

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Taunton Borough.

Contributors

Taunton (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zvbkbqq6>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



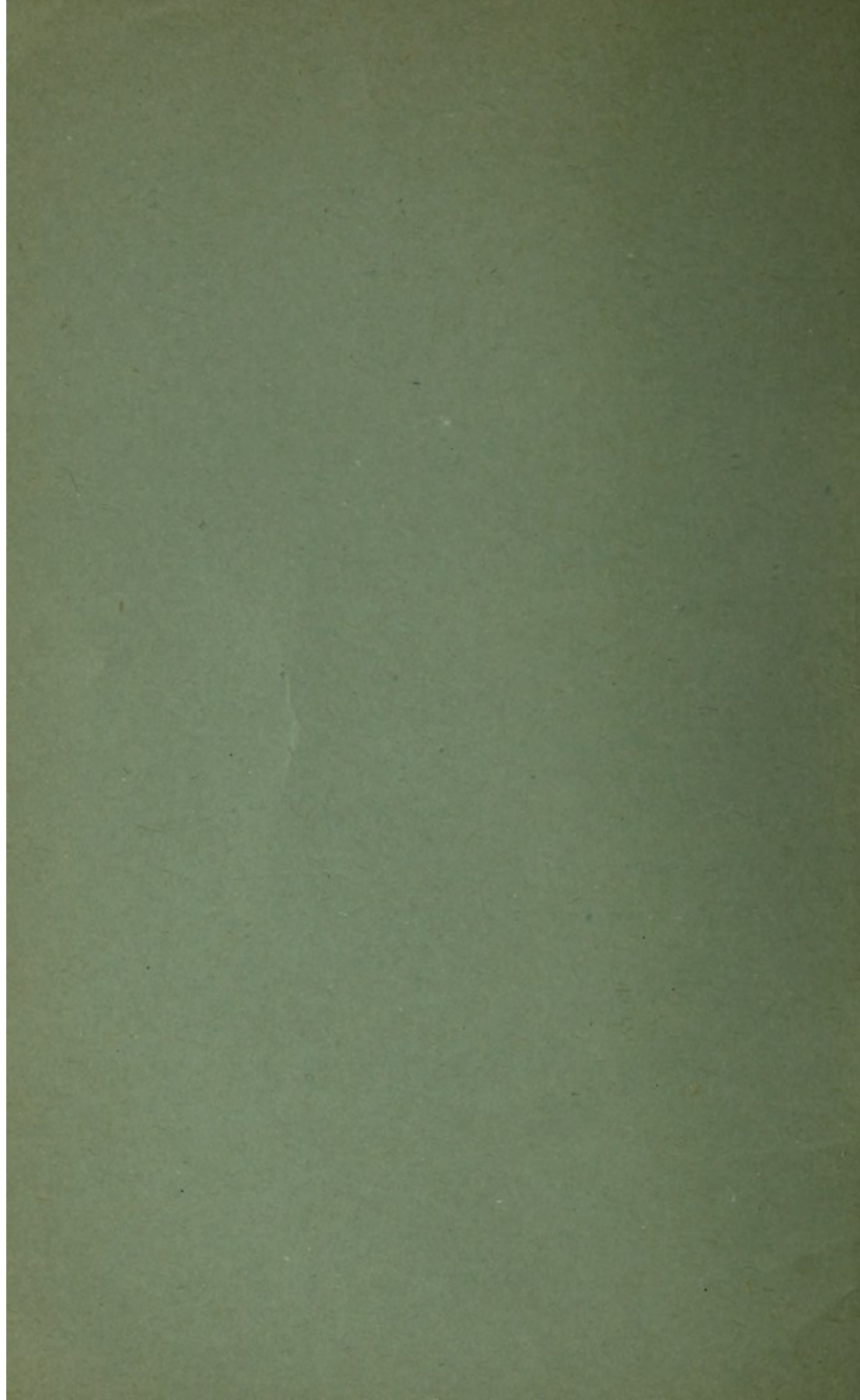
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare
of the
BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,
FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

TAUNTON :
HAMMETT & CO., PRINTERS,
HAMMET STREET.





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare

of the

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,

FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare

REPORT OF THE
FOR THE YEAR 1915

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

15th June, 1939.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1938, in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health in Circ. 1728.

The year was comparatively healthy and free from any outbreak of infectious disease. The vital statistics show that the Birth and Death Rates were lower while the Infant Mortality Rate was slightly higher than those for the comparable smaller towns.

The facilities available to promote the welfare of Mothers and Children have been extended. At the request of the Public Health Committee an examination of the Water Bearing Area was made in the early part of the year and a special report presented on possible sources of contamination.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare and the Health Committee for their support and to the Borough Treasurer, Borough Surveyor and the Waterworks Manager 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 Iles, M.D.
Councillor Bradbury	Councillor Loveys
Councillor Haines	Councillor Shepherd
Councillor Hayward	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 ...	Representing the Taunton Infant Health Society.
Mrs. Adams ...	
Mrs. Webber ...	
Mrs. Humphries ...	Representing Working Women's Organisations.
Mrs. Walker ...	

STAFF.

- *Medical Officer of Health
 - *Medical Officer for Maternity 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 and School Medical Service } Mrs. May Gower, M.D. (part time)
 - *Chief Sanitary Inspector—P. J. Gough, C.R.S.I. and Meat and Food Certificate
 - *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
 - *Health Visitor ... Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.
 - Chief Clerk ... G. J. A. Wilkinson.
 - Clerk ... Miss C. D. F. Selway.
 - Clerk ... Miss I. M. Smith.
 - Clerk ... Miss D. Hooper.
 - *Salary contributions made by Exchequer Grants or under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,434
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	...					27,780
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	7,908
Rateable Value (end of 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	£220,468
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£827

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total		
Live births—legitimate	177	159	336	Birth rate per	12.0
„ „ —illegitimate	15	8	23	1,000 of estimated population	0.9
	192	167	359		12.9

	M.	F.	Total		
Still births—legitimate	9	11	20	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ...	52.7
„ „ —illegitimate	—	—	—		
	9	11	20		

Deaths after correction for transfers :	Death Rate per	
M. F. Total	1,000 of estimated	
140 199 339	population ...	12.16

Death Rate, after correction by factor 0.87	...	...	10.57
---	-----	-----	-------

Deaths from Puerperal causes :

Sepsis	...	...	—	Puerperal Death	
Other Puerperal causes			1	Rate per 1,000 live and still births	2.6

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	52.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	50.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	86.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1.0
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1 :	Rate per		
1,000 live births	...	...	...	2.8

Deaths from Cancer, 62	Death Rate	...	...	2.2
------------------------	------------	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 13.	Death Rate	...	...	0.4
---	------------	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 4.	Death Rate	...	...	0.1
--	------------	-----	-----	-----

IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1938.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	15.1
Birth Rate (still)	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	53.0
Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...					5.5

IN SMALLER TOWNS 1938.

Birth Rate (live)	...	...	...	...	...	15.4
Birth Rate (still)	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.0
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	51.0
Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...					3.6

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

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

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

		Number Unemployed			
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls
January, 1938	.....	634	117	24	23
August, 1938	.....	440	176	36	29

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Borough, see Page 4.

Laboratory Facilities.

Clinical Material (e.g. swabs for Diphtheria and smears for gonococci), water for chemical and bacteriological analysis, milk for bacteriological examination and the phosphatase test and food for examination after food poisoning are sent to the Laboratories of the Somerset County Council at the County Hall, Taunton.

Ambulance Facilities.

For general cases there are two motor ambulances provided by a voluntary committee with the assistance and co-operation of the British Red Cross Society who provide the staff.

The two ambulances are:—

- (1) Morris 20 h.p. holding two stretchers and three sitters or four stretchers.
- (2) Chevrolet 23 h.p. holding two stretchers.

For infectious cases the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board provide and maintain a motor ambulance used solely for this purpose. It holds two stretchers.

These are adequate for the ordinary needs of the Borough and surrounding district.

Nursing in the Home.

The Taunton and District Nursing Association employ four nurses for this purpose.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Health Centre, Tower Lane, Taunton. This is provided and maintained by the Taunton Borough Council, and used as follows:—

Infant Welfare Centre—on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2—4 p.m.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinic—on Wednesdays from 2—4 p.m.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic—open from end of September to end of May on Mondays and Fridays from 2—4 p.m. and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

School Clinic—open each morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. when the nurses attend and on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. when the School Medical Officer attends.

Orthopaedic Clinic—provided by the Somerset County Council and held in the Health Centre—a Sisters' Clinic being held every Friday morning while the Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the second Friday in each month.

Dental Clinic—open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 2—4 p.m.

Mothers' Welfare and Advice Centre—provided by a voluntary committee and held in the Health Centre in the afternoon of the second Monday in each month.

Eye Clinic—held in the Health Centre approximately once a month on Tuesdays.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—one provided by the Somerset County Council and held in premises at Cloutsham Lodge, Priory Avenue, on Mondays.

Venereal Diseases Clinic—one provided by the Somerset County Council and held in the out-patient department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, East Reach. Men are seen on Saturdays at 3.30 p.m. and Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Women are seen on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.

HOSPITALS PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital, East Reach, has 132 beds, admits cases from the Borough and surrounding districts.

The Public Assistance Institution, Trinity Street, has 130 hospital beds.

The Isolation Hospital, Cheddon Road, has 69 beds, including 10 cubicles and 3 cubicles for Puerperal Pyrexia and was taken over by the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board on 1st June, 1933.

Cases requiring orthopaedic treatment (including Poliomyelitis) are sent to the Bath and Wessex Hospital at Combe Park, Bath.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Circular 1622 on Maternal Mortality was issued on 7th May, 1937, and in it the Minister advised further consideration of the means available to reduce this.

After a full examination of the provisions made here in conjunction with a medical officer of the Ministry of Health, a special report was prepared and presented on 21st February,

1938, and it was decided that the provisions made be extended so that a medical practitioner might be able to refer a case to a consultant for either ante-natal or post-natal examination at his room if fit to travel or at home if unfit to travel. The scheme for ante-natal and post-natal examination at the Clinic be extended so that a midwife could refer any case booked by her to a medical practitioner for examination if unable or unwilling to attend the Clinic.

A scheme for the in-patient treatment of complicated maternity cases was under consideration at the end of the year.

The Maternity service available through the Town Council now consists of:—

A Clinic for ante-natal and post-natal examination—open each Wednesday afternoon.

Ante-natal and post-natal examination of cases by a medical practitioner if they have engaged only a midwife and are referred by the midwife for this purpose.

Admission to the Borough Maternity Home for confinement or if in need of ante-natal treatment.

Admission to a special cubicle at the Isolation Hospital after 1st May, if notified as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia.

Examination by a Consultant either at his rooms or at home if referred for this by a medical practitioner.

Provision of Home Helps if the medical practitioner attending certifies this to be necessary.

Provision of extra nourishment in the form of pasteurized milk for necessitous cases during pregnancy and lactation.

Nursing Aid for cases of Puerperal Pyrexia treated at home.

The use made of the services provided was as follows:—

The Ante-natal Clinic. 145 women made 763 attendances for ante-natal examination, while 28 women attended on 34 occasions for post-natal examination.

Ante-natal examination by medical practitioners. Only two women were examined—it will therefore be seen that the midwives are not availing themselves of this service. The total number examined at the ante-natal Clinic and by medical practitioners when referred by midwives is just under 40 per cent. of the total births.

The Maternity Home. The number of cases admitted was 102; of these four were also admitted for ante-natal treatment, thus about 28 per cent. of the total births took place in the Maternity Home.

The service of an Obstetric Consultant was required for eight cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Five cases of this condition were notified. Two were treated in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital (before the end of April), two were removed to the Isolation Hospital and one was treated at home. There were no deaths from this cause.

Births.

The number notified to me under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was 369. This includes 20 still births.

Birth rate, live	—	12.9 per 1,000 population.
Birth rate, still	—	0.7 per 1,000 population.

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 19, and of these 14 were under 1 week old. Seven were due to premature birth; of these only 1 had not had ante-natal supervision by a doctor.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 52.9 per 1,000 live births.

The Neo-natal Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths in first month) was 41.7 per 1,000 live births.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

This is held in the Health Centre, Tower Lane, and is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2—4 p.m.

The number of sessions held was 94 and the total number of consultations given was 2,515, which included 254 new ones.

Over 60 per cent. of the children born during the year attended the centre.

Several voluntary helpers have continued to attend with great regularity and are of very great assistance in weighing the infants and preparing their records. It would be impossible to cope with the numbers attending without their help.

The Infant Help Society, under the direction of Mrs. Fowler, has continued to be of assistance in the preparation of tea and the sale of dried milk and other foods.

The Work of the Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor devotes the whole of her time to duties in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare. These include visits to the homes of children under five years of age and of expectant and nursing mothers. Attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and the Orthopaedic Clinic when the Surgeon attends each month.

She pays particular attention to homes in which there are foster children under 5 years of age. During 1938 she paid 3,529 visits to homes for the following purposes:—

First Visits.		Re Visits.	
Under one year	 342	Under one year	 892
Ante-natal cases	 57	Between 1—2 years.....	818
Still births	 3	Between 2—3 years.....	737
Other visits	 13	Between 3—5 years.....	582
		Ante-natal cases	 85
	415		3,114

The Ante-Natal Clinic.

This is held in the Health Centre and is open each Wednesday afternoon from 2 p.m.

The total number of sessions held was 52 and the number of attendances of expectant mothers was 763, while 34 mothers attended for re-examination after confinement.

Almost 40 per cent. of the mothers confined during the year were examined either at the ante-natal clinic or by a medical practitioner on the advice of the midwife booked.

This total is about 2 per cent. less than that for the year 1937.

In addition, just over 9 per cent. of the mothers who were confined were examined after their confinement.

Dr. Marie Ellis as Medical Officer for the Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinic has made the following report on her work.

In 1938, 145 new cases attended the Ante-natal clinic, and there were 618 re-examinations.

Of these 145, only 34 came for post-natal examination, that is 27 per cent.

The dental condition of many of the women is still unsatisfactory.

I also find a large percentage of varicose veins, one case was very severe and developed ante-natal phlebitis, needing Hospital admission.

Other abnormalities were:—

Pyelitis	.....	.....	.....	1
Disproportion	.....	.....	.....	5
Antepartum Haemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	1
Carcinoma of Cervix.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Toxaemia (Mild)	.....	.....	.....	8
Eclampsia	.....	.....	.....	1

I am glad to know the dental clinic is opening again.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

The Clinic for this is held in the Health Centre and is open three times a week (Monday and Friday from 2 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m.) during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May.

Total attendances of infants and school children were 2,341, of which 1,894 were under 5 years of age and not attending school.

Fifty-eight were advised to attend for treatment, and of these 35 attended as advised, while 23 ceased to attend without completing the course.

Particulars of the infants treated are:—

Disease or Defect	No. of cases referred for treatment	No. of cases attended for treatment	Av'ge No. of exposures per case	Results.		
Rickets	... 16	12	35.0	Healed	...	8
				Improved	...	4
General Debility	38	20	34.5	Much improved	...	12
				Improved	...	8
Asthma and other allergic conditions	3	2	53.5	Much improved	...	1
				No improvement	...	1
Epilepsy	... 1	1	12.0	No fits while under treatment, but duration of these too short to state if of any definite benefit.		

Twenty-five infants were still under treatment at the end of 1938, and were:—Rickets, 18; General Debility, 6; and Asthma, 1.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

The Orthopaedic Clinic of the Somerset County Council is held in the Health Centre and participation in it continues. A Sister's clinic is held each Friday and the Surgeon (Miss

Forrester-Brown) attends on the second Friday in each month.

Twenty-eight infants attended for examination and treatment. One who has been in the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital for 23 weeks was discharged in January and another was admitted in December on account of acute osteomyelitis.

Foster Children.

These are supervised by the Health Visitor until they are five years old, when they are taken over by the two School Nurses until they are nine years of age.

The number under supervision at the beginning of the year was 18 and at the end 15.

The number of persons receiving these at the end of the year was 12.

In no case was it found necessary to take any formal proceedings.

Provision of Free Milk.

The scale of income below which applicants become entitled to free milk was increased by 10 per cent. at the end of June.

It is supplied in such quantity as the applicant may need to:—

- (1) Expectant mothers in any stage of pregnancy, subject to verification by the midwife or ante-natal clinic.
- (2) Nursing mothers.
- (3) Infants up to five years.

The amount supplied varies between one and two pints and only pasteurised or dried milk is issued on these orders.

Orders are given only to a specified retailer and are not transferable and are for a period not exceeding 28 days, when they are renewable on further application being made.

A usual condition is that the infant receiving free milk must be brought to the Infant Welfare Clinic for weighing and examination.

The approximate amount of milk supplied was 19,396½ pints at a cost of £274 3s. 9½d.

The number of families who received free milk was 85.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1938.

CAUSE.				Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 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	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Births	...	...	...	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Marasmus	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Accidents	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Injury	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intussusception	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Total	...	...	...	14	—	1	—	15	2	1	1	—	19

Coroner after Inquest ... —

Coroner 1

**ANALYSIS OF AGES OF DEATH
UNDER 15 YEARS IN 1938.**

AGE.	MALES.		FEMALES.		Total
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Under 1 day	4	—	3	—	7
1 day and under 1 week	1	1	5	—	7
1 week and under 4 weeks	—	—	1	—	1
1 month and under 3 months	—	—	2	—	2
3 months and under 6 months	1	—	—	—	1
6 months and under 9 months	—	1	—	—	1
9 months and under 12 months... ..	—	—	—	—	—
1 year and under 2 years	1	—	—	—	1
2 years and under 3 years	—	—	1	—	1
3 years and under 4 years	1	—	1	—	2
4 years and under 5 years	—	—	1	—	1
5 years and under 10 years	1	—	—	—	1
10 years and under 15 years	1	—	1	—	2
	10	2	15	—	27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

It was necessary owing to depleted sources to give a restricted supply from the 15th May to 19th December. At the commencement it was shut off from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.; on the 30th May from 6 p.m., and on the 1st November from 5 p.m. It will therefore be seen that the supply was not satisfactory in quantity.

Measures to obviate a recurrence of this most unsatisfactory condition have been taken and include the provision of a new reservoir at Quants with a storage capacity of 144 million gallons. Work on this was commenced in September. Search for additional sources of supply is being made.

As regards the quality of the water supplied, very careful watch is kept by this department. This includes the taking of sets of samples for bacteriological examination at least twice each month. Each set consists of:—

- (1) the raw water on the surface of a filter bed
- (2) water after passing through the filter beds and addition of chlorine
- (3) water from a main tap in the town.

These samples are examined by the Bacteriologist of the Somerset County Council and copies of his reports are sent to the Waterworks Manager immediately after their receipt.

These examinations have shown that there is a high bacterial count in the raw water after heavy rain and that the main tap samples in the town were satisfactory and showed no evidence of contamination except that samples taken on 2nd March, 30th August and 12th December showed *B. coli* was present in 30 c.c. A chemical analysis taken on 8th November showed that the reaction is slightly alkaline (PH. = 7.4), that the total hardness is 6.5° and permanent hardness 3.0°.

The water is therefore a soft one.

On the 21st February a special report was made after an inspection of the water bearing area and filter beds and certain recommendations were made as to the elimination of some possible sources of pollution and the improvement of the filtration and chlorination system. The issue of Circ. 1684 on 12th March emphasised the importance of these and by the end of the year possible sources of pollution on the

area had either been or were being dealt with, while plans for the reorganisation of the filter beds and the provision of a self-recording apparatus for Chloramine treatment of the filtered water were being prepared.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no important extensions during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

All the closets in the area, except a few in outlying parts of the Borough are on the water carriage system. Many of the older working class houses have no separate water closets and join at one with several houses. Steps are being taken to remedy this, and 37 separate water closets were provided during the year.

Public Cleansing.

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

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is given on pages 30 to 35 and include particulars of action taken under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

Camping Sites.

- (1) The number of sites in the Borough which were used for camping purposes during 1938 were three. Two of these were used by show-men.
- (2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Borough Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was one.
- (3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1938 was sixty.

Smoke Abatement.

Particulars of action taken are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on page 30.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough. This is owned by the Taunton Corporation. The water in it is

filtered and chlorinated and occasional visits are made to check the amount of chlorine present in the water in the pool. There are also three swimming pools belonging to residential schools, but these are not open to the public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested		Number disinfested and methods used		
		H. Cn.	S.O ₂	Proprietary Compound
(a) Council houses	 35	4	1	29
(b) Other houses	 5	—	1	4

The methods employed are for severe cases—fumigation with Hydrogen Cyanide and for slight cases spraying with various liquids by means of special sprayers. Liquids used for the purpose have been Zaldecide made by Messrs. Newton Chambers and Pyagra made by Messrs. Jeyes.

The use of heavy naphtha has been considered. As however it needs special spraying machinery and other apparatus and is not reported to have any lethal effect on the eggs it has not been used.

To obviate the carrying of infestation from Slum Clearance Areas the furniture and other effects excepting bedding, are removed in a special fumigating van where they are treated with Hydrogen Cyanide, while all bedding is removed to the steam disinfector and treated there. This applies to all removals from Slum Clearance Areas. The number of households removed in this way was 155, including a few transfers from one Council house to another. An agreement for this purpose has been made with Messrs. Associated Fumigators Ltd., who are a firm specialising in this work. All tenants are advised that infestation may occur through the purchase of second-hand bedding, furniture, pictures and clothing.

Schools, Sanitary Condition and Water Supply.

There are fourteen public elementary schools and an inspection was made of them in April.

Town's water is available, but there were no proper means of obtaining it for drinking in four schools.

Trough closets which are a most distinct anomaly in an educational institution persist in three. The playground surface in one is very defective and nothing has been done to

remedy this in spite of previous reports.

I find considerable difficulty in securing the amelioration of defects in the non-provided schools.

Infectious Diseases in Schools.

I have no faith in school closure as a means of preventing the spread of infectious disease, and find that frequent examination of the children attending and the following up of absentees has more effect.

Certain departures from the principles laid down in the Joint Memorandum of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education have been made and continued as regards the exclusion of contacts, for example contacts of Chickenpox and Mumps are not excluded at all, while contacts of Measles and German Measles are only excluded if attending infant schools. Contacts of Scarlet Fever are excluded for one week and then permitted to return if found fit after medical examination. As regards Diphtheria, all contacts are excluded, and swabs taken from the throat and nose, if these are clear, contacts are permitted to return if found fit on medical examination at the end of one week.

HOUSING.

The duty of Slum Clearance has continued and official representations were made on eighteen Clearance Areas containing 82 houses. Clearance Orders comprising 22 areas containing 104 houses were made by the Council. Public Inquiries into these were held on the 19th May and the 7th October.

These practically complete the list of unfit houses submitted on the 9th February, 1937, but it should be understood that there are more houses requiring action under Section 154 of the Housing Act, 1936.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i) By Local Authority			
With	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	173	
State	(b) Overcrowding	21	
Assistance	(c) Other	—	
Without State Assistance	.....	8	
(ii) By other bodies or persons			
	(a) With State Assistance	—	
	(b) Without State Assistance	280	

1. Housing Inspections:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	362
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	586
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-32	283
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	480
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	104
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	216

2. Housing Action.

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

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—**A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	1
(3) Clearance Orders made.....	22
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed	18
(a) Number of houses involved	80
(b) Number of houses demolished	152

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.....	.....	.....	37
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	.....	.....	.....	38
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.....	.....	.....	282
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.....	.....	.....	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	.....	.....	27
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	.....	.....	.....	219
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses 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.

The inspection of premises in the Borough where milk, meat and other foods are prepared for sale to the public is carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his assistants. Particulars of the inspections, etc., are given in his report on pages 30—34.

Milk.

There are 71 dealers on the register; of these there are in the Borough six producers with cowsheds, 28 retailers who obtain their supplies from various sources, two retailers in sealed containers only, and one firm where milk is bulked and subjected to a flash pasteurizing process and sold to other retailers. There are also on the register as retailers of milk in the Borough, but with premises without the Borough, 28 producers and six retailers who were not producers.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following grades of milk are purchaseable:—

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

“Pasteurised” from two separate sources both produced in the Borough.

All milk supplied under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is either pasteurised or dried, while all the milk supplied through the public elementary schools is pasteurised.

Samples of the pasteurised milk are taken at least once each month and sent to the County Analyst for examination as to total bacteria, presence of bac. coli. and reaction to the phosphatase test to check the efficiency of pasteurisation.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are now ten slaughterhouses in the Borough, and of these four are subject to annual licences and six are registered.

One registered slaughterhouse was closed under the provisions of Section 143 of the Taunton Corporation Act, 1931, having remained unused for a period of six months.

Every effort is made by the Sanitary Inspectors to see that all meat prepared in the Borough is inspected at the time of slaughter, but when killing takes place in ten slaughterhouses mainly in one part of the week it makes it difficult for them to do this. A table showing the carcasses inspected and condemned is given on page 32.

There is no meat marking scheme in operation.

Adulteration.

The various Acts and Regulations dealing with this are administered by the Somerset County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

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

Nutrition.

A Health Exhibition organised by the Somerset County Council and containing a section showing necessary foods and how these could be obtained at the least cost was held in the Town Hall on 3rd and 4th March.

In connection with the National Health Campaigns, posters were displayed in suitable places, including the schools and the Health Centre.

Shell Fish (Molluscan).

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

As regards the layings from which shell fish sold in the Borough are obtained, these are:—

Oysters	—	—	London and Falmouth.
Shrimps	—	—	Southport, Kings Lynn, and Stolford on Bridgwater Bay.
Pickled Cockles	—		Kings Lynn.
Prawns	—	—	Preserved from Norway.

Ice Cream.

Fifteen samples of this compound submitted to analysis showed marked variation in constitution and cleanliness. The average fat content was 4.8 per cent., the highest being 14 per cent. and the lowest 2 per cent.

Ten showed a high total bacteria count of over 10,000 per c.c. and four showed a B. coli. count of over 1,000 per c.c.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A table showing the number of cases per thousand of population in 148 smaller towns and the comparable figures for Taunton is given.

		Rates per 1,000 population.	
		Smaller Towns.	Taunton.
Small Pox	.....	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	.....	2.58	0.71
Diphtheria	.....	1.53	0.46
Enteric	.....	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	.....	0.39	0.32
Pneumonia	.....	0.98	1.22

From this it will be seen that with the exception of Pneumonia that the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was lower in the Borough than in the comparable smaller towns. Diphtheria appears to increase in prevalence about every 7 or 8 years, and this increased prevalence to persist for a period of about five years. The year 1937 appears to be the commencement of a period of low prevalence. Scarlet Fever has been comparatively infrequent for a period of about 16 years, and in type to be generally mild and free from serious complications. It has not been possible to trace any periods of frequency for this disease.

Measles appear to recur at intervals of about 30 months, and an epidemic was expected to commence about October, but did not recur until January in 1939.

The case of Enteric Fever appeared to have contracted the infection while on a cruise in the Mediterranean Sea.

As regards Pneumonia, there were nineteen cases of the influenzal variety in February, March, April and May, while fifteen of the Acute Primary type were notified in same months and in June.

The influenzal type appeared chiefly in those over 65 years of age.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Mumps and chicken-pox were prevalent throughout the year.

Immunization against Diphtheria.

A scheme for this service in co-operation with the medical practitioners in the Borough was begun on the 1st December.

The scheme applies to all children ordinarily resident in

the Borough who are between the age of 1 year and 8 years, and any medical practitioner will on the application of a parent or guardian give two injections of A. P. Toxoid, the first of 0.1 c.c. and the second of 0.5 c.c., with a minimum interval of two weeks and a maximum interval of four weeks between the two injections.

The A.P. Toxoid is that made by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co. and is supplied free to any medical practitioner on his application in phials of 0.5 c.c.

A fee of five shillings is paid to the doctor on his sending a certificate to me containing the name, address and date of birth of the child and the dates on which the two injections of this material were given.

Publicity has been given to the scheme by means of posters and hand-bills, while direct advice is given to parents when they attend at the Infant Welfare Centre or the School Clinic.

No certificates had been received by the end of the year, but applications for A. P. Toxoid had been made by several doctors.

Prevention of Blindness under the Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 176.

No action has been advised or taken under this section.

Tuberculosis.

The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, empower you to take action when necessary, to ensure that persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis and in an infectious state, do not engage or continue to be engaged in the milk trade. These powers are extended by the Taunton Corporation Act of 1937, Section 46, to include persons engaged in the preparation or handling of food for sale to others.

It has not been necessary to advise any action under these powers during the year.

Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, empowers you to apply to the Justices for a Removal Order when a case of pulmonary respiratory tuberculosis in an infectious state may cause serious risk of infection to others and where accommodation for the case is available in a suitable hospital.

It has not been found necessary to advise any action under this section during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1938.

DISEASE.	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	Total	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small-pox	1	—	—	4	2	5	3	4	3	—	1	—	23	21	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	1	1	—	—	1	13	12	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Diphtheria (bact.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	15	—	8a
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	3	12	19	—	3
Pneumonia—Acute Primary	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	1	9	3	—
—Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1b	—
Erysipelas...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	11	1	—
German Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(a) includes 5 un-notified cases.

(b) to Combe Orthopaedic Hospital. Bath.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1938.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 —	3	2	2	—	1	1	—	—
25 —	1	4	1	—	1	2	—	—
35 —	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	1
45 —	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 —	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 +	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Totals	12	8	3	1	6	7	1	3
	20		4		13		4	
			24			17		

Deaths—unnotified cases 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1938.

CAUSE.						M.	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	21	41	62
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	...	...	...	...	5	12	17
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	25	46	71
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	11	15	26
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9	9	18
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	8	5	13
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver etc.	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital Debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	6	9	15
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	3	12	15
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	12	20	32
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
37.	Diarrhoea, 2 years and over	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total						140	199	339
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)								
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Polio encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.**ANNUAL REPORT of the CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1938.****Summary of Visits and Inspections.**

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	73
Bakehouses	28
Tents, Vans and Sheds	42
Stables	9
Infectious Disease, in connection with	159
Slaughterhouses	870
Foodshops (including Markets)	129
Houses inspected	351
Offensive Trades	39
General Inspections	593
Re-inspections	1,756
Drainage, in connection with	348
Smoke visits and observations	190
Disinfestation of effects of Council house tenants by H. Cn. process, in connection with	195
Visits to verminous premises	61
Overcrowding Survey, in connection with	88
Rats and Mice Destruction, in connection with	25
Common Lodging Houses	4
Shops Act Inspections	18
Refuse Disposal	1
Ice-cream premises	56
Interviews	274

Work Done.

Defective Roofs repaired or renewed	28
Chimney Stacks repaired or renewed	3
Defective Rainwater conductors cleansed and repaired or renewed	18
External walls repaired, repointed or roughcasted	66
Damp-proof courses provided	26
Sub-floor ventilation provided	5
Permanent ventilation provided	47
Yard Paving repaired or renewed	79
Additional W.C.'s provided	37
Pedestal W.C.'s substituted for hoppers	74
Defective W.C. compartments repaired	32
W.C.'s cleansed or limewashed	25
Urinals cleansed or repaired	1

Defective Drains amended	34
Drains unchoked	23
Drains tested	53
Inspection chambers provided	10
New sinks provided	79
Defective wastepipes repaired or renewed	9
Water supply provided indoors	49
Defective coppers repaired or renewed	13
Ventilated foodstores provided	90
Defective floors repaired or renewed	184
Defective windows repaired or renewed	122
Defective plaster on walls repaired	118
Walls redecorated	173
Damp walls waterproofed	35
Skirtings repaired or renewed	9
Defective ceilings repaired or renewed	87
Ceilings whitened	154
Ceilings underdrawn	5
Defective doors repaired or renewed	26
Defective grates, flues, &c. repaired or renewed	35
Defective staircases repaired.....	13
Handrails provided to staircases	42
Additional light provided to staircases	18
Coalplaces repaired	6
New drains laid	12
Window area increased	24
Verminous rooms disinfested	34
Removals of manure and refuse	3
Miscellaneous	9
Samples of milk (Pasteurised) taken for bacterio- logical examination	48
Samples of milk (Accredited) taken for bacteriologi- cal examination	14
Samples of milk taken for test for tubercle bacilli	9
Samples of drinking water taken for bacteriological examination	17
Samples of Ice-cream submitted for analysis	15
Informal notices served	143
Statutory notices served	20

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected	40
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	217
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., destroyed	24
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfested	8

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Notices received under Article 8, Public Health (Meat)	
Regulations, 1924	58
Notices received under Article 8, para. 2, Public Health	
(Meat) Regulations, 1924	8
Notices received under Article 9, Public Health (Meat)	
Regulations, 1924	27
Visits made to slaughterhouses	870
Visits made to foodshops (including markets)	129
Total number of condemnations	2,151

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known	876	60	271	4580	15,871
Number inspected ...	831	60	61	3641	12,981
All Diseases except					
<u>Tuberculosis—</u>					
Whole carcasses					
condemned	3	—	1	4	7
Carcases of which some					
part or organ was					
condemned	20	1	—	20	120
Per cent. of number					
inspected affected with					
disease other than					
Tuberculosis	2.65	1.67	1.64	0.66	0.98
<u>Tuberculosis only—</u>					
Whole Carcasses con-					
demned	2	—	—	—	25
Carcases of which some					
part or organ was					
condemned	18	—	—	—	1,909
Per cent. of the number					
inspected affected with					
tuberculosis	2.41	—	—	—	14.90

Weight of Meat condemned :—

- (1) Tubercular 17 tons. 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 12 lbs.
- (2) Other diseases 1 ton. 17 cwts. 0 qrs. 20 lbs.

The " Other Diseases " included Johne's Disease, Anaemia, Dropsy, Erysipelas, Parasites, Angioma, Pyaemia, Abscesses, Bone-taint, Bruising, and Putrefaction.

Other Foods.

Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Pressed Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	15½ „
Frozen Eggs (7 tins)	...	...	...	...	...	...	77 „
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 „
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 „
Rabbits (58 in number)	...	...	...	...	...	...	103 „
Chickens (58 in number)	...	...	...	...	...	...	192 „
Corned Beef (3 tins)	...	...	...	...	...	...	21 „
Kippers	...	...	...	...	...	...	78prs.
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	...	(number)	6
Chilled Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	15doz.

Total weight of food destroyed :—

19 tons, 3 cwts., 2 qrs., 20½ lbs.

SHOPS ACT, 1934—SECTION 10.

Number of shops inspected 18

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

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)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (with mechanical power) ...	31	8	—
Factories (without mechanical power) ...	11	5	—
Total ...	42	13	—

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

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	3	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	7	5	—	—
Other offences ...	1	—	—	—
Total ...	17	13	—	—

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Daily observations are made 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.

Some statistics for 1938 are given below, with those of 1937 for comparison.

	1938	1937
Highest observed barometer reading (9 a.m. G.M.T.)	30.72 on 11th April.	30.65
Lowest observed barometer reading (9 a.m. G.M.T.)	28.78 on 10th January.	28.87
Highest temperature (registered in Stevenson Screen)	81° on 4th August.	81°
Lowest temperature (registered in Stevenson Screen)	21° on 18th April and 20th December.	19°
Highest mean temperature for any one day	69.5° on 4th August.	71°
Lowest mean temperature for any one day	25.5° on 20th December.	19°
Annual mean temperature ...	50.4°	49.6°
Highest sunshine total in one month...	225 hours in June.	207.25 in June.
Annual total of sunshine ...	1410.95 hours	1318.25
Heaviest rainfall in one "rainfall" day (i.e. 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day) ...	0.83" on 25th November.	1.71"
Heaviest rainfall in any one month ...	3.99" in November.	5.08"
Lowest rainfall in any one month ...	0.07" in March.	0.84
Total number of "rainy" days ...	163	184
Total rainfall for year ...	24.57"	38.14"

The outstanding feature of the weather during 1938 was the remarkably dry period which extended throughout March and April, when rain fell on 3 days only, the total for the two months being 0.18".

February, too, was very dry, the rainfall totalling 0.94" on 9 wet days. Thus for February, March and April the total rainfall was 1.12" as against 11.88" for the corresponding period in 1937.

A short spell of very cold weather was experienced during December when for three days (19th, 20th and 21st) the screen temperature did not rise above 30°. Snow fell on the 13th December to a depth of 2"—3".

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1938.

MONTH	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine		Rainfall		
	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Highest	Lowest	Hours	Sunless Days	Inches	Days rain fell	Days with .04 or more
January	29.88	30.51	28.78	43.9°	56.0°	30.0°	38.75	15	3.15	21	17
February	30.24	30.51	29.54	41.9°	54.0°	26.0°	63.25	10	.94	9	4
March	30.25	30.68	29.63	47.3°	64.0°	24.0°	132.5	1	.07	1	1
April	30.28	30.72	30.00	44.3°	64.0°	21.0°	184.5	1	.11	2	2
May	29.93	30.39	29.47	50.9°	71.0°	30.0°	146.75	4	1.82	16	11
June	29.72	30.35	29.62	58.5°	76.0°	38.0°	225.0	—	.98	12	8
July	29.28	30.20	29.46	59.3°	75.0°	39.0°	148.75	—	3.61	14	12
August	29.92	30.24	29.50	61.1°	81.0°	38.0°	165.85	2	2.43	15	9
September	29.98	30.24	29.53	55.7°	74.0°	34.0°	112.5	4	1.36	13	8
October	29.28	30.24	29.39	51.8°	67.0°	35.0°	95.5	4	2.79	21	17
November	28.83	30.33	29.21	49.4°	65.0°	27.0°	53.25	8	3.99	19	18
December	29.80	30.39	29.20	41.0°	57.0°	21.0°	44.25	13	3.32	20	13
	29.78			50.4			1410.85	62	24.57	163	120

