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∴ Annual Report ∴

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Medical Officer for Maternity

and Child Welfare

OF THE

Borough of Taunton

For the Year 1926.

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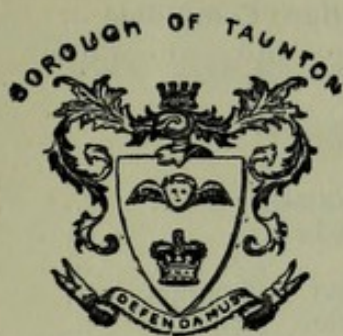
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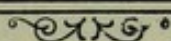


*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
School Medical Officer.*

*Health Dept.,
Corporation Street.*



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For the Year 1926.

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Public Health Department,
Corporation Street,
Taunton,
6th May, 1927.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of Taunton for the year 1926.

The report for 1925 was a Survey Report and gave in considerable detail facts required to be set forth by the Minister of Health. These are now to be given every five years and in the intervening years the reports are to be briefer.

New legislation which came into force during 1926 included the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, which are intended to reduce the incidence of disease among women at child birth; the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, which revise regulations made in 1914; and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, of which a summary is given in the body of the report.

The statistics are satisfactory, and as compared with other towns of the same size the death rate is slightly less and the infant mortality rate much less; both of which reflect the care taken for sanitary conditions generally. Infectious diseases were remarkable chiefly by their low numbers.

I should like to record my appreciation of the care and thoroughness with which the Chairman of the Public Health Committee considers all matters coming before that body and also of the staff of the department for their loyal help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman West (Chairman).

Mr. Councillor Clode	Dr. Councillor Joscelyne
Mr. Councillor Goodland	Mr. Councillor Lane
Mr. Councillor Maynard	Mr. Councillor Lewis
Mr. Councillor Howell-Spencer	Mr. Councillor Spear

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 Taunton Infant Health Society.
Mrs. Webber	...		
Miss Upton	...		
Mrs. Walker	...	{	Representing Working Women's Organisations.
Mrs. Yendall	...		

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. (to 1st May, 1926).
			Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I. (from 1st June, 1926).
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 was 32.17 inches at Blagdon and 32.07 inches at Leigh.

The storage reservoirs were almost full at the end of the year, there being 131 million gallons in storage against a total capacity of 160 million gallons.

Samples of water have been taken to test the action of the filter beds at Fulwood and it appears that they are not able to filter properly the increased amount of water which has to pass through them. Plans are therefore being considered for the extension of these.

The laying of the additional main between Fulwood and the town was commenced early in the year but was interrupted by the Coal Dispute. This main will probably be completed early in 1927.

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

Offensive Trades.

These are:—Blood boiler or drier, Bone boiler, Tanner, Fellmonger, Leather dresser, Soap boiler, Tallow melter, Fat melter or extractor, Tripe boiler, Glue maker, Size maker, Gut scraper, Dealer in Rags and Bones, Fish frier, and Dealer in Hides and Skins.

Those actually carried on in this area are:—

Fellmonger, Tanner and Leather dresser	...	1
Tripe boilers		8
Gut scraper		1
Rag and Bone Dealers		9
Fish friers		7
Hide and Skin Dealers		2

Other Premises and Occupations.

Bakehouses.

There are 22 of these. None are underground.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two. One has accommodation for 33 single men and two married couples; the other has beds for 12 single men. The condition in which these are kept is most satisfactory. They are registered each year for a period of twelve months.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are two open spaces used by van dwellers. These have separate closet accommodation for the sexes and town's water available from a main tap.

Slaughterhouses.

The number in use is eleven, six being registered and five licensed.

The P.H. (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have caused a great increase in the number of visits made to slaughterhouses, for in 1924 the number of visits was 228 and in 1926 the visits numbered 787—more than three times the number.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number of premises on the register on 31st December, 1926, was 55.

These are:—

	Premises.		Total.
	In Borough.	Out of Borough.	
Wholesale distributor only	1	—	1
Producer only	5	—	5
Producer and Retailer ...	6	13	19
Retailer only	29	1	30
	—	—	—
	41	14	55
	—	—	—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

This Order came into force on the 1st October, 1926, and the Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops made by you on the 11th December, 1906, are thereby revoked.

There are eight parts. Part I. deals with definitions and interpretations. Part II. revokes existing Regulations. Part III. deals with registration, which was already complete here. Part

IV. deals with Health and Inspection of Cattle and is administered by the Somerset County Council. Part V. contains provisions for cleanliness and protection against infection; *e.g.*, Section 12 provides for lighting, both natural and artificial—the cow sheds here are all partially open-fronted.

SECTION 13 provides for a suitable water supply. All the premises have this.

SECTION 14 has provisions as to the places in which milk may be kept, and the covering of milk containers.

SECTION 15 requires the personal cleanliness of those handling milk.

SECTION 16 prohibits the treatment of milk in cowsheds or other places where it is possible for it to be contaminated.

SECTION 17 provides for the notification of infectious disease in the household of any person dealing in milk.

SECTIONS 18 and 19 contain provisions for dealing with milk giving rise to infectious disease.

Part VI. consists of special provisions applicable to cow-keepers, but Section 24, which contains regulations for cooling, cannot be enforced until 1st April, 1927, while Section 25, which enables you to require proper flooring, cannot be enforced until the 1st October, 1929. The majority of the cowsheds have cement floors with a proper grip or channel.

Part VII. deals with premises used for the sale of milk and requires that these be kept clean and have concrete floors.

Part VIII. deals with the conveyance and distribution of milk, but here again Section 27, which prohibits the use of receptacles which cannot readily be cleansed, cannot be enforced until 1st October, 1928; nor can Section 29, which requires the name and address and a suitable type of churn, etc., be enforced until 1st October, 1928.

I am of the opinion that the powers we now have for the control of milk under the new Order are not as complete as they were under the Regulations adopted by you in 1906.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

I am pleased to be able to report that Grade A., Tuberculin Tested Milk is now on sale in this area. This is milk from cattle which have been tested by the tuberculin test and who do not

re-act, and are therefore presumably free from tuberculosis. It must also be of a certain standard of cleanliness and must not contain more than a certain number of bacteria of certain types. It must also be sold in properly sealed bottles.

In other words it is fit to be given to children without boiling or pasteurising.

It is supplied from two different sources. It is sold by a producer; a licence has been granted for bottling by a retailer and licences to retail in sealed bottles have been granted to four retailers.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Six samples were taken from six herds of 52 cattle in the town. The reports showed that five herds were free from tuberculosis, and one from five cattle was inconclusive owing to the death of the guinea pig used as a testing medium.

Two samples were also taken to test the total number of bacteria present. These were satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER 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 Fevers.

Puerperal Fever.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Pneumonia, Acute Primary or Influenzal.

Erysipelas.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Acute Polio-myelitis.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Acute Polio-encephalitis.

Malaria.

Dysentery.

Trench Fever.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Tuberculosis, all varieties.

The following diseases are also notifiable in this area:—

Measles.
German Measles.
Chicken-pox.
Anthrax.

A table giving details of the numbers is shown on page 23.

Scarlet Fever.

Sixteen cases were notified and fourteen were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where one, a child aged three years, died six days after admission. Four cases occurred in one house in which there were three rooms and ten inhabitants, six of whom were under fourteen years old. On investigating the first case it was found that an elder sister had suffered from an unrecognised attack 13 days previously. She was also removed. A brother developed the disease 21 days later and he was removed, and sixteen days after this another brother developed Scarlet Fever and was removed. It appears that another brother with enlarged and septic tonsils was probably the cause of these cases and treatment of his throat was advised. This was done and no further cases arose.

The incidence was 0.66 per 1,000 as compared with 2.10 for England and Wales.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	1	—	6	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	3

Diphtheria.

Eleven cases were notified and were all removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

This disease requires most careful nursing and even the mildest cases should be kept absolutely recumbent for three weeks. It is only in very exceptional circumstances that this can be obtained at home and I have therefore in the majority of cases to advise removal to hospital.

The incidence was 0.45 per 1,000, as compared with 1.31 for England and Wales.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

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

Anti diphtheria Serum.

A stock of this in phials of 8,000 units each is kept in this office. Three of these were supplied to doctors during 1926.

Bacteriological Diagnosis.

Swabs for this purpose are kept in this office. If these are received by me before noon it is possible to get a report from the bacteriologist by noon on the day following.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases of the Para B. type were notified in July. They were all in one house and were children. It appeared that they had contracted it from the father who had suffered from a vague illness at the end of May. He was travelling when investigation was made and enquiry through the area he was in proved unsatisfactory as no examination or tests had been made.

Pneumonia.

Influenzal—one case was notified.

Acute Primary—twenty-six cases were notified.

Deaths from these causes numbered eight, but notifications had been made for two of these only. There were therefore six cases unnotified.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

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

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Two cases were notified. One, a woman of 42, was treated at home and seen after six months appeared to have made a complete recovery. The other, a man aged 22, was removed to the Isolation Hospital from which he was discharged without any complications.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

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

Measles.

There was a small epidemic of this disease totalling 171 cases, 78 of these being under five years old.

This did not warrant the engagement of a special nurse, the Health Visitor paying frequent visits to those under five years old and the School Nurses visiting those over this age.

I visited all those reported by the Health Visitor or School Nurses and which were not attended by a medical practitioner.

Nursing aid was supplied to one child suffering from Broncho-pneumonia at a cost of 11s. 8d.

There was one death, a child aged 16 months, who was in the General Hospital with Broncho-pneumonia.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
8	20	59	60	15	2	3	3	—	—	1	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases were notified and all made complete recoveries with no apparent injury to the eye. Nursing aid was supplied to two cases at a cost of £2 14s. 8d.

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

Small-pox and Chicken-pox.

Owing to the continued prevalence of small-pox in the Midlands and North, it has been decided to continue the notification of Chicken-pox; the object of this being that as these two diseases are not always easy to differentiate it is advisable that both be notifiable.

To ensure that a mild case of Small-pox should not be overlooked, I visited all cases of Chicken-pox reported by parents or the nurses and made a careful examination of each case.

When a case of Chicken-pox is notified by a general practitioner, the nurse visits to obtain a list of contacts and to ascertain if they have had Chicken-pox. From this report exclusion from school is arranged if necessary.

As regards notification by medical practitioners, it is only necessary that the first case in a house or institution should be notified.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF CHICKEN-POX.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
5	4	—	10	33	70	22	14	5	15	75	104

Tuberculosis.

Cases notified numbered 63, 56 being of the lungs and 7 of other forms.

Deaths from this cause numbered 26, which included 4 cases which had not been notified.

At the end of 1926 the number of cases known was:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	159	165	324
Non-pulmonary ...	24	25	49
Totals	183	190	373

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Under these Regulations you have power to prevent any person with tuberculosis in an infectious state from dealing with milk, but not with any other food such as bread or meat. There has not been any occasion to require action under these.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Under this Section you have power to require the removal of a consumptive in an infective condition from surroundings where he may give rise to serious risk of infection to other persons.

I have taken informal action in one case where a man in this condition moved into an already crowded home from another area, and as a result he moved into temporary lodgings and then into a sanatorium.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**Whooping-Cough.**

Information was received of 27 cases.

Two children died, one at eleven months and the other aged two years.

This disease is rivalled only by Measles as a maimer and killer of infants. During the past 35 years there have been 203 deaths from this disease.

It is the most difficult of all the infectious diseases to combat with any success, owing to the fact that it is not heralded by a rash, but by a period of about 14 days marked by the symptoms of a severe cold, and with perhaps no other significant symptom than a tickling hard cough. This is the most infective stage and during this period the sufferer may spread the disease widely while the mother is in total ignorance that the child has Whooping-cough.

It will be seen that notification when the whoop has developed can do little to prevent the spread of the disease. Arrangements exist for the supply of nursing aid to severe cases.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF DEATHS.

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

Mumps.

This disease was epidemic in the last quarter of 1925, and continued during January and February, when I received information of 387 cases. Many adults were affected and one in particular had signs of involvement of the meninges and pancreas.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).

Four infants died from this cause.

- (1) an illegitimate child aged one month was the subject of an inquest.
- (2) aged three months, during weaning.
- (3) aged six months; marked cleft palate and difficult to feed.
- (4) aged seven months; fed by a long tube bottle and condensed milk in spite of warning against the danger of this.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF DEATHS.

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

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

The average death rate from these causes during the past 25 years was 1.10. The highest recorded rate was 1.6 in 1916.

During 1926 there were 37 deaths.

Age and sex incidence:—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
10—	...	...	—	—	—
20—	...	...	—	—	—
30—	...	...	—	—	—
40—	...	...	1	2	3
50—	...	...	1	2	3
60—	...	...	7	6	13
70—	...	...	3	7	10
80—	...	...	1	7	8
90—	...	...	—	—	—
Totals			13	24	37

Site and sex incidence:—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach	...		3	5	8
Bowel	...	...	4	10	14
Liver	...	...	2	4	6
Rectum	...		2	—	2
Breast	...	...	—	2	2
Uterus	...	...	—	2	2
Throat	...	...	—	—	—
Mouth	...	...	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...		2	1	3
Totals			13	24	37

I still receive requests for disinfection after Cancer and must repeat that this is not recognised as an infectious disease and that disinfection is useless after a case of this disease.

HOUSING.

The general conditions were surveyed at some length in my report for 1925.

Since then five houses have been closed and demolished, while 137 new ones have been built. There were therefore at the end of 1926, 5,672 houses in the area and 4,884 of these were of working class type. Taking the population at the Registrar General's estimate for 1926 at 24,010, this gives an average population of 4.2 persons per house.

Since 1919, 362 houses have been erected, including 217 by the Town Council; of the remainder, 62 with assistance under the Housing Schemes and 83 without assistance or subsidy.

There still remain 220 houses to be erected in the Scheme approved by the Town Council, and these should be completed by February, 1928.

Assistance has been given to the Housing Committee in selecting tenants for the new houses; lists of applicants selected by the Committee have been visited and the immediate housing circumstances noted and reported.

The regular survey of houses as part of a definite house to house scheme, apart from complaints, has been continued in two wards, namely, Rowbarton and Trinity, and 441 houses were inspected: 187 of these were found to have defects which could and should be remedied. At the end of 1926, 165 of these had the defects removed.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Home.

Progress has been made in the scheme.

On 12th October, 1926, the Council unanimously approved a scheme of which the following are the main details.

The ground adjoining Canon Lodge Nursing Home to be purchased by consent of the Official Trustee of Charity Lands for £300 and on this and directly adjoining the house is to be erected the Maternity Home, accommodating four beds, a labour ward, an isolation ward and bedrooms for the staff.

Tenders for the erection of the Home have been invited and one has been accepted.

Before proceeding further the consent of the Minister of Health has to be obtained and this is now awaited.

Births.

The number registered in 1926 was 375, 170 being male and 205 being female. Of these 23 were known to be illegitimate.

The birth rate is 15.5 per thousand and the illegitimate birth rate 0.9 per thousand.

The number of notifications received under the Notification of Births Act, 1915, was 398.

Of these, 277 complied with the requirements of the Act in that they were made within 36 hours of the birth, including 67 by medical practitioners, 204 by midwives and 6 by parents.

Infant Deaths.

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 58.6 per thousand births. As the similar rate for towns of this size was 67, the rate of 59 is better than the average and shows that the measures taken to minimise this are not unsuccessful.

Half the deaths of infants under one year, namely 11, occurred in the first month of life, and these are almost all due to causes concerned with the health and well-being of the mother prior to the birth of the child. The maternity home should help to reduce this.

One infant death was the subject of an inquest, an illegitimate child aged 6 weeks, where the infant was sleeping in bed with the mother and was found dead in the morning.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

This is open every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock, and for special cases on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 o'clock. It was open on 77 occasions during the year.

The attendance of mothers—3,822—is the largest number yet recorded, being 1,196 more than in 1925. Medical consultations given numbered 1,931, being 421 more than in 1925.

The average attendance per session was: mothers 49, and consultations 25.

New babies attending for the first time numbered 201, which means that rather less than two-thirds of the total number of births took advantage of the facilities provided.

There is still some failure to realise the true purpose of the Centre, which is educative rather than curative. That is to say, a mother brings her infant because it is not doing well, advice is given as to this, the infant improves, and then the mother ceases to attend.

The method which would be of most benefit to the child would be as follows:—

During the first year	...	Medical examination once per month.
During the second year	...	Medical examination every two months.
During the third year	...	Medical examination every three months.
During the fourth and fifth years		Medical examination every four months.

and this, of course, even if the child appears perfectly normal. It does not appear to be generally realised that the toddler needs just as much care and attention as the infant in arms, and that small defects arising can be remedied much easier if they are taken in hand immediately after they arise than if they are left in the often vain hope that they will remedy themselves. I want to see a much larger attendance of toddlers.

Crippling Defects.

The scheme initiated for the treatment of these in 1925 in conjunction with the Somerset County Council, has continued to be of great value.

Miss Forrester-Brown, M.S., M.D., is the visiting orthopædic surgeon and attends on the second Friday in each month. The orthopædic nurse attends every Friday.

Mrs. Scott has rendered most valuable services as Superintendent of the Voluntary Section, and had the Misses Sibley, Sutcliffe, Thicknesse and Welch to help in the remedial and other sections.

Fourteen infants (children under five years) were advised to attend and all attended.

Operative treatment was advised for four but the parents would not agree to have this.

Remedial exercises were prescribed for six and all have attended for these.

Remedial appliances were prescribed for six and four have had these.

Skiagrams were required for one and these were obtained.

Hospital treatment was prescribed for one child and this was provided.

Other treatment by drugs was prescribed for one child and this was supplied.

Work of the Health Visitor.

To the great regret of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, Miss N. Dudfield resigned her post on 1st May, 1926, and there was an interval until 1st June, 1926, before her successor, Miss H. M. Pain, could commence duty. During this interval Miss L. A. E. Collins, who had retired from this work, very kindly volunteered to act for six half days per week.

Visits of the Health Visitor:—

First Visits.			Re-Visits.		
Under one year	...	371	Under one year	...	1,676
Ante-natal cases	...	52	Between 1 and 2 years		916
Still-births	...	20	Between 2 and 3 years		631
Other visits	...	192	Ante-natal cases	...	32
		635			3,255

Total visits, 3,890.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders.

Under these orders milk was supplied free of cost to mothers during the last three months of pregnancy, to children under three years of age and, in a few exceptional cases, to children under five years of age.

Before this is supplied the applicant has to furnish complete details of all sources of income in money or in kind, and these have to be verified by the signature of the person paying. It is supplied in quantities of one pint a day per child or mother and for a period not exceeding 28 days, and this is renewed if application is made and the income is unchanged.

The total income as shown by the application is compared with a scale varying according to the number in the family. This scale was at 75 per cent. above pre-war prices throughout the year.

The number of families who received free milk was 86; the number of pints supplied (including dried milk) was 14,206, and the cost was £175 16s. 8³/₄d.

STATISTICS & TABLES, 1926.

Appendix I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, in statute acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,015
Population, estimated at mid-year—						
for death rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,010
for birth rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,110
Number of inhabited houses, 1921—						
(a) pre-extension ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,021
(b) post-extension ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,664
Sum represented by a penny rate (District Rate) ...	...	...	...	...	...	£440

Appendix II. VITAL STATISTICS.

Density of population over whole area, per acre ...	...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Births registered—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	205
						— 375
Births registered as illegitimate—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
						— 23
Birth rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Birth rate, illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.9
Deaths, after correction for transfers—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	144
						— 289
Death rate, crude ...	...	...	...	...	...	12.0
Death rate, standardised ...	...	...	...	...	...	10.5
Deaths of infants under one year—						
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
						— 22

Infant mortality per thousand births	...	...	...	58.6
Infant mortality (under one month) per thousand births...	...	...	...	29.3
Still births per thousand births registered	...	...	...	24.0
Deaths, female, in consequence of child birth—				
(a) from sepsis	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) from other causes	...	...	...	Nil.
Puerperal Fever rate per thousand births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age	...	...	...	4
Death rate, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.7
Death rate, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.3
Death rate, Cancer	...	...	...	1.5
Natural increase per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	3.5

VITAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1926.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.8
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	70.0

Smaller Towns.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.6
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	67.0

Appendix III. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1926.

							Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	7	10	17
11.	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	24	37
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11	10	21
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	18	27
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	15	14	29
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	11	5	16
20.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
21.	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
26.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, pre- mature birth	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	41	37	78
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
							145	144	289

Appendix IV. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1926.

[illegible]

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	—
5 —	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
10 —	6	4	—	3	—	—	—	2
15 —	1	5	—	—	3	2	—	1
20 —	3	4	—	—	—	1	2	—
25 —	9	6	—	2	2	2	1	1
35 —	8	3	—	—	1	3	—	—
45 —	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 —	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	29	29	2	5	7	10	4	5

Appendix VI.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1926.

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										
Whooping Cough									1	1
Chicken Pox										
Tuberculosis										
Bronchitis									1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia							1	1		2
Pneumonia								2		
Diarrhoea, etc.						1	1			4
Premature Birth	4			1	5					5
Marasmus						1				1
Congenital Defects		1			1					1
Atalectasis	2				2					2
Difficult Labour	1				1					1
Overlying										
Congenital Syphilis										
Malpresentation	2				2					2
Convulsions						1	1			2
Total	9	1		1	11	3	3	3	2	22

Legitimate 20.

Illegitimate 2.

Inquest 1. On an illegitimate child, age one month.

Appendix VII.
ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER 5 YEARS IN 1926.

Age.	MALE.		FEMALE.		Total.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
Under one day	2	—	1	—	3
1 day and under 7 days ...	3	—	3	—	6
1 week and under 4 weeks ...	2	—	—	—	2
1 month and under 3 months ...	1	—	1	1	3
3 months and under 6 months ...	2	1	—	—	3
6 months and under 9 months ...	—	—	3	—	3
9 months and under 12 months ...	2	—	—	—	2
1 year and under 2 years ...	2	—	2	—	4
2 years and under 3 years ...	—	—	2	—	2
3 years and under 4 years ...	1	1	1	—	3
4 years and under 5 years ...	1	—	1	—	2
	16	2	14	1	33

Appendix VIII.**HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.**

Number of houses erected during the year—

(a) Total number	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—							
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	35

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

Inspection—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	992
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	441
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	6
(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	...	...	...	...	...	350

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	...	...	...	...	...	282
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(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 ...	1
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	68
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	62
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	*1
*outstanding	6
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	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(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.

*Five houses were demolished by the owner without Demolition Orders being made.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Taunton Town Council or the Somerset County Council.

A. (1) **Fever.**

The hospital for these cases is on the Cheddon Road. It has four wards taking eight cases each, an administrative block and a galvanized iron building which is now used as a discharge ward.

This hospital is administered by a Joint Committee and serves the Borough and Taunton Rural District.

It has recently been modernised by the provision of central heating, electric light, and sluices, etc., for each ward.

(2) **Small-pox.**

The hospital for cases of this disease is at Cossington, near Bridgwater, and 15 miles from Taunton. It is provided by the Somerset County Council, and has beds for eight cases.

B. (1) **Tuberculosis.**

There is a sanatorium of 20 beds (9 female and 11 male) adjoining the Fever Hospital on the Cheddon Road. It is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council.

(2) **Maternity.**

None. But the scheme for the erection of a home of four beds in conjunction with the Taunton District Nursing Association has made considerable progress, and now awaits the formal approval of the Minister of Health.

(3) **Children.**

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

(4) **Other.**

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

The Union Infirmary in Trinity Street has 76 beds, which include three in a maternity ward.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

None.

Institutional Provision for Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

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

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance holding two stretcher cases is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

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

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. One. This is provided and maintained by the Taunton Town Council and is held in the Municipal Offices in Corporation Street. It is open for consultations each Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m., and for special cases on Fridays from 4 to 5 p.m.

DAY NURSERY. None.

SCHOOL CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Borough Education Committee and is open each school day. It is used for the treatment of minor ailments, visual defects and as a dental clinic.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council, while the Town Council pay for cases attending on an attendance basis. It is held in rooms provided by the Town Council and for which no charge is made.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council and is held in special premises in Priory Avenue. It is open for Taunton cases on Mondays.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council and is held in the Out Patients' Department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. The times for attendance are:—Men, on Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Mondays at 7.30 p.m.; Women, on Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

See page 4.

Professional Nursing in the Home.**(a) General.**

The Taunton District Nursing Association have two nurses who devote their whole time to this.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The Taunton District Nursing Association have agreed with the Taunton Town Council to supply nursing aid when requested to cases of Measles and Whooping-cough at 10d. per visit, and to Ophthalmia Neonatorum (including dressings) at 8d. per visit.

Midwives.

There are four, who live and practise in Taunton. Two of these belong to the Taunton District Nursing Association. They are not employed or subsidised by the Taunton Town Council.

Chemical and Laboratory Work.

The laboratories of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare are used for these purposes, including swabs for diphtheria, blood for typhoid and food poisoning, smears for gonococci and food suspected as being the cause of poisoning.

Water samples have also been submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis.

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.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Part II. Streets and Buildings

Part III. Sanitary Provision

Part IV. Verminous Premises, etc.

Part V. Watercourses, Streams, etc. 22nd February, 1926.

**Bye-laws and Local Regulations (Public Health)
in force in this Area.**

	Date adopted.
Bye-laws, New Streets and Buildings	10th January, 1879.
„ Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	„ „
„ Nuisances	„ „
„ Common Lodging Houses	„ „
„ Offensive Trades (Fellmonger, 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 Milk-shops	11th December, 1906.

(Revoked on 1st October, 1926, by Section 5 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926).

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 (Including Factory Laundries)	44	6	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	192	11	
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	34	...	
Total	270	17	

**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	11	11	--	—
Other nuisances	2	2	--	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—
Total	16	16		

ANNUAL REPORT
— of the —
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1926.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1926.

During the year an inspection has been made of all your Council houses with a view to ascertaining the condition in which they have been kept, and to discover any cases of overcrowding. Out of a total of 136 inspected, 4 were found to be overcrowded (3 in Addison Grove, and 1 in Leycroft Road). These have been satisfactorily dealt with. One house in Leycroft Road was found in a verminous condition (since remedied), and warning letters were sent to the tenants of 3 other houses in Leycroft Road requiring them to exercise greater care and to maintain a better standard of cleanliness. One house in Addison Grove was in a dirty condition, and the tenant of this house has removed to another address.

Food Supply.

The standard maintained has been good, and speaking generally the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been satisfactorily complied with in the majority of cases. It has, however, been necessary to remind a few of the Meat Traders of their obligations under these regulations as to notification of slaughter, and notice of carcasses which appear diseased or unsound. During the year there was one prosecution for non-compliance with Section 8 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, under which a person slaughtering is required to give notice of slaughter apart from regular hours already registered. In this case, the butcher had no registered premises in the town but took an animal into registered premises in the town, where he slaughtered it without the knowledge or permission of the owner, and without giving the requisite notice to the Health Department. For this offence he was tried on 4th August, 1926, and fined 40/- and costs.

Two of the butchers' shops have had glass fronts fitted during the year, but the majority still continue to use the open style of shop front, a system which does not protect the meat in any way

from contamination by dust, etc. The universal fitting of closed glass fronts to butchers' shops would do much to secure a cleaner meat supply, and, to judge by some other towns where this is actually in practice, would not appear to have any detrimental effect on its qualities

During the year six milk retailers have been granted licences by you under powers conferred upon you by the Ministry of Health, to sell "Grade A. Tuberculin Tested Milk" within the Borough. Of these, one has a licence for bottling the Graded Milk, whilst the others are registered as distributors only, they themselves receiving it already bottled and sealed. The demand for this milk by the inhabitants of the town has been very disappointing, as enquiries show that in spite of considerable advertisement by the traders concerned and references to its advantages made in lectures on milk, the amount consumed in the Borough is only approximately 30 gallons a day. It is difficult to advance any reason for this seeming indifference on the part of the consumer, when it is considered that for the slight extra charge of one penny per quart they can obtain a milk produced and distributed under the most hygienic conditions, and which is obtained from cows which have been tested and certified free from tuberculosis, and which must not be below a certain bacteriological standard. I understand that in many towns the price charged for graded milk is higher than that prevailing in Taunton, and fear that if there is not more support forthcoming from the public we may shortly find that it is impossible to obtain this desirable special milk in the Borough.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	992
(For detail see report of M.O.H.)							
General inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	898
Offensive trades:—							
Rag and Bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fish friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Hide and Skin Depôts	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Gut scrapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tripe boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	323

Stables and Manure receptacles	..	...	...	...	85
Infectious diseases, in connection with	...	...	...	...	380
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	787
Foodshops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	284
Drainwork, in connection with	...	...	...	...	272
Smoke visits and observations	...	...	...	...	8

Work done.

Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	13
Tenants required to cleanse premises	...	...	...	...	17
Verminous premises cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances at Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	4
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	...	...	...	38
Removals of manure and other refuse	...	...	...	...	29
Manure receptacles provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Stables repaved and drained	...	...	...	...	1
Houses cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	302
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	88
„ shutes and gutters cleared, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	69
„ windows repaired	...	...	...	...	58
„ floors repaired	...	...	...	...	47
„ stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	18
„ troughs and waste-pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	22
New troughs provided	...	...	...	...	31
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	64
„ cleared, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	49
„ exposed for examination	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection and intercepting chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	20
Rainwater downspouts disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	12
Water-closets, new provided	...	...	...	...	21
„ repaired	...	...	...	...	78
„ unchoked and cleansed	...	...	...	...	53
„ provided with flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	8
Wells closed and filled in	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply laid on to existing premises	...	...	...	...	1
„ samples taken from wells or taps	...	...	...	...	4
Courtyards repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	8
Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	8
Total number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	429
„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	68
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	...	133

Disinfection.

Rooms :—

Tuberculosis	...	..	...	...	...	...	46
„ (Shelters)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Diphtheria	...	...	..	...	...	...	14
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total							78

Bedding, Clothing and other articles :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Verminous and scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Military and miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	1351
Total							1,888

Number of articles destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of premises from which infectious articles were removed for disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	54

The van used for the removal of clothing and bedding to the steam disinfector has been disinfected 54 times.

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

Notices received under Section 8, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	261
Notices received under Section 8, par. 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	10
Notices received under Section 9, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	16
Visits made to slaughterhouses	...	..	...	...	...	787
„ „ Foodshops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	...	284
Number of formal seizures of food-stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total number of condemnations	...	...	...	...	...	113

Classification of Diseases.

GENERALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Carcases.

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

LOCALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Part carcasses condemned, including heads and offals—

(a) In bovines	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) In swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	242

Weight of tuberculous meat condemned—

3 tons, 6 cwts., 1 qr., 7 lbs.

OTHER DISEASES.

(Hydræmia, Septicæmia, Inflammation, etc.)

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

Weight of same—1 ton, 10 cwts., 1 qr., 13 lbs.

Other Foods condemned.

Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	126 lbs.
Tripe	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 „
Tinned pilchards	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 „
„ tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 „
„ plums	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 „
„ loganberries	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 „
„ salmon	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 qts.

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned—

4 tons, 18 cwts., 2 qrs., 21 lbs.

Number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year—

Bullocks	...	...	...	...	...	1,028
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	1,048
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	4,331
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	9,820
Total						<u>16,227</u>

Meteorological Report.

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 30.66 on the 9th and 10th December, at 9 a.m., whilst the lowest was 28.41 on 20th November at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 84.0 on 14th July. The lowest was 19.0 on January 17th.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was July 11th, and the value for that day was 72.5. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 18th January, when 26.5 was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.46, as compared with 49.68 for 1925.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine upon any one day was 15.0 hours recorded on July 12th.

June was the sunniest month with 251.75 hours of bright sunshine, as compared with 350.5 hours in June, 1925. July was again the warmest month. As was the case in 1925, November was the coldest. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1459.5 hours as compared with 1694.5 hours in 1925, and 1499.0 hours in 1924. There were 81 sunless days in the year as compared with 46 sunless days in 1925.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day, *i.e.*, 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1.56 inches on the 8th November, as compared with 1.11 inches recorded on the 19th September, 1925. November headed the months with a total of 7.46 inches of rain, October coming next with 4.82 inches; whilst December (which in 1925 had 3.66 inches) was lowest with 0.30 inches.

Rain fell on 166 days, and the total rainfall for the year was 29.095 inches, as compared with 29.64 inches for 1925 with 185 wet days for the same year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. FARR,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1926.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine		Rainfall.		
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell	Days with .04 or more
January	29.79	30.24	29.22	41.7°	56°	19°	44.0	14	3.38	20	18
February	29.81	30.57	29.22	46.3°	59°	28°	55.5	11	2.025	16	10
March	30.06	30.59	29.42	44.17°	57°	25°	86.0	5	0.34	8	2
April	29.83	30.26	29.32	48.2°	71°	26°	139.75	4	1.835	16	12
May	29.85	30.08	29.56	51.3°	69°	33°	189.0	1	1.48	12	10
June	29.99	30.38	29.35	55.75°	74°	37°	251.75	1	2.395	10	8
July	30.02	30.34	29.62	63.16°	84°	45°	214.0	2	2.805	11	8
August	30.065	30.36	29.74	62.33°	79°	41°	184.0	3	1.03	12	6
September	30.09	30.38	29.74	60.66°	82°	35°	105.0	3	1.225	11	5
October	29.86	30.49	29.24	47.45°	68°	20°	87.0	7	4.82	17	16
November	29.52	30.21	28.41	44.25°	57°	23°	66.0	13	7.46	26	22
December	30.30	30.66	29.88	40.3°	52°	24°	37.5	17	0.30	7	3





