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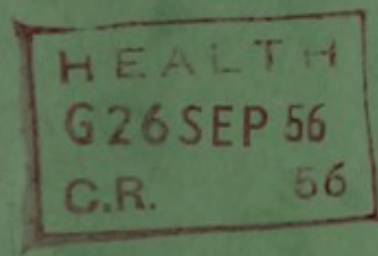
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
FOR THE YEAR 1955





Borough of Taunton.

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

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

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

July, 1956.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report for the year 1955.

The incidence of infectious disease was not unusual during the year.

The housing situation continues to be very difficult resulting in serious hardship to the numerous families involved.

It must be a matter of relief for all concerned that the Ministry have approved the details of the new water scheme, despite the national policy re expenditure on capital works.

I wish to express my grateful appreciation to Alderman A. J. West, J.P., and the Public Health Committee for the unfailing help and consideration I have received and the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officials.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,434
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,180
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955 (according to the rate books)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,350
Rateable value at the end of 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£271,569
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,100

VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 209	Female 203	Total 412	
Births, live illegitimate	Male 10	Female 7	Total 17	
Births, still legitimate	Male 5	Female 3	Total 8	
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female —	Total —	
Birth rate, total, corrected by factor 0.99	...	...	...	12.65
live	„	„	...	12.43
still	„	„	...	0.22
illegitimate	„	„	...	0.48
Deaths, Male 219, Female 215	...	...	...	Total 434
Death rate, crude	...	...	...	12.69
corrected by factor 0.91	...	...	...	11.54
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 5, Female 0	...	...	...	Total 5
Infant Mortality rate	...	...	...	11.65
Deaths from Diarrhœa under two years of age	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	4.66

Taunton's population is again almost static, shewing a slight decrease of 640.

The Infant Mortality rate, one of the most sensitive indices of public health, again attained a record low level of 11.65.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2	4
Tuberculosis, other	1	2	3
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	4	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	11	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	18	16	34
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	—	3
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	38	62
Coronary disease, angina	33	24	57
Hypertension with heart disease	4	6	10
Other heart disease	44	59	103
Other circulatory disease	11	8	19
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	10	9	19
Bronchitis	12	3	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	4	7
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	2	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	—	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	18	13	31
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	3	4	7
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

The above table again shews heart and vascular diseases to be by far the commonest causes of death.

Cancer of the lung fell from 12 to 8, including 2 females.

It is a record of which to be proud, which reflects the greatest credit on all concerned, that during the last eight years no woman has lost her life from child birth or associated causes. During this period, nearly four thousand confinements have occurred in the Borough. In a similar period 30 years ago, seven women in Taunton lost their lives as a direct result of child birth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Originally notified</i>	<i>Removed to I. Hospital</i>	<i>Corrected Numbers</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	29	4	29	—
Whooping cough	21	—	21	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—				
Paralytic	5	5	5	1
Non-paralytic	3	3	3	—
Measles	284	—	284	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	6	1	6	—
Dysentery	3	—	3	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—				
Infective	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	2	2	2	—
Erysipelas	5	—	5	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis—				
Respiratory	37	—	37	4
Non-respiratory	6	—	6	3
Malaria (B.T.) contracted abroad...	1	—	1	—

The incidence of infectious disease presented no special features during the year.

Although there were 29 cases of Scarlet Fever, only four were removed to hospital, which is in accordance with modern practice.

Measles shewed a welcome drop from 515 cases to 284.

Once more there were no cases of diphtheria, the last case being in 1947, which is a typical example of the value of preventive measures and of Public Health generally.

Such a service is continuous, inconspicuous and usually the only apparent result is that nothing happens.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Eight cases occurred in 1955, five of which were of the paralytic type. Three cases occurred in one home which is extremely rare, and unfortunately the mother, who was affected along with her two children, died as a result.

The Council's quarantine scheme, which involves all domiciliary contacts being confined to the home and garden for three weeks, worked smoothly and effectively in all the six households affected.

Case	Children	Adults	Domiciliary Contacts
			Adults gainfully employed
1	4	7	4
2	2	5	3
3	2	2	—
4	3	3	—
5	—	1	1
6	3	1	—

Of the eight wage earning adults who were quarantined, four had their wages made up by their employers, and the remaining four by the Borough Council, less N.H. insurance in all cases (on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health).

In all six households complete co-operation was secured without any difficulty at all.

Thanks are due to the County Medical Officer for authorising the seconding of a Health Visitor to attend to each household. This service is an essential part of the scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
Cases of the Borough Register 31.12.55 ...	227 (231)	33 (38)
Number of new cases during the year ...	36 (31)	6 (5)
Number of deaths during the year ...	4 (6)	3 (1)

(Figures in brackets are those of 1954)

WATER SUPPLY

The total amount of treated water put into supply in the Borough and adjoining areas was 622 million gallons, an increase of 11 millions on the previous year. Although it was not found necessary to cut the supply during the year, the rainfall being normal,

the lack of filter and storage capacity, together with the ever-increasing demand, was responsible for an intermittent and inadequate supply in the higher reaches of the Borough and particularly in the more rural areas.

Further administrative progress has been made with the new water scheme which, however, cannot come into service until 1960.

The raw water is an upland surface water reasonably soft and with no plumbo solvent action. Before distribution it is subjected to sedimentation, filtration and chlorination, and the following table indicates the efficiency of the treatment, which results in a water which is extremely safe, although occasionally the chlorination slightly affects its palatability.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
23	—	3	—	181	5	4	—

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING BATH.

Although residual chlorine tests are taken regularly at the two pools with satisfactory results the Council are to be congratulated on their decision to instal break point chlorination in May, 1956. This measure will reduce the margin of error, and will also have the desirable effect of improving the colour of the water in the pools.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect and the Housing Officer for the following tables:—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1955		Programme for 1956	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
1,512	244	352	—

Houses required:—

To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	80
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	860
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1955						1,491

TABLE 2.

Details of Post-War Houses:—

						<i>Rent</i>
Temporary Bungalows	...	...	...	225		20/3
Permanent Bungalows	...	...	...	84		28/9
Woollaway Bungalows	...	...	...	1		28/9
Brick Bungalows	...	...	...	10		21/3
Bedsitting Room Flats	...	...	...	12		9/0
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	...	8		29/9
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	...	788	27/8 - 26/10 - 25/5	
Two bedroomed houses	...	...	...	217		24/6
Two bedroomed flats	...	...	...	114		22/4 - 13/5
One bedroomed flats	...	...	...	46		17/6 - 12/11
Huts	...	...	...	13		11/8
				1,518		

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1955	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	63	50	—
Private Enterprise	61	34	6

TABLE 4.

Condemned houses still occupied:—

Owned by the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	24
Under requisition powers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Let by the Council as agents for the owners	...	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed for occupation	...	...	...	...	...	25
Occupied continuously since date of Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	39

1955 proved a disappointing year as regards the erection of new houses, the Council's total being only 63. This was due entirely to difficulties and delays in securing land. These difficulties have now been largely overcome and at the time of writing it is already clear that 1956 will shew a very substantial improvement.

The facts that 101 families are still living in condemned homes and that the waiting list of applicants for Council houses is still nearly 1,500 indicate that the housing situation is still a matter of grave concern.

1. Houses to be completed between April, 1956, and March, 1957 ... 352
 2. Houses expected to be in contract between April, 1956, and March, 1957, but not completed ... 323
-
- 675

3. Roads and Sewers are under construction for 350 houses on the Priorswood Estate and the Lane Estate.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

As the Council are aware it is authorised to make 50% grants to property owners (maximum £400) to effect hygiene improvements to existing houses. It is a matter of regret that sufficient advantage is not being taken of this valuable provision. Although there has been a steady stream of applications, almost entirely from owner occupiers, it is of small volume and could be increased substantially with benefit to all concerned. The fact that there are over 1,500 houses in Taunton without a bathroom, and usually this also means the absence of a wash bowl and indoor sanitation, is a strong argument for more publicity. Although the Housing Committee welcome applications and have granted all which comply with the necessary conditions, nevertheless, less than one hundred of these improvements have been effected.

One cannot help feeling that many of these houses could, by judicious expenditure now, be saved from demolition orders in the not too distant future. It is not within the province of the Medical Officer of Health to advise on the precise administrative method of dealing with this matter, but the health grounds for improving the condition of these sub-standard houses are very obvious.

HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton M.B. by the Somerset County Council

Ante-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on Mondays (Assistant County Medical Officer in attendance) and Wednesdays (Midwives in attendance).

The attendances in 1955 were:—

			<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total attendances	...	...	406	1,077	1,483
New cases	...	...	178	118	296

Post-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month. The attendances in 1955 were:—

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-time children a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks' gestation arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital, where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

On the birth of a child it is visited at home, with the co-operation of the Health Visitors, by Assistant Nursing Officers with special training for this work.

During 1955, 23 premature infants were born in hospitals, of whom three died; seven were born at home, of whom three were removed to hospital. All survived.

Home Visiting of Infants

This is carried out by four Health Visitors. Their work in 1955 included:—

First visits to children under five years of age ...	...	477
Re-visits to children under five years of age ...	...	7,034
Visits to ante-natal cases ...	...	13
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.) ...	...	734
		8,258

Infant Welfare Centres

There are now three held in the town:—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Halcon Chapel, on Wednesday afternoons.

Harcourt Street Adult School, on Friday afternoons.

During 1955 the attendances of infants at these centres totalled 5,574, including 407 new cases.

Immunisation of Infants against Diphtheria

Year	Total "Primaries" under 5 years	Live births of preceding year, i.e., "potential"	Percentage immunised	Total "Primaries" 5-14 years	Total reinforce- ments
1955	... 452	429	9,491	104	418

The percentage of infants immunised shows a gratifying increase on the previous year. This is partly due to the absence of

poliomyelitis and also a more intensive drive to secure a satisfactory rate. The private doctors and the Health Visitors concerned deserve much of the credit for these good results.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres. In addition valuable food accessories, such as certain proprietary brands of dried milk, breakfast cereals, rose hip syrup and malt extract, are distributed to mothers and children by the voluntary workers of the Taunton Infant Health Society.

Orthopædic Clinic

This is held in the Health Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Surgeon attending twice a month. This service is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board but is administered on an agency basis by the Somerset County Council.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children was as follows:—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—					
(a) Periodic age groups ...	...	...	...	...	1,374
(b) Specials ...	...	...	...	...	851
Total ...					2,225
(2) Number found to require treatment ...	...	...	...	...	1,923
(3) Number referred for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	1,523
(4) Number actually treated ...	...	...	...	...	1,054
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	2,921
(6) Half-days devoted to :—Inspection 19, Treatment 409	...	...	...	...	428
(7) Fillings:—					
Permanent teeth 1,403, Temporary teeth 45	...	...	...	...	1,448
(8) Number of teeth filled:—					
Permanent teeth 1,403, Temporary teeth 40	...	...	...	...	1,443
(9) Extractions:—					
Permanent teeth 308, Temporary teeth 891	...	...	...	...	1,259
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction ...	...	...	...	...	172
(11) Other operations:—					
Permanent teeth 577, Temporary teeth 161	...	...	...	...	738

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below:—

					<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(1) Number of cases inspected	...	...	...	...	27	82
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	22	76
(3) Number of cases treated	...	...	...	...	21	64
(4) Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	79	132
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics	...	...	...	...	3	17
(6) Number of teeth extracted	...	...	...	...	94	130
(7) Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	...	4	6
(8) Number of fillings	...	...	...	...	4	7
(9) Scaling and gum treatment	...	...	...	...	1	—
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment	...	...	...	...	2	15
(11) Other treatment	...	...	...	...	9	32

The Day Nursery

This is situated at Victoria Park, East Reach, and is open each weekday except Saturdays and public holidays.

Accommodation is provided from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a maximum of 30 children.

The average daily attendance during 1955 was 23.4, the vast majority of the children on the register belonging to the Priority 1 group.

Home Help Service

This service is administered in the County Hall, Taunton.

During 1955, 239 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	23
Old age and infirmity	...	...	...	...	...	92
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	9
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	33
Post operation	...	...	...	...	...	16
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	...	...	17
Families of children	...	...	...	...	...	2
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	47

Many of the above would have been unable to remain at home without the Home Help's assistance. This service has now been augmented by women who are prepared to sit up at night with the seriously sick.

Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station and control is situated at Musgrove Park Hospital. The service provided is a 24-hour one. The station covers a fairly wide area in addition to the Borough and has a total establishment of:—

- 5 Ambulances.
- 3 Sitting-case Ambulances.
- 2 Cars.

The full-time staff employed at 31st December was:—

- 1 Station Officer.
- 2 Senior Drivers.
- 14 Driver/Attendants.

The following are the details of the patients carried and mileage run by these vehicles:—

Vehicles	Patients carried	Mileage run
Ambulances ...	6,569	62,620
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	9,965	61,367
Cars ...	8,926	56,141

The radio installation has been improved during the year by the provision of one additional mobile equipment and a stand-by base transmitter at the ambulance station. Of the Taunton vehicles four ambulances, three sitting-case ambulances and two cars are now equipped. Radio has done much to improve the efficiency of the service, as is illustrated by the fact that the average period of time between the telephone notification of an emergency or accident call and the arrival of the ambulance averages five minutes or less in the Borough. This very satisfactory result is achieved without keeping an ambulance or crew standing by for emergencies.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1955

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1955.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	228
Re-inspections ...	316
Infectious diseases, in connection with ...	35
Factories ...	57
Drainage, in connection with ...	334
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator)...	102
Public conveniences ...	1
Houses let in lodgings ...	7
Moveable dwellings ...	108
Stables, piggeries ...	6
Offensive trades ...	12
Smoke observations ...	53
Verminous premises ...	50
Common lodging houses ...	2
Refuse disposal, in connection with ...	12
Shops ...	69
Interviews ...	184
Cinemas and places of entertainment ...	1
Schools ...	—
Miscellaneous sanitary visits ...	164
Pet shops ...	7
Scrap metal dealers ...	8
Meteorology ...	304

Housing Repairs

The work of repairs to houses is still being dealt with under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year the following work was carried out:—

Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	7
Baths provided	...	...	...	1
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	26
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	31
Walls repaired	...	...	...	11
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	18
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	92
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	35
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	18
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	17
Windows repaired	...	...	...	35
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	2
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	4
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	26
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	3
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	10
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	10
Drains cleared	...	...	...	20
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	2
Dado boarding renewed	...	...	...	2

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 12.

During the year two Closing Orders were made in respect of parts of buildings being unfit for human habitation.

A Closing Order was determined and an undertaking not to let for human habitation was revoked in respect to two houses which had been rendered fit for habitation.

Complaints

During the year 596 complaints were received at the Health Department. These complaints had reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	100
Drainage	...	...	...	...	80
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	160
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	124
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	75
Pests (Insects)	...	...	...	...	57

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954—Section 6

At the commencement of the year 29 houses that had been closed under Clearance Orders were being occupied under powers conferred by the above Act. During the year four houses were closed as being unfit for further occupation, bringing the total number of houses occupied under the Act to 25.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24

During the year 31 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleansed by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts. Six of these sewers were found to be defective and were amended by the Corporation at the cost of the owners.

VERMIN

During the year, 36 premises were treated for various forms of insect pests with satisfactory results.

Rodent Control.

The Corporation's Rodent Operator continued the systematic search for rodents, and treatment of premises where infestation was found. The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatments at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	184
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	1,011
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	46
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	218
Visits on search work	...	...	...	...	458

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the removal of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, or after death, was carried out to 23 houses.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Public Health Act, 1936

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trades—						
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	4
Moveable Dwellings—						
Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	15

The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section	...	...	...	...	...	9
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 74 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlet and outlet ends, were tested for residual chlorine. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION

Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,170
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	156
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	66
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	34
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	52

Milk Supply

There are 14 registered dairies and 16 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Two of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Fourteen of the local distri-

butors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and eleven hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and one for Pasteurised Milk.

There are four milk pasteurising plants within the Borough, but these are controlled by the Somerset County Council.

Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations

During the year 43 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 44 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these 40 of the Tuberculin Tested samples and 43 of the Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) samples were reported as being satisfactory. Three samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and one sample of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk were reported as being unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory reports are referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or the Somerset County Council as the case may be for investigation.

Ice Cream

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows:—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	3
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	99

Sampling of Ice Cream

During the year, 42 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results were as follows:—

					Hot mix	Cold mix
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	23	11
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	6	—
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	1	—
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	—	1

Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at foodshops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned:—

CANNED FOOD

Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	253	tins
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	51	"
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	4	"
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	68	"
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	39	"
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	269	"
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	11	"
Evaporated milk	...	...	...	...	...	82	"
Beetroot	...	...	...	...	...	12	"
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	203	"
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	18	"
Mixed vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	4	"
Strained foods	...	...	...	...	...	23	"
Meat paste	...	...	...	...	...	11	"
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	3	"

OTHER FOODS

Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	15	jars
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Pickled Walnuts	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	6	"
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	82	"
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	196	"
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	181	"
Cake	...	...	...	...	...	9	"
Kippers	...	...	...	...	...	28	"
Chocolate	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Corn Flakes	...	...	...	...	...	7	pkts.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	33	"
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Pies	...	...	...	...	...	36	"

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Prosecutions

During the year, 2 prosecutions were instituted for offences under the above Act, viz. :—

<i>Trader</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result of Case</i>
Baker	String and ticket in bread	Fine imposed
Baker	Nail in bread	... Fine imposed

Food and Drugs Act, 1938/1955—Section 13

The routine inspection of catering premises has continued and a total of 52 visits were made to this type of business. Generally speaking, the owners of cafés, restaurants and snack bars have been co-operative, and our requirements as to structure, decoration, equipment and methods have been met without recourse to statutory action.

Meat Inspection

The slaughtering of food animals is carried on in three licenced slaughterhouses and a bacon factory.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,378
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	591
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,351
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,919
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,941

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed disease at set out in the following table :—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,378	591	5,351	7,919	42,941
Number inspected	1,378	591	5,351	4,500	42,941
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B. ...	5	5	12	8	39
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	689		106	674	1,417
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	*35.5%		2.2	14.7%	3.3%
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	3	—	—	14
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	198		—	—	2,957
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	10.3%		—	—	6.9%

*The percentage of diseases other than T.B. in cattle is greatly distorted by the prevalence of flukes in bovine livers.

In addition, the following meat was condemned on butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes :—

Home-killed Pork	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Home-killed Mutton	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Imported Beef	...	...	...	902 lbs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	17	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	239	40	13	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	10	—	—	—
TOTAL	276	57	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	3	—	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	9	9	—	5	—
TOTAL	15	12	—	10	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	549	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL READING FOR 1955

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Max. Reading	No. of Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.04in. or more	Max. Reading
January	29.71	30.34	29.30	39.6	56	20	28.75	6.0	19	4.49	18	11	1.45 (snow)
February	29.61	30.27	29.05	35.6	56	11	80.75	7.75	8	2.73	16	14	0.48
March	30.01	30.50	29.30	38.0	59	12	147.50	8.75	2	1.14	8	6	0.35
April	30.17	30.55	29.80	48.6	64	27	169.50	11.75	3	0.90	7	6	0.41
May	29.84	30.31	29.22	50.90	69	31	223.0	14.0	1	3.47	21	16	1.0
June	29.96	30.28	29.43	57.98	74	38	163.25	14.0	3	2.72	12	9	0.84
July	30.12	30.38	29.89	64.80	86	44	283.50	14.25	1	1.48	5	4	1.16
August	30.11	30.22	29.92	65.0	87	43	219.75	11.25	1	0.72	4	3	0.42
September	30.62	30.38	29.67	57.48	77	36	138.0	10.50	—	1.48	10	9	0.55
October	29.98	30.38	29.20	48.74	68	19	119.0	8.75	2	1.32	6	6	0.56
November	30.06	30.62	29.20	43.68	61	21	63.2	6.25	7	3.61	9	8	1.28
December	29.72	30.47	28.80	44.50	59	26	23.25	4.56	15	5.17	23	18	1.49
TOTAL	29.94	—	—	49.57	—	—	1,659	—	62	28.25	139	110	—

