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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

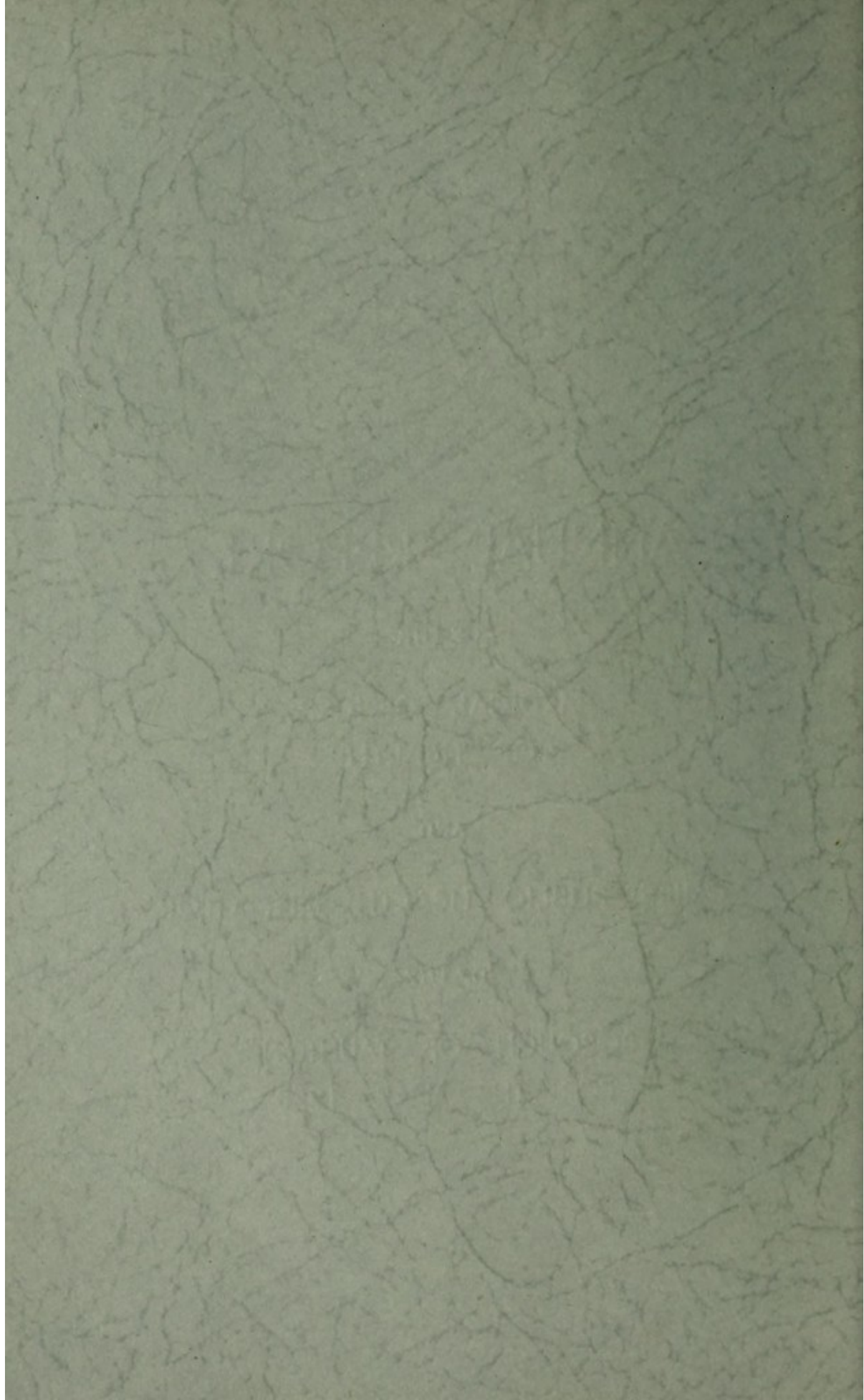
AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
FOR THE YEAR 1958







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FOR THE YEAR 1928

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

August, 1959.

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

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report, covering the year 1958.

The incidence of infectious disease, other than measles, during the year was low, and there were no notified cases of poliomyelitis.

Some 140 new houses were erected during the year, mainly by the Council and it would appear that approximately another 800 are required.

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,

Yours faithfully,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1958.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	35,850
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1958 (according to the rate books)	10,232
Rateable value at the end of 1958	£515,836
Estimated product of a penny rate	£1,988

The apparent increase in population from 33,300 in 1957 to 35,850 in 1958 is due to the 200 houses built by the Borough in the Rural District now having been incorporated in the Borough boundary.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 223	Female 227	Total 450	
Births, live illegitimate	Male 12	Female 13	Total 25	
Births, still legitimate	Male 4	Female 4	Total 8	
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female 1	Total 1	
Birth rate, total corrected by factor 0.99, per 1,000 population				13.68
Live	“	“	“	13.42
still	“		per 1,000 live and still births	18.40
illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births				5.26
Deaths, Male 202, Female 217	...	...	...	Total 419
Death rate, crude	...	...	...	11.96
corrected by factor 0.83	...	...	...	9.92
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 5, Female 0, Total				5
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births corrected by factor 0.83				
			Total	8.73
“	“	“	“	Legitimate 9.22
“	“	“	“	Illegitimate —
Neo-Natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births				6.98
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	—

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	1	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	25	37
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1	1
Diabetes	2	5	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	41	65
Coronary disease, angina	43	26	69
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
Other heart disease	37	53	90
Other circulatory disease	7	10	17
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	9	6	15
Bronchitis	14	8	22
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	3	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	3	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	5	—	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	13	23
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	4	2	6
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

Ages at Death in 1948 and 1958

compared by Age Groups as percentages of total Deaths.

				1948	1958
0—9 years	...	...	...	5.16	1.98
10—19 years	...	...	...	0.86	0.25
20—39 years	...	...	...	6.02	1.48
40—49 years	...	...	...	5.73	3.21
50—59 years	...	...	...	7.45	11.11
60—69 years	...	...	...	22.06	22.22
70—79 years	...	...	...	26.36	28.39
80—89 years	...	...	...	23.21	27.16
90 upwards	...	...	...	3.15	4.20
				100.00	100.00

Coronary and heart disease continue their steady rise each year as also does malignant disease of the lung. Infectious disease appears to be almost negligible as a cause of death.

It is common knowledge that nowadays people tend to live to a more advanced age and that this tendency has brought with it many important repercussions. The above table illustrates the marked change which has occurred in Taunton during the last ten years.

It will be noticed that the deaths occurring before the age of 50 shew a substantial fall in each of the four decades and that the percentage of the total deaths (all ages) occurring in the over 50 age groups has risen steadily in the last ten years. In other words we are losing fewer of the younger ones and the older ones are living longer.

The one exception to this tendency is the increased mortality in the 50-60 age group which is probably due to cancer of the lung and coronary thrombosis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1958.

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Originally notified</i>	<i>Removed to I. Hospital</i>	<i>Corrected Numbers</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	12	1	12	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	32	—	32	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—							
Paralytic	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	364	1	364	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	—	6	9
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—							
Infective	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	2	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	10	4	10	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—							
Respiratory	...	...	...	16	—	16	3
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	5	—	5	1

1958 was chiefly remarkable for the complete absence of a notified case of poliomyelitis.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE.

2,982 children were inoculated against poliomyelitis during 1958.

The "Home and Garden" quarantine scheme which has operated both smoothly and efficiently in the past could now be restricted to special classes, such as unvaccinated children and teachers.

TUBERCULOSIS

		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.58	...	199 (179)	28 (18)
Number of new cases during the year	...	16 (16)	5 (1)
Number of deaths during the year	...	3 (1)	1 (—)

(Figures in brackets are those of 1957)

The increase in the number of cases on the register at the end of the year is mostly due to the restoration to the Borough register of a number of cases who had been transferred out on removing to Council houses in Taunton R.D. but were brought within the Borough by the extension of the boundary.

WATER SUPPLY

The following notes are kindly supplied by the Council's Water Engineer, Mr. W. J. Wonnacott, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E. :—

"Clatworthy Reservoir Scheme. These works are progressing, about 86% of the concreting of the Dam has been completed, the pipe lines from the Reservoir to the Treatment Works and thence to Tetton are virtually finished, a commencement has been made upon the laying of the main from Tetton to Taunton, work is well in hand upon the two service reservoirs at Langley and Tetton. The construction of the Treatment Works is in hand.

When these works are brought into operation, a water supply of approximately 4.365 million gallons per day will be available to Taunton Borough, the Rural District Councils of Williton (including Hinckley Point Power Station), Wellington and Taunton, together with $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons from Taunton Corporation Blackdown sources.

This is equivalent to 76 gallons per head per day on an estimated population to be supplied of 67,000 persons, excluding the demand for the Power Station. The 1958 average daily demand for all purposes in the Taunton supply area was approximately 38 gallons per head. It will thus be appreciated that allowing for consider-

able expansion of demands, a plentiful supply of water will be available for many years to come. The average demands generally range from 30 to 40 gallons per head of the population in England.

The Catchment area of 4,500 acres which will serve the Clatworthy Reservoir is hill and wooded farm lands, sparsely populated and the Raw Water from such an area remote from industry will yield a water of a high standard. After considerable storage in the reservoir, this water will not normally require heavy chemical or chlorine treatment to be a first class potable water."

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
24	—	3	—	197	2	4	—

DENTAL DECAY—FLUORIDATION

Increasing anxiety is felt by all concerned at the steady increase in dental decay, particularly amongst our children. This is probably due to (1) our children's diet containing too much carbohydrates, chiefly in the form of sugar, (2) the diet being too mushy in texture, (3) faulty dental hygiene, and finally the resultant dental damage being more than our national dental resources can cope with.

Clearly the remedies for this deplorable state of affairs must include a higher standard of education in all matters of diet and hygiene. In the opinion, however, of many authorities who have studied this matter long and anxiously, such measures, the necessity of which is unquestioned, will prove, and are proving inadequate.

Fluoridation, which consists of raising the existing level of fluorine in the water to a level of one part per million, is endorsed by the majority of dental and medical authorities throughout the English speaking world.

Opposition to this measure may be vehement and loud but the time is surely coming when we can no longer neglect taking advantage of a measure which reduces dental decay by some 50 to 60% and is endorsed by the Medical Research Council and the Ministry of Health as being safe and effective.

The three demonstration areas in Great Britain where fluoridation was instituted in 1955 under the aegis of the Ministry of Health are now nearing the end of their five year trial period and it is to be hoped that following their reports Parliament will enable local sanitary authorities to institute fluoridation if they so desire.

It is important, however, that such decisions should not be taken until the people concerned have had ample opportunity of becoming fully acquainted with the relevant established data.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and the Housing Officer for the following tables :—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1958		Programme for 1959	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
2,279	341	207	—

Houses required:—

To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	20
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	720
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1958						1,069
Number of Council houses sold during the year	...	...	...	...	...	4

TABLE 2.

Details of Post-War Houses:—

				Rent
Temporary Bungalows	...	...	225	34/6
Permanent Bungalows	...	...	84	42/6
Woollaway Bungalows	...	...	1	42/6
Brick Bungalows	...	...	10	36/6
Bedsitting Room Flats	...	...	25	15/6 - 15/-
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	44	46/6 - 44/-
Three bedroomed houses	...	1,256		41/- - 42/- - 43/6
Two bedroomed houses	...	342		39/6 - 41/-
Two bedroomed flats	...	200	38/6 - 36/6 - 34/6 - 31/6 - 22/-	
One bedroomed flats	...	68	30/6 - 21/6 - 16/6	
Three bedroomed maisonettes	...	6		39/6
Two bedroomed maisonettes	...	15		38/6
			2,276	

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1958	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	119	48	—
Private Enterprise	29	30	4

TABLE 4.

Condemned houses still occupied:—

Owned by the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Under requisition powers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Let by the Council as agents for the owners	...	...	...	...	...	1
1. Houses to be completed between 1st January, 1959 and 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	63
2. Houses expected to be in contract between 1st January, 1959 and 31st December, 1959 but not completed	...	...	...	...	...	144
						207

The following memo by Mrs. Pratt, the Council's Housing Officer, is an interesting commentary on housing policy. The natural preference of tenants for houses rather than flats may be counterbalanced by the advantages of being able to build more housing units centrally as flats rather than as houses.

"Taunton Corporation at December 31st, 1958 had erected 293 flats and 21 four-storey mainonettes. Of the 293, 59 are special flats for elderly persons and are of the type that is suitable to these people's need.

There are 36 flats at Ruskin Close that are administered by a Warden, and in all future schemes this type of flat will have a Warden in attendance. In fact, 18 more elderly persons flats have been let at Priorswood since December 31st and a Warden has been appointed to help these people, and also to be in charge of 20 flats at Lyngford Crescent which were erected pre-war. There are 34 Duplex flats erected at Holway that are also used to a large extent for the housing of the elderly.

There are four blocks of three-storey flats, and these are used in the main for the housing of couples, many where the husband and wife are out at work. Twelve of these flats are erected at Duke Street.

The remainder of the flats are of two-storey construction and are spread over the various estates. These are also let generally to couples, but in some of the ground floor flats there is one child.

There is no doubt that applicants on the waiting list prefer houses to flats, and even where there are no children many people request a house. The reasons for this are lack of drying ground, stairs to climb, lack of privacy, no garden, etc.

The mainonettes, which are erected as one house on top of another, are not liked by the tenants and many have requested transfers."

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Improvements Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54

	Received		Approved		Rejected	
	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings
During year ...	123 (92)	169 (102)	109 (83)	114 (88)	7 (5)	12 (10)
31.7.49—31.12.57	16 (31)	15 (67)	14 (26)	14 (26)	0 (2)	— (2)

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers 13
 Average cost per dwelling approved £280

These figures are disappointing and puzzling in view of the obvious advantages, both financial and otherwise, of bringing old fashioned houses up to modern standards.

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 1958 were :—

			<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total attendances	...	...	323	787	1,110
New cases	...	...	235	197	432

Post-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month. The attendances in 1957 were :—

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	2
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	2

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 1958, 23 premature infants were born in hospitals of whom two died; five were born at home, of whom two were removed to hospital. All survived.

Home Visiting of Infants

This is carried out by four Health Visitors. Their work in 1958, included :—

First visits to children under one year of age ...	...	530
Re-visits to children under five years of age ...	...	8,159
Visits to ante-natal cases ...	...	38
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.) ...	...	657
		9,678

Infant Welfare Centres

There are now three held in the town :—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

All Saints Church Hall, Halcon, on Wednesday afternoons

Harcourt Street Adult School, on Friday afternoons.

During 1958 the attendances of infants at these centres totalled 6,448, including 477 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
1958	371	436	85.09	54	157

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 ..	...	...	...	...	...	4,634
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(b) Specials ..	...	...	...	...	...	482
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Total ..	5,116
----------	-------

(1) Number found to require treatment ..	...	...	...	2,823
--	-----	-----	-----	-------

(3) Number offered treatment ..	...	...	2,214
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

(4) Number actually treated ..	...	...	1,181
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment including orthodontic patients ..	...	...	2,746
--	-----	-----	-------

(6) Half-days devoted to :—Inspection 36. Treatment 351 ..	387
--	-----

(7) Fillings :—	
Permanent teeth 1,508. Temporary teeth 74 ..	1,582

(8) Number of teeth filled :—	
Permanent teeth 1,432. Temporary teeth 64 ..	1,496

(9) Extractions :—	
Permanent teeth 629. Temporary teeth 1,105 ..	1,734

(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction ..	607
--	-----

(11) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures ..	4
--	---

(12) Other operations :—	
Permanent teeth 776. Temporary teeth 99 ..	875

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	...	...	...	...	22	52
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	11	47
(3) Number of cases treated	...	...	...	...	10	52
(4) Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	46	81
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics	...	...	...	...	8	33
(6) Number of teeth extracted	...	...	...	...	57	86
(7) Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	...	9	11
(8) Number of fillings	...	...	...	...	10	12
(9) Scaling and gum treatment	...	...	...	...	1	—
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment	...	...	...	...	—	9
(11) Number of X-ray examinations	...	...	...	...	—	—
(12) Other treatment	...	...	...	...	11	11
(13) Dentures provided	...	...	...	...	3	—

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 1958 was 24, 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 1958, 244 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	29
Old age	...	...	...	...	...	129
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	29
Post operation	...	...	...	...	...	19
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	...	...	8
Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	6
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	23

Some 47 of these have received daily help from the service for over a year.

Ambulance Service.

The main Ambulance Station and Control for the South-West of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. These premises have recently been extended and now provide the accommodation needed for an Ambulance Station and Control giving a 24-hour service to the public. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows :—

Vehicles—5 Ambulances
3 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car

Staff— 1 Station Officer
4 Senior Drivers
14 Driver/Attendants

In addition, 2 reserve vehicles are at present held at Taunton to be available for duty anywhere within the southern half of the County.

The following are the details of patients carried and mileage run by vehicles at the Taunton Station during 1958 :—

Vehicles		Patients carried	Mileage run
Ambulances	...	7,704	64,679
Sitting-case Ambulances	...	11,852	79,800
Cars		2,492	22,301

Except for the reserve ambulances all vehicles at this Station are fitted with radio, which has now become virtually an essential part of the equipment of an ambulance. Without it the standard of service provided would be reduced.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1958.

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, 1958.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	168
Re-inspections ...	331
Infectious diseases, in connection with ...	17
Factories ...	63
Drainage, in connection with ...	389
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator)...	104
Moveable dwellings ...	90
Stables, piggeries ...	4
Offensive trades ...	10
Smoke observations ...	26
Verminous premises ...	57
Refuse disposal, in connection with ...	8
Shops ...	33
Interviews ...	246
Cinemas and places of entertainment ...	4
Miscellaneous sanitary visits ...	111
Pet shops ...	4

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:—

Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Gullies renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Staircases renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired, relaid or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	57
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	17
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	...	...	4
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Soil pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Redecoration of premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water tanks renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6

Housing Acts, 1936/1957.

During the year nine Demolition Orders were made on houses where undertakings to carry out works to render the houses fit for habitation had not been complied with.

Closing Orders were made on two basement rooms which were not regarded as being fit for human habitation.

One house was rendered fit for habitation as the result of an undertaking given by the owner to carry out necessary works.

An undertaking was given by the owner of a house that it would not be used for human habitation until it had been rendered fit after the execution of all necessary works.

Complaints.

During the year 579 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	61
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	88
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	191
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	140
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	67
Pests (Insects)	...	...	...	...	...	32

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954—Section 6

At the commencement of the year 1 house that had been closed under a Clearance Order was being occupied under powers conferred by the above Act. During the year this house was closed as being unfit for further occupation.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24

During the year 30 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.

RENT ACT, 1957

During the year 15 applications for certificates of disrepair had been received. In six cases the landlords submitted undertakings to carry out repairs to the houses, and in the other nine cases certificates of disrepair were issued. Three certificates of disrepair were cancelled by the end of the year.

VERMIN

During the year 21 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 :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	162
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	813
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	56
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	237
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	...	13
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	71
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	389

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out to 10 houses.

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

Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive Trades—

Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Moveable Dwellings—

Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
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Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
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Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
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The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 48 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 and food premises

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,313
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	59

Milk Supply

There are 14 registered dairies and 24 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Three of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Sixteen of the local

distributors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, twenty-one hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and five hold licences to sell Sterilised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, three for Pasteurised Milk, and one for Sterilised Milk.

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

Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations

During the year 34 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 72 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 11 samples of Sterilised Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these 31 of the Tuberculin Tested samples and all the Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and sterilised samples were reported as being satisfactory. Three samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were reported as being unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory reports are referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for investigation.

Ice Cream

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows:—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	2
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	112

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	...	...	...	...	28	7
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	4	3
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	—	—
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	—	—

Food Inspection

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

CANNED FOOD

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	412 tins
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	30 "
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	28 "
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	25 "
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	49 "
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	593 "
Fruit juice	...	...	...	...	...	18 "
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	75 "
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	61 "
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	37 "
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	5 "
Other vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	7 "
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	8 "

OTHER FOODS

Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	28 "
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	75½ "
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	13 "
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	25 "
Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	30 jars
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	14 "
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.
Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	...	1 pkt.
Pies	...	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Prosecutions

There were no Police Court proceedings under the above Act during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

During the year the outstanding "initial inspections" were completed, and over 500 routine visits were paid to all types of premises. Works of major reconstruction were carried out at six premises; and the general improvement in structural items and equipment has been maintained. Many occupiers are redecorating their premises each year and carrying out improvements on their own initiative; and in only one instance was it found necessary to take statutory action to enforce the Regulations.

The most significant improvement, since the Regulations came into force, has been with regard to Licensed Premises. During this period ten premises have been the subject of works of major reconstruction, and approximately 80% of the remainder have been completely redecorated and new equipment provided.

Prosecutions.

Police Court proceedings were instituted against a man failing to comply with the Regulations with regard to the wearing of protective head covering whilst delivering meat. A fine of £5 was imposed.

Summary of works carried out at all premises in 1958

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Green- grocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of major reconstruction ...	1		2		3	6
Food Rooms.						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	3	—	4	1	2	10
Walls redecorated ...	8	1	9	5	18	41
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	2	1	3	—	4	10
Ceilings redecorated ...	5	1	8	4	16	34
Floors repaired or renewed ...	5	—	7	1	4	17
Improvement of lighting ...	1	—	2	—	6	9
Improvement of ventilation ...	—	1	1	2	1	5
Drainage renewed or repaired ...	1	—	1	1	3	6
Cleansing ...	—	3	2	4	—	9
Equipment, Etc.						
New sinks provided ...	3	—	2	1	3	9
Hot water supply provided ...	5	1	5	—	4	15
New drainage boards provided ...	1	—	—	1	2	4
Preparation tables re-topped ...	2	9	1	—	—	12
New equipment, etc., provided ...	4	1	11	—	3	19
Dustbins provided ...	4	—	1	—	1	6
Means of protection of food pro- vided ...	2	—	7	—	4	13
New refrigerators provided ...	2	—	4	—	2	8
Sanitary Accommodation.						
New W.C.s or urinals installed ...	2	—	2	2	9	15
Sanitary accommodation repaired	—	2	—	—	3	5
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated ...	—	3	—	—	2	5
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	5	13	5	2	—	25
Toilet Accommodation.						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	3	2	5	1	7	18
Hot water supply provided ...	4	4	5	1	1	15
Toilet requisites provided ...	3	4	—	1	—	8
Redecoration of toilet accommoda- tion ...	1	—	—	—	1	2
Provision of locker accommodation	1	—	—	—	—	1
Miscellaneous.						
Protective clothing provided ...	4	—	3	—	1	8
Treatments for vermin ...	—	1	—	2	—	3
Fly destruction units fixed ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Provision of first-aid materials ...	3	1	5	—	3	12
Totals ...	77	48	95	29	103	352

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	...	...	...	...	...	1,131
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	1,107
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	5,748
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	162
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	30,562

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	1,131	1,197	162	5,748	30,562
Number inspected	1,131	1,197	162	5,748	30,562
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	5	5	5	12	33
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	475		10	138	1,263
Percentage of number inspected * affected with disease other than T.B.	21.2%		6.1%	2.4%	4.1%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole carcasses condemned	16	9	—	—	6
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	387		—	—	2,532
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	12.8%		—	—	8.2%
<i>Cysticercus Bovis</i> —					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	30				
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	30				
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—				

*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 :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	250 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	10½ „
Pork	...	...	...	...	27¼ „

METEOROLOGICAL READING FOR 1958

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 ...	29.87	30.45	29.09	39.14	56	7	48.75	5.75	14	2.42	19	13	.72
February ...	29.84	30.54	28.99	44.12	60	22	51.25	8.25	10	3.05	17	14	.54
March ...	29.78	30.38	29.10	39.97	58	17	105.5	8.5	8	.80	12	5	.18
April ...	30.05	30.42	29.58	44.95	77	22	119.5	11.25	2	.55	6	3	.28
May ...	29.93	30.42	29.50	52.68	75	34	200.25	13.50	1	2.21	10	9	.78
June ...	29.92	30.31	29.36	57.03	76	39	199.25	13.0	2	2.96	15	11	.99
July ...	29.94	30.40	29.53	60.07	77	41	187.0	12.0	3	1.90	17	12	.42
August ...	29.82	30.13	29.44	60.11	72	45	132.25	9.5	2	2.22	20	11	.44
September ...	29.95	30.22	29.10	58.95	75	38	123.5	9.0	2	4.01	17	14	.86
October ...	30.09	30.66	29.30	52.15	67	29	101.5	8.0	4	1.66	13	9	.58
November ...	30.14	30.57	29.76	44.72	60	27	37.75	6.75	12	2.27	23	12	.50
December ...	29.58	30.40	28.67	41.26	56	25	18.25	4.0	21	3.88	20	13	.77
TOTAL ...	29.91	—	—	49.59	—	—	1,324.75	—	81	27.93	189	126	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	239	56	12	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	12	—	—	—
TOTAL	278	63	12	—

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	5	5	—	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	7	5	—	7	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork)	8	8	—	7	—
TOTAL	21	19	—	17	—

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 ...	319	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

