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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, 1937.



TAUNTON:
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and Child Welfare

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BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,

FOR THE YEAR, 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer for Pharmacy

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1911

Public Health Department,
St. Paul's House,
Park Street,
Taunton.

4th June, 1938.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1937.

A comparison of the vital statistics with that of the corresponding towns in England and Wales for the same period shows that the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are slightly lower, but that the Maternal Mortality Rate of 16 per 1,000 births is greatly in excess of the corresponding figure.

The incidence per 1,000 of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria is also much below the rate for similar areas.

The duty of Slum Clearance has again occupied much time and considerable progress has been made towards completion.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare and Health Committees for their encouragement and support and to the Borough Treasurer, and the Borough Surveyor and the Waterworks Engineer for information supplied and to the Staff of these Departments for their co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer, and
Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare,

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman A. J. West, J.P.

Alderman Lane, J.P.	Councillor Hayward
Councillor Bradbury	Councillor Loveys
Councillor Clode	Councillor Shepherd
Councillor Goodland, J.P.	Councillor Stainer

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Consists of the Health Committee with the following additional members :—

Alderman F. W. Penny, J.P.

Councillor Spear

Dr. W. B. Winckworth Representing Medical Practitioners

Mrs. Fowler ...

Mrs. Adams ... } Representing the Taunton Infant
Mrs. Webber ... } Health Society.

Mrs. Humphries ... } Representing Working Women's

Mrs. Walker ... } Organisations.

STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health

*Medical Officer for Matern-
ity and Child Welfare and

*School Medical Officer ...

} John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic—Mrs. Marie Ellis, M.D.
(part time).

*Medical Officer for Infant Welfare } Mrs. May Gower, M.D. (part
and School Medical Service } time) from 20th September

*Chief Sanitary Inspector—P. J. Gough, C.R.S.I. and Meat and
Food Certificate
(appointed 9th February, 1937).

*Sanitary Inspector (No. 2 District)—H. G. Cope, C.R.S.I., and
Meat and Food Certificate

*Sanitary Inspector (No. 1 District)—W.E. Ruse, C.R.S.I., and Meat
and Food Certificate
(appointed 12th April, 1937).

*Health Visitor ... Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

Chief Clerk ... G. J. A. Wilkinson.

Clerk... ... Miss M. E. Chalk.

Clerk Miss C. D. F. Selway.

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

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,434
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	...					27,510
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	7,569
Rateable Value (end of 1937)	...	...	...	...	...	£213,512
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£825

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total		
Live births—legitimate	164	173	337	Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.0
„ „ —illegitimate	14	8	22		
	<u>178</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>359</u>		
Still births—legitimate	8	6	14	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ...	40.1
„ „ —illegitimate	—	1	1		
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>		
Deaths after correction for transfers :				Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	12.8
	183	170	353		
Death Rate, after correction by factor 0.87	...	...	...		11.1
Deaths from Puerperal causes :				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births ...	16.0
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0		
Other puerperal causes			6		
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...		50.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...		43.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...		136.3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...		1.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 2 :				Rate per 1,000 live births	5.5
Deaths from Cancer, 61				Death Rate	2.2
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 25.				Death Rate	0.9
Deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, Nil.				Death Rate	—

IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1937.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Birth Rate (still)	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	58.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	5.8

IN SMALLER TOWNS 1937.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	15.3
Birth Rate (still)	...	...	...	...	...	0.64
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	55.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	3.2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industries carried on in the area are:—Shirt and collar making; the manufacture of gloves and of overalls; leather dressing; engineering; printing and the distributive trades.

Over 2,000 women and girls are employed.

The following particulars as to unemployment have been given to me by Mr. Wonnacott, the Manager of the Labour Exchange.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
January, 1937	783	94	26	8
August, 1937	354	141	21	21

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A complete description of these was given on pages 8, 9 and 10 of my Report for 1930 and of alterations to certain of these on page 7 of my Report for 1934 and page 7 of my Report for 1936.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Births.

The number notified to me under the Notification of Births Acts was 363, this included 11 still births.

Infant Mortality.

There were 18 deaths of infants under one year of age, three of these were illegitimate.

Asphyxia was given as the cause of five deaths, three of these were aged under 1 week, one aged 1 month, and one aged 3 months, the latter two were the subject of Inquests by the Coroner.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 50.1 whereas that for the Smaller Towns of a similar population was 55.

The Neo-natal mortality rate was 25.

The Maternity Home.

The number of cases admitted during the year was 103. The average duration of stay being 14.15 days. There was one maternal death, this case was admitted as an urgency at the special request of the doctor attending. Two infants were stillborn and two died within ten days of birth, in one case from toxæmia in the mother, and in the other from prematurity.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

The appointment of a part-time assistant made it possible to give another whole session each week, and from the 7th October sessions were held on Tuesdays from 2—4 p.m., and on Thursdays from 2—4 p.m. The short session on Friday morning was then given up.

The total number of sessions held was 86 and the total number of consultations given was 2,008, which included 242 new ones—over 50 per cent. of the infants born during the year were brought to the Centre for examination.

Two ladies have continued to attend with the greatest regularity to weigh the infants and assist with their records. Their voluntary service is most valuable.

The Infant Health Society under the direction of Mrs. Fowler has continued to be of assistance by the sale of dried milk and other foods and the provision of tea and the organisation of a yearly outing.

The Work of the Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor gives the whole of her time to duties in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare, these include home visits to children under 5 years of age, attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre and the Orthopaedic Clinic and the supervision of foster children under 5 years of age. During 1937 she made 4,201 visits to homes—these were for the following purposes :—

First Visits.		Re-visits.	
Under one year	... 362	Under one year	... 1179
Ante natal cases	... 41	Between 1—2 years	... 970
Still births	... 3	Between 2—3 years	... 879
Other visits	... 30	Between 3—5 years	... 659
		Ante-natal cases	... 78
	436		3765

The Ante-Natal Clinic.

This was open on alternate Wednesday afternoons and as the number attending had increased to over 20 per session you approved of an extension of this service and the inclusion of post-natal examinations so that from the 5th May onwards it was opened each Wednesday afternoon from 2—4 p.m. The total number of sessions held was 43, and the total attendance was 694, including 153 new cases and 16 post-natal ones.

Forty-two per cent. of the mothers confined during the year attended for examination.

Dr. Marie Ellis, the Medical Officer for the Ante-Natal Clinic, has made the following report on her work :—

“In all 153 new cases were examined and abnormalities found number 26 or about 16 per cent.

These were as follows :—

Disproportions :—				
	Severe and requiring			
	Caesarian section	5		
	Moderate and requiring			
	Induction of Labour	6		
Toxaemias :—				
	Severe	...	...	6
	Mild	...	...	4
				—
				10
Pyelitis	...	...	...	1
Severe Varicosities	...	...	...	2
Foetal Monstrosity	...	...	...	1
Acute Anaemia (dental sepsis)	...	...	...	1
				—
				26

“I so often see teeth that need attention : the case mentioned above was cured by clearance and the anaemia rapidly disappeared, even so this patient had a very severe post-partem haemorrhage which might have been fatal had the septic teeth been neglected.

“ The cases seen post-natally numbered 18 only.

“ Any cases needing treatment are referred with a letter to their doctor.”

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Participation in the scheme of the Somerset County Council continues and rooms in the Health Centre are used for this purpose. A Sister's clinic is held each Friday, and the Surgeon, Miss Forrester-Brown, attends on the second Friday in each month.

Thirty infants attended for examination and treatment, and three were sent to the Central Hospital at Bath for special treatment, while two who had been admitted in 1936 were discharged during 1937 after being in for about 14 months each.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

The clinic for this is open three times a week from the beginning of October to the end of May, and is closed during the summer months.

Total attendances for treatment numbered 2,102 of which 1,563 were of children under five years of age.

All those attending are examined at intervals of 28 days. The number advised to attend was 45 and of these 36 completed the treatment as advised.

Particulars of the cases are:—

Disease or Defect.	No. referred for treatment.	No. attended for treatment.	Average No. of exposures per case.	Remarks.
Rickets	32	25	43	Healed 12 Improved 9 No improvement .. 4
General Debility	9	7	25.3	Great Improvement 3 Improved 3 No Improvement .. 1
Asthma	3	3	36.6	Attacks ceased 2 Improved 1
Pink Disease	1	1	48	Cured

Foster Children.

The circumstances of all foster children are under the supervision of the Health Visitor until they attain the age of five years, when two School Nurses take over this responsibility until they become nine years old.

The number of children under supervision at the beginning of the year was sixteen, and at the end eighteen.

One foster child aged three months died and was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest, the cause being Asphyxia.

Provision of Free Milk.

The conditions under which milk was supplied free to necessitous cases was revised after consideration of Circular 1519. The income scale was modified and it is now supplied in such quantity as the case may need to:—

- (1) Expectant mothers in any stage of pregnancy where this is verified by the midwife booked or by attendance at the ante-natal clinic.
- (2) Nursing mothers.
- (3) Infants under 5 years of age.

The amount ordered per case varies between one and two pints, and only pasteurised or dried milk is issued on these orders. Orders are given for a period not exceeding 28 days and are renewable on application being made. A usual condition is also that the infant receiving the free milk must be brought to the Infant Welfare Centre for weighing and examination.

The approximate amount of milk supplied was 15,236 pints at a cost of £205 17s. 5½d.

The number of families supplied was 62,

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1937.

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
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	—	1†	—	1	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Premature Births	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Defects	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2
Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Asphyxia	3†	—	—	—	3	1*	1*	—	—	5
Total	6	—	1	2	9	2	5	—	2	18

* Coroner after Inquest ... 2

† Coroner 2

**ANALYSIS OF AGES OF DEATH
UNDER 15 YEARS IN 1937.**

AGE.	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
1 day	1	1	3	—	5
1 day and under 1 week	1	—	—	—	1
1 week and under 4 weeks	3	—	—	—	3
1 month and under 3 months	1	1	—	—	2
3 months and under 6 months	1	—	3	1	5
6 months and under 9 months	—	—	—	—	—
9 months—12 months	1	—	1	—	2
1 year and under 2 years	1	—	1	—	2
2 years and under 3 years	2	—	—	—	2
3 years and under 4 years	—	—	—	—	—
4 years and under 5 years	1	—	—	—	1
5 years and under 10 years	2	—	1	—	3
10 years and under 15 years	—	—	1	—	1
	14	2	10	1	27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water Supply.**

The rainfall on the watershed exceeded 47 inches which is above the average. Of this about 21 inches fell in the first quarter of the year, and about 10 inches in the last quarter.

At the beginning of the year the reservoirs were overflowing and at the end the amount in storage was 132 million gallons. A continuous supply was given throughout the year. This was therefore satisfactory in quantity.

Sets of samples for bacteriological examination were taken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector or myself on twenty-four occasions. Each set included (1) the raw water on the filter beds at Fulwood, (2) the water after filtration and chlorination from the service reservoir at Fulwood, and (3) water from a main tap in the Town. The bacteriological content of the raw water varies with the rainfall, and that of the main tap samples was unsatisfactory on four occasions, pointing out the inadequacy of the amount of Chlorine being added. Copies of the Bacteriologist's reports are sent to the Waterworks Manager directly after their receipt by me.

In view of the public interest taken I must state that I am definitely of the opinion that fishing should not be permitted in the storage reservoirs, and that if this is allowed a risk of contamination is being incurred.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A new sewer 1,200 yards long was completed in November. This serves the Priorswood Road area and also acts as a relief to the Cheddon Road sewer. It passes under the railway, the canal and the river and connects directly to the Sewage Works at Obridge.

Closet Accommodation.

With very few exceptions, and these are only in the outlying parts, all the closets are on the water carriage system. Many of the older working class houses have no separate water closets and join at one with several other houses. This condition is not satisfactory and steps are being taken to secure that each house has at least a separate water closet.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected twice each week from all parts of the Town, except when the collecting day coincides with a general holiday.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The appointment of a third Sanitary Inspector who commenced duty on 12th April has helped to lessen the pressure caused by the general increase of work, particularly by the Slum Clearance Programme, Overcrowding, and the Shops Act, 1934.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is given on pages 26 to 31 and also includes particulars of action taken under the Shops Act and Smoke Abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one public swimming bath in the Town. This is owned by the Taunton Corporation and the water is filtered and chlorinated. There are other baths belonging to residential schools, but these are not open to the general public.

Steam Disinfector.

The old disinfector was replaced by a new Aveling Barford Current Steam Disinfector and this came into use in January.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

In order to obviate the possible infestation of new Council houses, the scheme whereby the furniture and effects, except bedding, of all persons living in Slum Clearance Areas was treated with Hydrogen Cyanide was continued. This scheme includes the removal of all bedding to the steam disinfector where it is disinfected by steam, and the treatment of all furniture and other effects with Hydrogen Cyanide in a special motor van and the subsequent removal of these to the new house. The contract made for this purpose was renewed during the year.

Hydrogen Cyanide has also been used for infested houses, but when this is done it is necessary to secure the vacation of adjoining houses for a period owing to the high powers of penetration of this gas, and in cases where infestation was not marked other methods, such as the use of proprietary insecticides or nascent sulphur di-oxide, have been used.

No of houses found to be infested.		No. disinfested and methods used.
a. Council houses	5	Sprayed with insecticide
b. Other houses	1	Fumigated with Sulphur di-oxide.

Schools.

There are fourteen public elementary schools and an inspection of the sanitary condition of these was made in April.

The older schools are below modern standards in many ways, including lack of light and air and sanitary accommodation. All are supplied with Town's water. As regards the spread of infectious disease I have little faith in school closure as a means of preventing its spread and prefer frequent examination of children in school and the following up of absentees. Certain departures have been made from the principles given in the Joint Memorandum of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education regarding the exclusion of contacts, for example contacts of cases of chicken-pox and mumps are not excluded at all, while contacts of measles and german measles are only excluded from infants' schools. Contacts of scarlet fever are excluded for one week and are then permitted to return if found fit after medical examination. As regards Diphtheria all contacts are excluded and swabs taken from the nose and throat. If these are clear they are allowed to return if found fit on medical examination at the end of one week.

HOUSING.

The duty of Slum Clearance has been steadily continued according to the programme, and Official Representations comprising 191 houses were made by me and Clearance Orders comprising 194 houses and a Compulsory Purchase Order comprising 116 houses were made by the Council.

Three public Inquiries into objections against Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Order were held on 25th May, 8th July, and 22nd September. These included 265 houses in 16 Orders.

Confirming Orders comprising 386 houses were made by the Minister.

HOUSING STATISTICS.**Number of new houses erected during the year:—**

(i) By Local Authority.					
With State Assistance	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	152
	(b) Overcrowding	...	...	...	—
	(c) Other	...	...	...	—
Without State Assistance		...	...	...	16
(ii) By other bodies or persons.					
	(a) With State Assistance	...	...	...	—
	(b) Without State Assistance	...	...	...	173

Housing Inspections:—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	425
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					609
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	...	135
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					171
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	204
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	181

Housing Action ;—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 137

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year ;—

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 10
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By owners 12
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 14
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 4
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 10
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —
 - (3) Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders made 26
 - (4) Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed 35
 - (a) Number of houses involved 386
 - (b) Number of houses demolished 127

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	61
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...				—
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...				234
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	6
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	49
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases					329½
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...			—
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	...	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of the register for this purpose are :—

Producers only	... ..	2
Distributors only	premises in Borough ...	27
	no premises in Borough	10
Distributors who are	premises in Borough ...	6
also producers	no premises in Borough	20

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following grades of milk are available under this Order :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” from two separate sources, one being sold in sealed cartons.

Two licences have been granted for bottling “ T.T. ” milk and ten licences have been granted to retail it.

“ Pasteurised.” This is available from two separate sources and two licences have been granted for retailing only.

“ Accredited ” milk is sold by three of the producers in the Borough.

All milk supplied under either the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme or for the use of children in the elementary schools is Pasteurised.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are eleven slaughter-houses in the Borough of which four are subject to annual licences and seven are registered. A considerable proportion of the home killed meat consumed in the Borough is prepared in slaughter-houses outside the Borough.

It is difficult under these circumstances to give efficient inspection to the meat prepared for sale, and this can only be remedied by the abolition of the private slaughter-house and the provision of a public Abattoir.

All meat and other foods found to be diseased or unsound is conveyed to the Destructor and burned there.

Particulars regarding the inspection of meat and other foods are given in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on pages 28 and 29.

No meat marking scheme is in action.

Adulteration.

The Borough is not an Authority for this purpose and the various Acts for the discovery of this are administered by the Somerset County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

All samples of food for this purpose are sent to the County Analyst at the Public Health Department in the County Hall, Taunton.

Nutrition.

It has not been possible to undertake any special work for the increase of knowledge of this subject.

Shell Fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the Borough.

It appears on enquiry that there is very little sale of this comestible in this area. Oysters are obtained from London or Falmouth, and pickled cockles from Kings Lynn.

Other varieties of shell fish, e.g. shrimps, are obtained from Southport, Kings Lynn and Stolford on Bridgwater Bay. Prawns are of the preserved variety from Norway.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was no abnormal prevalence of notifiable infectious disease. Scarlet Fever notifications—numbering 47—were about the average, but those for Diphtheria—numbering 19—were about half the average. Among non-notifiable infectious diseases, Chicken-pox, Mumps and Whooping-Cough were prevalent.

Accommodation for cases of Puerperal Pyrexia is to be available in the Isolation Hospital in the near future. Puerperal and Continued Fevers ceased to be included in the list of notifiable infectious diseases after the 1st October and a Circular to this effect was sent to all medical practitioners. By virtue of Section 47 of the Taunton Corporation Act 1937 food poisoning was made notifiable as from the 30th July, and Section 46 gave power to prevent any case of respiratory tuberculosis in an infectious state from preparing or handling food for sale to others. Certain departures have been made from the principles given in the Joint Memorandum of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education regarding the exclusion of contacts from schools, for example contacts of Chicken-pox and Mumps are not excluded, while contacts of Measles and German Measles are only excluded from the Infants' schools, Contacts of Scarlet Fever are excluded for one week and are then permitted to return if found fit after medical examination. Contacts of Diphtheria are excluded and swabs taken from the throat and nose, and if these are clear they are then medically examined at the end of one week and permitted to return if found fit.

Prevention of Blindness.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 66, and

Public Health Act 1936, Section 176.

A supply of a suitable silver salt is available for all midwives practising in the area, the object of this being the prevention of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No action has been advised under these sections.

Tuberculosis.

The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations empower you to take action when necessary to secure that persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis in an infectious state do not engage or continue to be engaged in the milk trade.

It will also be seen that powers have been obtained in the Taunton Corporation Act 1937, Section 46 to extend this to the preparation or handling of food for sale to others.

The Public Health Act 1925, Section 62, superseded by the Public Health Act 1936, Section 172 empowers you to apply to the Justices for a removal Order when a case of respiratory tuberculosis in an infectious state cannot be properly isolated at home, and causes serious risk of infection to others. It has not been necessary to take any steps to this effect.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1937.

DISEASE.	Age Group											Total	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
Diphtheria
Diphtheria (bact.)
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid
Puerperal Fever
Puerperal Pyrexia
Pneumonia—Acute Primary
—Influenzal
Erysipelas...
Encephalitis Lethargica
Acute Poliomyelitis
Acute Polio Encephalitis
Cerebro Spinal Fever
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Malaria
Dysentery...
Measles
German Measles
Anthrax
Abortus Fever

a—At Childrens' Orthopaedic Hospital Bath.
 b—Of a non-notified case in the General Hospital.
 c—At Paddington Green Children's Hospital.
 d—Notified as Acute Polio

TUBERCULOSIS, 1937.

	New Cases.						Deaths.					
	Respiratory.			Non-respiratory.			Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.			
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	3	3	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
35 —	2	5	—	1	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	17		3	2		9	4	1	1		
		25			5		13					
				30				14				

Deaths—unnotified cases. Respiratory 1 and Non-respiratory 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1937.

CAUSE.	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
2. Measles ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Influenza ...	8	9	17
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	1	1
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	5	15
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—	—
11. Syphilis ...	1	—	1
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis ...	—	1	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease ...	28	33	61
14. Diabetes ...	1	2	3
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage etc. ...	8	14	22
16. Heart Disease ...	42	33	75
17. Aneurysm ...	3	—	3
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	10	19	29
19. Bronchitis ...	4	4	8
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	10	4	14
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	3	3	6
22. Peptic Ulcer ...	3	1	4
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	—	2	2
24. Appendicitis ...	2	—	2
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	1
26. Other Diseases of the Liver etc. ...	1	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	7	1	8
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	10	9	19
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	6	6
31. Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ...	6	4	10
32. Senility ...	2	6	8
33. Suicide ...	2	—	2
34. Other violence ...	10	5	15
35. Other Defined Diseases ...	11	15	26
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	1	1
Total ...	183	170	353
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)			
Small-pox ...	—	—	—
Polio myelitis ...	—	—	—
Polio encephalitis ...	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1937.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1937.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	147
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	24
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	52
Stables	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious disease, in connection with	...	...	...	...	211
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	861
Foodshops (including markets)	...	...	...	...	106
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	550
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	33
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	509
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1,645
Drainage, in connection with	...	...	...	...	384
Smoke visits and observations	...	...	...	...	566
Disinfestation of effects of Council house tenants by H.C.N. process, in connection with	...	...	...	...	158
Visits to verminous premises	...	...	...	...	52
Overcrowding Survey, in connection with	...	...	...	...	97
Rats and Mice Destruction, in connection with	...	...	...	...	69
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	6
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	64
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	15
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	83
Interviews	...	...	...	...	209

Work Done.

Removals of manure and refuse	...	...	...	...	4
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	42
Defective rainwater conductors cleansed and repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	107
Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	85
Defective staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Defective wastepipes repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Defective coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Defective ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	68

Defective plaster on walls repaired	...	...	...	...	92
Defective grates, flues repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Defective doors repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Defective W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	43
Defective drains amended	...	...	...	...	31
Urinals cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	22
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	58
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	40
Drains unchoked	...	...	...	...	15
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	18
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	16
Pedestal W.C.'s substituted for hoppers	...	...	...	...	92
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	35
Water supply provided indoors	...	...	...	...	16
Ventilated foodstores provided	...	...	...	...	87
Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	...	88
Walls redecorated	...	...	...	...	102
Damp walls waterproofed	...	...	...	...	42
Skirtings repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	44
Chimney Stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	10
External Walls repaired or repointed	...	...	...	...	24
New Sculleries provided	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings underdrawn	...	...	...	...	5
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	4
Coalplaces provided	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
Samples of milk (Pasteurised) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	48
Samples of milk (Accredited) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	7
Samples of milk (Ordinary) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of milk taken for test for tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	...	7
Samples of drinking water taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	6
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	164
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	62
Disinfection.					
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	51
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	406
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., destroyed	...	...	...	...	6
Articles of bedding, clothing etc., disinfested	...	...	...	...	15

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Notices received under Article 8, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	65
Notices received under Article 8, para. 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	6
Notices received under Article 9, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	33
Visits made to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	861
Visits made to foodshops (including markets)	...	...	...	...	...	106
Total number of condemnations	...	...	...	...	...	2,233

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known	926	No Information	299	4242	15892
Number inspected ...		No Information			
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1		1	1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13		—	13	38
Per cent. of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...		No Information			
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	5		—	—	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	22		—	—	2094
Per cent. of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...		No Information			

Weight of Meat condemned :—

- (1) Tubercular 21 tons 9cwts. 3qrs. 27lbs.
- (2) Other diseases 10cwts. 23lbs.

The "Other Diseases" included Necrosis, Distomatosis Parasites, Fatty Infiltration, Angioma, Pyaemia, Abscesses, Bone-taint, Bruising, and Putrefaction.

Other Foods.

Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Tinned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 „
Salmon Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Tinned Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	...	84 „
Pressed Cheek	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 „

Total weight of food destroyed :—
22 tons, 1 cwt. 27 lbs.

SHOPS ACT, 1934—SECTION 10.

Number of shops inspected 64

Particulars of defects found in shops	Defects		Informal notices served	Statutory notices served
	Found	Remedied		
Unsuitable or insufficient sanitary conveniences ...	3	2	3	—
Insufficient ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Lack of means to maintain a reasonable temperature ...	1	1	1	—
Insufficient lighting ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or insufficient washing facilities ...	1	1	1	—
Unsuitable facilities for the taking of meals ...	1	1	1	—

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.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	14	7	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	18	4	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ...	8	—	—
Total ...	40	11	—

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 ...	1	2	—	—
Other nuisances ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	4	3	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	5	3	—	—
Total ...	11	9	—	—

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 30.65 on 27th December at 9 a.m. whilst the lowest was 28.87 on 12th March at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 81 degrees on 13th August. The lowest was 19 degrees on 14th November.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 13th August, and the value for that day 71 degrees. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 10th December, when 28 degrees was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 49.6 degrees, as compared with 49.5 degrees for 1936.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine for any one day was 13.5 hours recorded on 18th, 28th and 31st May.

June was the sunniest month with 207.25 hours of bright sunshine as compared with 214.75 hours in August, 1936. August was the warmest month, and March the coldest. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1318.25 hours as compared with 1340.8 hours in 1936 and 1612.75 hours in 1935. There were 82 sunless days compared with 66 in 1936 and 53 in 1935.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day, i.e. 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1.71 inches on the 14th July. Actually this rain fell early in the morning of the 15th July, and between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. another 1.60 inches fell, making a total fall of 3.31 inches in less than 12 hours. The heaviest fall in any one day in 1936 was 0.75 inches on 13th December.

January was the wettest month with 5.08 inches of rain, whilst June was the driest with 0.84 inches. Rain fell on 184 days and the total rainfall for the year was 38.145 inches, as compared with 29.47 inches for 1936 with 188 wet days.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1937.

MONTH	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall		
	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Hours	Sunless Days	Inches	Days rain fell	Days with .04 or more	
January	29.7	30.49	28.91	42.5°	54.0°	24.0°	38.1	12	5.08	22	19	
February	29.55	30.08	28.96	44.2°	56.0°	25.0°	65.2	9	4.83	25	19	
March	29.65	30.28	28.87	38.7°	54.0°	20.0°	95.0	5	4.665	23	16	
April	29.76	30.38	29.24	50.0°	65.0°	34.0°	122.9	5	2.39	15	13	
May	29.95	30.30	29.58	53.5°	76.0°	34.0°	199.85	2	1.82	14	10	
June	30.04	30.30	29.85	58.0°	76.0°	38.0°	207.25	—	.84	8	5	
July	29.99	30.25	29.69	60.8°	76.0°	41.0°	115.90	5	4.445	12	7	
August	30.06	30.29	29.73	61.9°	81.0°	44.0°	198.25	1	1.43	6	6	
September	29.69	30.26	29.08	55.9°	75.0°	35.0°	134.5	1	3.78	13	9	
October	29.90	30.55	29.18	50.1°	66.0°	32.0°	74.05	5	4.27	13	9	
November	29.96	30.46	29.27	40.7°	56.0°	19.0°	35.75	18	1.825	13	8	
December	29.81	30.65	28.95	39.1°	56.0°	21.0°	31.5	19	2.75	20	12	
	29.92			49.6			1318.25	82	38.145	184	133	



