosis										
Bronchitis										
Broncho-Pneumonia ..								1	1	2
Pneumonia						1				1
Diarrhœa, etc.						2		1		3
Premature Birth	3		1		4					4
Marasmus										
Congenital Defects ..	3		1		4					4
Rickets										
Accident										
Overlying						2				2
Congenital Syphilis ..						1				1
Malpresentation	1				1					1
Convulsions	1				1					1
Total	8		2		10	7	1	2	2	22

Legitimate 21. The death from Congenital Syphilis was certified as
"Marasmus."

Illegitimate 1.

Inquests 3—2 legitimate (1 overlying, 1 congenital defect).
1 illegitimate (overlying).

Appendix VII.
ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER 5 YEARS IN 1925.

Age.	MALE.		FEMALE.		Total.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
Under one day	3	—	1	—	4
1 day and under 7 days ...	4	—	—	—	4
1 week and under 4 weeks ...	1	—	1	—	2
1 month and under 3 months ...	4	1	2	—	7
3 months and under 6 months ...	1	—	—	—	1
6 months and under 9 months ...	1	—	—	—	1
9 months and under 12 months ...	1	—	2	—	3
1 year and under 2 years ...	3	—	4	—	7
2 years and under 3 years ...	—	—	2	—	2
3 years and under 4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—
4 years and under 5 years ...	—	—	1	—	1
	18	1	13	—	32

Appendix VIII.**HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.**

Number of houses erected during the year—

(a) Total number	...	...	...	...	...	56
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—						
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	8
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	23

Appendix IX.**I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.**

Inspection—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	784
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	261
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human occupation	...	...	...	...	396

II Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	312
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. Action under Statutory Powers.**A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 56
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
- (a) By owners 55
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... *1
- *outstanding.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority
or the Somerset County Council.

1. Tuberculosis.

A sanatorium of 20 beds (9 female and 11 male) in grounds adjacent to the Isolation Hospital on the Cheddon Road. It is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council.

2. Maternity.

None. Special cases needing surgical interference are taken in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

A scheme for the provision of a maternity home of four beds is under consideration.

3. Children.

None. A ward of 15 beds in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital is set apart for children from this and the surrounding area.

4. Fever.

The hospital for these cases is situated on the Cheddon Road. It has four wards taking 8 cases each, an administrative block and a galvanised iron structure built to take small-pox cases but now used as a discharge ward.

This hospital serves the Borough and the Taunton Rural District and is administered by a joint committee. It is now being modernised and extensive alterations are being made, including central heating, electricity for lighting and the provision of baths and sluices in each ward. The laundry will have a washing machine, a rotary water extractor and a new drying room; while the mortuary and motor house are to be repaired. The total cost of these is estimated at about £2,300.

5. Small-pox.

The Borough have agreed to use the hospital of eight beds provided for this purpose by the Somerset County Council at Cossington, near Bridgwater, and 15 miles from Taunton.

6. Other.

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital in East Reach, Taunton, is a general hospital serving the Borough and the surrounding country districts. It has 107 beds for both medical and surgical cases.

The Union Infirmary in Trinity Street has 76 beds, 33 being for males and 43 for females; included in the latter are three beds in the maternity ward.

7. Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

None.

8. Institutional Provision for Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

The Taunton Board of Guardians have a separate home for 30 children on the Cheddon Road.

9. Ambulance Facilities.**(a) Infectious Cases.**

The Isolation Hospital now has a Ford motor fitted with a special ambulance body to hold two stretcher cases.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

A motor ambulance on a Ford chassis is provided and maintained by the Red Cross Ambulance Committee.

10. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. One.

This is provided and maintained by the Town Council, and is held in a special building at the Municipal Offices in Corporation Street. It is open on Tuesday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and for special cases on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

DAY NURSERY. None.

SCHOOL CLINIC. One. This is held in the same building as the Infant Welfare Centre and is open every school day. It is used for the treatment of minor ailments, visual defects and a dental clinic.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC. One. This is maintained by the Somerset County Council, and the Taunton Town Council have arranged to send cases and pay on an attendance basis.

It is held in the Municipal Lecture Hall for the use of which no charge is made by the Taunton Town Council.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. One. This is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council and is situated in Priory Avenue. It is open for Taunton cases each Monday.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. One. This is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council and is held in the Out-patient Department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Men attend on Saturdays between 4 and 5 p.m. and on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Women attend on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and on Mondays at 6 p.m.

11. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

See page 5.

12. Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.

The Taunton District Nursing Association have two nurses whose whole time is given to this.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The Taunton District Nursing Association have agreed with the Taunton Town Council to supply nursing aid to cases of Measles at a fee of 10d. per visit, and to Ophthalmia Neonatorum (including dressings) at a fee of 8d. per visit. It has been found that when Measles is epidemic it is necessary to engage a nurse who can give her whole time to this duty.

13. Midwives.

There are three who live and practise in Taunton. Two of them belong to the Taunton District Nursing Association and one is independent. They are not employed or subsidised by the Taunton Town Council.

14. Chemical and Laboratory Work.

The laboratories of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare are utilised for this purpose, including the examination of blood for its reaction to typhoid and food poisoning organisms, swabs for diphtheria organisms and smears for ophthalmia.

Samples of water are also examined both chemically and by bacteriological methods.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Acts (Adoptive) in force in this Area.

	Date adopted.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	November, 1890.
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	October, 1890.
Public Libraries Act, 1892	October, 1902.
Private Street Works Act, 1892	June, 1906.
Notification of Births Act, 1907	August, 1908.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907	May, 1909.
Provisional Order Confirmation (Taunton Extension) Act, 1921	9th November, 1921.

Bye-laws and Local Regulations (Public Health)

in force in this Area.

	Date adopted.
Byelaws, New Streets and Buildings	10th January, 1879.
„ Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	„ „
„ Nuisances	„ „
„ Common Lodging Houses	„ „
„ Offensive Trades (Fell-monger, Tanner and Leather Dresser)	27th April, 1883.
„ Tents, Vans and Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation	25th October, 1921.
„ Slaughterhouses	1st November, 1921.
„ Offensive Trades (Blood Boiler, Blood Drier, Bone Boiler, Soap Boiler, Tallow Melter, Fat Melter, Fat Extractor, Tripe Boiler, Glue Maker and Size Maker, Gut Scraper, Rag and Bone Dealer, Fish Frier, Dealer in Hides and Skins)	10th January, 1922.
Regulations, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	11th December, 1906.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Notices received under Section 8, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Notices received under Section 8, paragraph 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Notices received under Section 9 of Meat Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Visits made to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	732
„ Food-shops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Total number of condemnations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87

It is pleasing to record that it was unnecessary to make any formal seizures of food stuffs during the year.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.**Generalized Tuberculosis.****Carcases.**

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Localized Tuberculosis.

Part Carcases condemned, including heads and offals—

(a) In Bovines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) In Swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	217

Weight of Tuberculous Meat condemned—

2 tons 16 cwts. 2 qrs. 26 lbs.

Other Diseases.

(Hydræmia, Septicæmia, Inflammation, etc.)

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Weight of same—11 cwts. 2 qrs. 6 lbs.

Other Foods condemned.

Tinned tongue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Smoked Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48 lbs.

Total weight of Meat and other Foods condemned—

3 tons 9 cwts. 0 qrs. 2 lbs.

Number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year—

Bullocks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	870
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,921
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,797
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,305

Total 16,893

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

**1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
 WORKPLACES.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections, (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories	118		
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	301		
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	47		
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	466		

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
 WORKPLACES.**

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	26	26	—	—
Total	26	26	--	—

ANNUAL REPORT
— of the —
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1925.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my first annual report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1925.

Summary of Visits.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	784
(For detail see report of M.O.H.)							
General inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	401
Offensive Trades—							
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Hide and Skin Depôts	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	367
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Stables and Manure receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Infectious Diseases, in connection with	...	...	...	...	...	...	625
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	732
Food-shops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	245

Work done.

Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tenants required to cleanse premises	...	...	...	...	...	13
Verminous premises cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	...	16
Nuisances at Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	77
Removals of manure and other refuse	...	...	...	...	...	34
Manure receptacles provided or repaired	..	...	...	...	...	6
Stables re-paved and drained	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	374

Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	93
„ shutes and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	51
„ windows repaired	...	...	...	...	69
„ floors repaired	...	...	...	...	55
„ stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	12
„ troughs repaired	...	...	...	...	11
New troughs provided	...	...	...	...	58
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	70
Drains cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Water-closets, new provided	...	...	...	...	3
„ repaired	...	...	...	...	65
„ unchoked and cleansed	...	...	...	...	15
Water Supply, houses supplied with town's water	...	...	...	...	
Court-yards repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Total number informal notices served	...	...	...	...	454
„ Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	63
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	...	78

Disinfection.

Rooms—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	98
„ Shelters	...	...	...	...	8
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	66
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	15
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	4

Total 191

Bedding, clothing and other articles—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	700
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	159
Verminous and Scabies	...	...	...	...	93
Military	...	...	...	...	237

Total 1,189

Number of articles destroyed ... 18

Number of premises from which infectious articles removed
for disinfection ... 72

The van used for the removal of clothing and bedding to the
Steam Disinfector has been disinfected 72 times.

Meat Inspection.

Referred to in detail in report of Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

on the year 1925.

The observations below are recorded at the Municipal Buildings and Vivary Park.

The daily rainfall and the total rainfall for the year were sent to the British Rainfall Organisation, Air Ministry, London, S.W. Weekly reports on the rainfall and sunshine were also supplied to the Local Press.

The highest observed reading of the barometer during the year was 30.64 on the 19th January, at 9 a.m., whilst the lowest was 28.64 on the 20th December at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 85.0 on 12th June. The lowest was 17.0 on 13th November and 4th December.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 22nd July, and the value for that day was 71.0. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 15th November, when 27.0 was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 49.68.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine upon any one day was 15.0 hours recorded on June 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th and 29th.

June was the sunniest month with 350.5 hours of bright sunshine, and July the warmest. November was the coldest month. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1694.5 hours as compared with 1499.0 hours in 1924. There were 46 sunless days in the year.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day, *i.e.*, 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1.11 inches on the 19th September. February headed the months with a total of 3.93 inches of rain, December coming next with 3.66 inches, whilst June was the lowest with 0.05 inches.

Rain fell on 185 days, and the total rainfall for the year was 29.64 inches, as compared with 37.665 inches for 1924 with 196 wet days for the same year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. FARR,

M.S.I.A., M.R.S.A. (SCOT.),

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1925.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.		
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell	Days with 04 or more
January	29.86	30.64	29.12	42.9°	56°	25°	41.0	15	3.56	19	15
February	30.63	30.51	28.65	43.03°	56°	27°	105.5	—	3.93	24	15
March	30.17	30.52	29.52	41.4°	56°	21°	104.0	5	0.49	9	5
April	29.82	30.19	29.38	46.3°	62°	30°	167.0	1	1.815	18	11
May	29.70	30.19	29.30	53.01°	72°	32°	163.0	1	2.72	22	17
June	30.12	30.39	29.94	61.2°	85°	37°	350.5	—	0.05	1	1
July	30.22	30.31	29.48	62.7°	81°	44°	225.0	2	2.93	19	10
August	29.95	30.40	29.47	61.1°	76°	42°	158.0	1	2.66	16	10
September	29.96	30.35	29.35	54.0°	76°	33°	143.0	1	3.02	14	8
October	29.90	30.55	28.71	52.3°	72°	25°	108.0	3	2.45	14	9
November	29.88	30.44	29.01	39.05°	62°	17°	82.0	5	2.36	9	6
December	29.74	30.41	28.64	39.2°	57°	17°	47.5	12	3.66	20	18



