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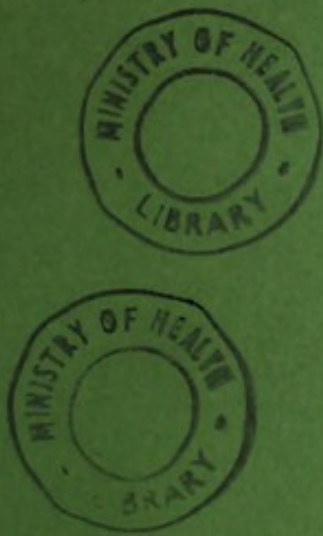
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. M. PAWSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
FOR THE YEAR 1964





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ANNUAL REPORT

1911

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

CITY OF TANNON

1911

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. J. TANNON, M.D.

BY THE

BOROUGH OF TANNON

FOR THE YEAR 1911

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

July, 1964.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1964.

The report is drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, and follows the general lines of previous reports, so that comparisons with the conditions of former years may easily be made.

The section dealing with Statistics reveals that there has been a moderate increase in the population of the Borough. The birth rate was rather lower than that of the country as a whole and the death rate almost identical with the national rate. The infant mortality rate was fractionally higher than that of England and Wales, which at 20 per 1,000 live births reached a new low record. There were again only two deaths from infectious conditions apart from pneumonia and bronchitis: one from pulmonary tuberculosis and the other from influenza. Deaths from cancer of the lung fell to 13 as compared with 16 in the previous year and 20 in 1962. Little comfort can be derived from this fact because the national figures of lung cancer deaths are running at an enormously high level and the population of Taunton is too small for the figures recorded in the borough to have statistical significance. The same may be said of the deaths from motor accidents, although one feels gratitude that only 2 people lost their lives in this wretched way as compared with 7 in the previous year.

A short section has been inserted dealing with the problem of illegitimate births, and it is hoped that the figures quoted therein may be of interest.

Infectious diseases had a low incidence and the only condition reaching epidemic proportions was Measles. Reference is made to the present position regarding immunisation against this disease. The year produced a higher crop of new cases of Tuberculosis than 1963 and some discussion of this is included in the appropriate section.

An account is again given of the personal health services and several new topics are dealt with at some length, including Health Education, Meals on Wheels, Mass Radiography and Disposal of Household Refuse.

The Public Health Inspecting Staff have had their hands very full, particularly in coping with an increasing amount of meat inspection, dealing with houses in multi-occupation and inspecting premises in connection with the new legislation affecting Offices, Shops and Railway Premises. Detailed reference to these and other subjects will be found in Mr. Pawson's section of the report.

Once again I wish to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor J. Clough, from the Public Health Inspectors and from my fellow officials and the staff of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1964

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	36,840
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1964 (according to the rate books)	11,096
Rateable value at the end of 1964	£1,440,094
Estimated product of a penny rate	£5,670

VITAL STATISTICS

It should be pointed out that in the figures which follow the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

I. Births.

(a) Live Births

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	276	260	536
Illegitimate	21	28	49
Total	297	288	585
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.88
Standardised Birth Rate :—			
Taunton			16.20
England and Wales			18.4
Percentage illegitimate of total live births			8.38

(b) Still Births

Total	7
Rate per 1,000 live and Still births :—	
Taunton	18.82
England and Wales	16.3
Total live and Still Births	592

Illegitimacy

The percentage of illegitimate births during 1964, which was 8.4, is the highest rate that has been recorded for many years. I have only been able to trace one higher percentage of illegitimacy for the town and that was in 1918, when the figure was 8.5.

Over the past five years the average percentage has been 6.4, with the figures from 1960 to 1964 running 5.9, 5.2, 6.0, 6.8, 8.4, which would seem to point to a rising trend. This would be in conformity with experience in the country as a whole, since it is said that, in round figures, 1 in 20 births were illegitimate ten years ago, as compared with 1 in 15 at the present time.

As a matter of interest some five-year averages of illegitimacy percentages for former years in the town may be quoted along with the average for the more recent period:

Average Percentage of Illegitimate Births :—

1914—1918	...	...	6.3
1924—1928	...	...	5.5
1934—1939	...	...	4.8
1950—1954	...	...	4.2
1960—1964	...	...	6.4

It would thus seem that the rate of illegitimacy is at present high and probably increasing; there were times in the past when high proportions of illegitimacy were recorded, and the problem has not assumed a new order of magnitude. This is hardly an appropriate place to comment on the moral implications of the trend, but the relevancy from the point of view of Public Health lies in the fact that the children concerned are, in our present state of society, unfortunately still often liable to face life under some degree of handicap to their health and happiness.

2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	436
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.83
Standardised Death Rate :—							
Taunton	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.24
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—							
Taunton	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.51
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.52
Illegitimate „ „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	40.90
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.37
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.96
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and Still Births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.65

Causes of Infant Deaths :—

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Cerebral damage	1	—	1
Gastro enteritis	—	1	1
Collapse of lung	1	—	1
Asphyxia	1	1	2
Congenital Heart Disease	—	2	2
Congenital Malformations	3	—	3
Prematurity	2	—	2
Totals ...	8	4	12

(c) Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Deaths NIL

(d) Deaths from Cancer :—

Cancer of the Lung Males ... 12
 Females... 1
 Total ... 13

Cancer in all other

situations Males ... 20
 Females... 39
 59

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasite diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	12	1	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	13	13
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	25	45
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3	4
Diabetes	3	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	29	44	73
Coronary disease, angina	44	39	83
Hypertension with heart disease	4	9	13
Other heart disease	17	24	41
Other circulatory disease	16	11	27
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	16	11	27
Bronchitis	16	9	25
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	3	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	19	35
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	3	3	6
Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1

HEALTH EDUCATION

Instruction in hygiene and in the methods of maintaining health and preventing disease is now regarded as an important function of a Public Health Department. A great deal of individual health education, by doctors and Health Visitors is, of course, constantly going on in Clinics and Schools, but in addition to this, talks of a more or less formal nature on particular aspects of hygiene were given by the M.O.H. and Public Health Inspectors to various groups. These included Hospital Nurses, School Meal Workers, members of the Hospital Catering Service, Home Helps and members of the Licensed Trade. Posters referring to various matters of Public Health importance are obtained from the Ministry and from the Central Health Education Council and are put on display in various situations in the town, with one hopes some useful effect.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1964

Disease	No. of cases notified
Measles	269
Whooping Cough	20
Scarletina (Scarlet Fever)	14
Tuberculosis—	
Respiratory	12
Non-Respiratory	1
Meningococcal Infection	3
Erysipelas	3
Dysentery	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Food Poisoning	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
Cases on the Borough Register at 31.12.64...	76	14
New cases during 1964	12	1
Transfers from other districts	1	—
Deaths	1	—

It will be noticed that the year produced 12 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis as compared with 3 new cases in 1963. These figures indicate that Tuberculosis has by no means disappeared as a problem in the community. The need for careful checking of all contacts and appropriate treatment and supervision of cases remains essential. Of the 12 new cases 3 were children with primary Tuberculosis, 4 were adults in early life and 5 were patients of 60 years old or over who had suffered a breakdown of previously healed disease. Reference will be found in the Immunisation section to the B.C.G. Vaccination scheme which continues to be carried out amongst children in the Borough, and which undoubtedly helps greatly in reducing the number of new cases of this serious disease.

Measles.

The year produced a relatively low number of measles cases. The disease is one which tends to show a peak of incidence during every second year. A large-scale trial of measles vaccines is being carried out by the Medical Research Council in various parts of the country to establish the efficiency of immunisation and the best means of carrying it out. Measles is at the present time a mild disease, and it seems doubtful whether the complications which are infrequent, though admittedly sometimes severe, and which generally respond well to antibiotic treatment, would justify an effort to provide immunisation for all children in the community. It is perhaps more likely that children who for some reason or other are at special risk from an attack of the disease will be given the benefit of protection by administration of the vaccine.

IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been an outstanding success in this district, and in the country as a whole, but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection, and there is some evidence that without constant stress on this fact, the number of children being immunised each year might easily fall to a dangerously low level.

Reinforcing injections are offered to children on entering school and at the age of 10 years.

	1963	1964
Total "Primaries" under 5 years ...	293	287
Total "Primaries" 5—14 years ...	10	11
Total Re-inforcements ...	337	383

Tetanus Immunisation.

Last year reference was made to the value of immunisation against tetanus and the number of children given this protective treatment shows a gratifying increase over the previous year. It is expected that parents will take advantage to an increasing extent, of the facilities available for protection against this disease.

	Primaries		Re-inforcing	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Under 1 year	195	211	—	—
1—5 years	312	368	21	90
6—10 years	34	51	225	470
11—14 years	—	85	195	64

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

It is customary in the Borough to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria and tetanus and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the year :—

Under 1 year	211
1—5 years	356
6—10 years	4

Smallpox Vaccination.

Vaccination of children in the second year of life is now the standard procedure.

	Vaccination		Re-vaccination	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Under 1 year	111	77	—	—
1 year	21	147	—	—
2—4 years	6	18	2	2
5—14 years	6	4	29	27
15 or over	20	26	107	80
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	164	272	138	109
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

Poliomyelitis has fortunately become a rare disease in this country during recent years and a large part of the credit for this state of affairs is undoubtedly due to the vigorous programme of immunisation which has been carried out. It is essential that this should continue and the following table of figures show that steady progress is being made.

Children born in 1964	...	...	...	...	66
Children born in 1963	...	...	...	...	395
Children born in 1962	...	...	...	...	94
Children born in 1943—1961	...	...	...	...	138
Young persons born 1933—1942	...	...	...	...	48
Persons under 40 years and priority groups	...	...	...	...	40

In addition 94 persons, comprising all groups, received their third (re-inforcing) injection.

No children between 4 and 12 years received a 4th Salk injection or 5th injection (the use of oral vaccine having now replaced the injection technique).

29 persons (all groups) received a re-inforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk injections.

591 children between 5 and 12 years received a dose of Oral after 3 injections or 2 injections and 2 Oral doses.

B.C.G. Immunisation against T.B.

Immunisation against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. vaccine is offered to susceptible children at the age of thirteen.

538 children were given the Heaf Test and approximately 91.8% of these were given the B.C.G. Vaccination.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton Municipal Borough by the Somerset
County Council

Health Visiting Service

There were six Health Visitors engaged on work in the Borough during 1964. Their activities included :—

Home Visiting of Children.

Number of cases dealt with :—

Children under one year	...	...	620
Children aged one to five years	...	...	2,644

Ante-natal Visits.

During the year the scheme was continued whereby expectant mothers booked for hospital confinement were visited and if necessary kept under observation by the Health Visitors in co-operation with the Domiciliary Midwives.

School Medical Inspection.

Each Health Visitor visits the schools in her area to assist the School Medical Officer with routine medical inspections and immunisation. When necessary she carries out hygiene surveys in the schools. Every child now has an annual eye test.

School Children.

Visits are paid to children at the request of the doctor following on the work of the school medical inspections.

Old People.

Special visits are paid to old people as requested by doctors, medical social workers, welfare officers, etc.

Other Visits.

Amongst other cases referred to and dealt with by the Health Visitors are handicapped persons, infectious diseases, difficult social conditions, etc. Visiting of tuberculosis cases and other chest conditions is carried out by a Health Visitor specialising in this work. The work of the Health Visitor in the Mental Health field has increased considerably since the coming into operation of the Mental Health Act 1959.

Child Welfare Centres.

Attendances were as follows :—

687 attended Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

355 attended All Saints' Church Hall, Halcon, on Wednesday afternoons.

440 attended St. Peter's Church Hall, Priorswood, on Friday afternoons.

224 attended St. Michael's Church Hall, Galmington, on Monday afternoons.

A total attendance of 9,519 children under 5 years of age, including 739 new cases. This is an increase of 282 over the previous year.

Liaison with Family Doctors.

The arrangement whereby a Health Visitor attends the surgery premises of one of the Town's general practitioners on one afternoon of each week, to give assistance with a special Children's Clinic, continued to operate satisfactorily, and is regarded as a useful experiment. It is probable that further "attachment" of Health Visitors and District Nurses to the practices of doctors in the area will take place in due course. This is the pattern which is gradually developing in the country as a whole, and at present a scheme of this type is on trial in the neighbouring Borough of Yeovil. From the experience gained there it is hoped to arrive at the best means of putting this idea into practice in other areas of Somerset.

Ante-natal Clinics.

The blood tests clinic for ante-natal patients has been discontinued. Facilities for this service are now available at the Family Doctors' surgeries and at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The Ante-natal Clinic is staffed each Monday by Domiciliary Midwives who help and advise expectant mothers booked for Wellington Maternity Home or for domiciliary confinement.

Mothercraft Classes.

These are held weekly in the Health Centre with a short break between each series of seven talks.

Classes for relaxation exercises and talks by a Doctor, a Health Visitor or a Midwife are given each time.

There is an average attendance of 30—36, slightly higher during the winter months. It is necessary to divide the classes into two groups, the talks being given to each group in turn while the other group is having relaxation exercises. During 1964, 172 women attended and the total number of attendances was 866.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing.

4,854 midwifery and nursing visits were made to patients in their own homes during the year by domiciliary midwives and nurses, and this figure is tending to increase because of the more intensive follow-up visiting demanded by the practice of earlier discharge from hospital.

Premature Baby Service.

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-term babies 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 week's 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 when necessary.

Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to that Unit from the district and a special Oxygenaire incubator is sent by ambulance to collect them.

If premature babies born at home can be nursed there, the district midwife can obtain special equipment for this and advice, if required, from the Area Nursing Officer who follows up all premature births.

During 1965 3 premature infants were born at home, and 33 in hospital of whom 3 died.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

National dried milk, orange juice and codliver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres.

Certain brands of dried milk, babies cereals and rose hip syrup are sold to mothers and children who attend the Clinics at approximately cost price.

Home Help Service.

During 1964, 329 Borough residents received assistance from the Home Help Service against 327 in 1963.

Help was sent for the following reasons :—

Maternity	...	...	...	23
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	11
Old age	...	...	...	229
General illness	...	...	...	12
Chronic illness	...	...	...	26
Post operative	...	...	...	8
Care of children	...	...	...	9
Mental illness	...	...	...	8
Accidents	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1

Of these 175 remained on the books at 31st December, 1964, 134 having received continuous help from the service for over twelve months.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane, Taunton.

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1964 was as follows :—

1. Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :				
(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	6,740
(b) Specials	...	...	...	373
			Total (1)	7,113
2. Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	4,089
3. Number offered treatment	...	...	...	3,254
4. Number actually treated	...	...	...	1,822
5. Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	6,584
6. Half-days devoted to :—				
Periodic School Inspections	...	...	...	71
Treatment	...	...	...	1,160
			—	1,231

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

	Adults	Pre-school children
1. Number of cases inspected	26	94
2. Number found to require treatment	24	78
3. Number of cases treated	23	72
4. Number of attendances	145	403
5. Dentures provided	—	—

Note : The above figures include a number of cases attending the Clinic from the areas surrounding Taunton Borough.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The main Ambulance Station and Control for the South-West of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows :—

Vehicles—7 Ambulances
6 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car

Staff— 5 Sub-officers
22 Driver-attendants

All vehicles at this Station are fitted with radio.

The following details refer to patients carried and mileage run by vehicles at Taunton Station during 1964 :—

Ambulances	...	13,655	123,004
Sitting-case			
Ambulances	...	21,059	159,406
Car	... ..	1,041	19,800

On comparing these figures with those of the previous year it will be seen that they all show a substantial increase. No doubt there are satisfactory explanations for this but one may be permitted to wonder when a flattening out of the demand for ambulance transport is likely to occur.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Womens Voluntary Service operates a scheme for supplying cooked meals to old people in the Borough. The usual thing is to provide a hot meal at mid-day on two days of each week to individual old people. During 1964 an average of 72 cases received this benefit, which involved a weekly distribution of 144 meals. The total number of meals delivered in Taunton Borough for the year was 7,078. The work of distributing these meals is done on a voluntary basis by members of the W.V.S. and one would wish to express gratitude for this fine service which provides an outstanding social benefit to the community.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

During the month of June, 1964, arrangements were made for attendance by the unit on one afternoon of each fortnight, in place of the previous practice whereby an extended session of several weeks was operated at intervals of a year or more. It was felt that

this arrangement would enable local practitioners to refer doubtful cases as they came across them in their practices. The results have been very satisfactory. A total of 724 cases were X-rayed in the six months ending on December 30th, 1964. The following table shows the findings obtained.

	Male	Female	Total
Number examined	338	386	724
Abnormalities detected	12	9	21
Details of Abnormalities detected—			
Tuberculosis—Healed	1	4	5
Abnormalities of the Diaphragm	—	1	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	1	1	2
Bacterial and Virus Infections			
of the Lungs	4	—	4
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Bronchial Carcinoma	2	1	3
Benign Tumour	—	1	1
Emphysema	1	—	1
Psiticosis	1	—	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis	—	1	1
Totals	12	9	21

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47

No court proceedings had to be taken to remove persons in need of care and attention from their homes to hospital or other institutions.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

New work in the Borough included completion of the Priory Bridge Road trunk sewer contract. The new sewer from the Market to Lambrook was brought into use. A new sewer at Moor Farm to deal with the proposed development at this site had been let out to contract.

The sewerage works at Ham continued to give satisfactory service in 1964 and the average daily flow was 3.8 million gallons. The works are being improved by the addition of an automatic fine screening plant which is at present under construction.

The contract for removal of digested sludge by vehicle was renewed and this scheme continues to operate satisfactorily, although vigilance is required to ensure that disposal of the sludge on to agricultural land does not result in any nuisance to adjoining properties or to the public.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic refuse is collected from individual properties each week and is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site within the Borough Boundary. This work is administered by the Borough Engineer. The distance of some parts of the tipping area from inhabited properties is not so great as one might wish, and there have been complaints from time to time of nuisance from fires, flies and rats. These matters have been kept under close observation, however, and where necessary action has been taken to deal with any trouble.

It is expected that more land for tipping will become available as a result of the planned diversion of the River Tone. The new area will be situated at a greater distance from houses and should provide satisfactory tipping space for a number of years to come.

Preliminary discussions on the use of paper sacks for refuse took place, and also on the feasibility of back door rather than kerbside collections. It appeared likely that an experimental scheme along these lines could be brought into operation for a certain area of the town during the summer of 1965.

WATER SUPPLY

In the Report for 1963 an account was given of the transfer of the Borough of Taunton water undertakings to the West Somerset Water Board, and a list was supplied of the Chief Officers of the new Board. It is unnecessary to repeat this information, but I should like to thank the Chief Engineer, Mr. Wonnacott, for the details of Water Supplies in this district which follow :—

The Taunton Division of the Board is responsible for supplies to the Rural District of Taunton and the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington in addition to those for the Borough of Taunton itself. It has not been found practicable to produce figures and other details for the town alone, so that the other areas mentioned as coming under the Taunton Division are included in the present account.

The average daily domestic demand of the area was 2,731,000 gallons, giving a figure of 36.4 gallons per head per day. In addition to this, 921,000 gallons were provided on metered supplies to industrial establishments, farms and so on.

Most of the water now comes from the Clatworthy Reservoir in the Brendon Hills, but some is still obtained from gathering grounds on the Blackdowns and from the River Otter. All catchment areas are inspected and supervised and the Boards chemist takes regular

samples for chemical and bacteriological examination. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. The quality is good, as is shown by the following results of sampling of treated water :—

Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
253	4	9	1

Samples recorded as unsatisfactory are immediately investigated and any necessary action taken to set the trouble to rights.

The year 1964 was, with the exception of 1921, the driest of the century in this area. The recorded rainfall in the Blackdown Hills was only about 70% of the average yearly figure, and the Luxhay Reservoir in this region was actually empty on one day in the autumn. In spite of these difficulties no restrictions had to be put on the use of water at any time during the year. The whole of the shortage was made up from the Clatworthy source, which affords striking evidence of the farsightedness of this project.

Several small supplies to localised rural areas in which the water has an acidic character have been or are to be abandoned. No supplies in the district have a plumbosolvent action, and lead pipes are not generally in use.

HOUSING

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

In the period between the end of the last war and the end of 1964, the number of houses erected by the Borough acting as Local Authority was 2,980 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 841.

Of the post-war houses built by the Council the majority were three-bedroomed houses (1,517) although a substantial number of two-bedroomed houses (461), two-bedroomed flats (343), one bedroomed flats (182) and two-bedroomed temporary bungalows (225) had also been erected.

During the year 1964, 216 houses were completed for the Council, and 63 were in course of erection. In the same period, 109 houses were built by private enterprise, 9 conversions were carried out, and 164 private enterprise houses were in course of erection.

The 1965 programme of the Local Authority envisaged the completion of 68 houses, with a further 145 under construction.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses has decreased progressively since the end of the war, as shown by the following figures taken at intervals of five years :—

1949	...	...	...	1,889
1954	...	...	...	1,701
1959	...	...	...	943
1964	...	...	...	586

The Housing Committee have carefully studied this trend, and have given consideration to various other relevant factors such as the fact that people are marrying earlier and living longer, that there is a rising birth-rate, that there has been a general drift of population to the South which seems likely to continue and that with increased prosperity people are demanding higher standards of housing. From these and other considerations the general policy for this district is likely to be that Council building will continue at the rate of about 150 dwellings per year. Dwellings will continue to be provided for those in need, for those single old people whose re-housing would enable a dwelling to become available for a family and for those work people living away from Taunton whose employment here would assist the economic development of the town.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during the year 1964 :—

	Applications	No. of dwellings
Received	31	31
Approved	15	17
Rejected	—	—

Standard Improvement Grants.

Number of applications and dwellings dealt with during the year 1964 :—

	Applications	No. of dwellings
Received	40	41
Approved	33	33
Rejected	—	—

Number of dwellings in current years applications where improvements have been completed 18

The number of Council houses dealt with by Standard Improvement Grants was 5.

Section 94, Taunton Corporation Act, 1931.

This clause enables the Medical Officer of Health to make a representation to the Council regarding proposals to erect an obstructive building. The principle ground for making a representation is the effect on the ventilation or lighting of other buildings in the vicinity.

These powers are frequently used in connection with the extension of the back addition of terraced houses. In many instances these houses, due to the nature of their construction, already have poor natural ventilation and lighting at the rear and any substantial extension could seriously affect adjoining property.

In practice an informal approach to the architect or builder concerned is usually sufficient to ensure modification or withdrawal of their proposals.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows :—

Department	Male	Female	Total
Architect	3	0	3
Engineer	33	0	33
Health	1	1	2
Housing	1	1	2
Housing Maintenance	9	0	9
Library	1	2	3
Town Clerk	1	0	1
Treasurer	8	0	8
Totals	57	4	61

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1964.

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

It is with much pleasure that I present my Annual Report for 1964. In terms of public health activity it has indeed been an eventful year, and one in which there have been numerous changes in the pattern and emphasis of the work undertaken by the Department. With the advent of the new Meat Inspection Regulations in the previous year, the very important and essential work in this particular field has been greatly increased as compared with previous years when the stamping of carcasses after inspection was not required. These duties account for at least 50% of the total man-hours worked during the year by the four Public Health Inspectors; and have made far greater demands on the time of the Inspectors which has not been entirely offset by the increase in the Establishment of one Inspector made for this specific purpose.

Circumstances have been such that it has not been possible to pay as much attention as in previous years to the important work of inspecting Houses in Multiple Occupation. It is difficult to estimate how many such dwellings there are in Taunton but it is unlikely that they will all have been inspected in the next three years. However numerous visits have been made under the Public Health and Housing Acts to alleviate sub-standard conditions, and where necessary recommend the re-housing of tenants. The field of activity with regard to housing generally is becoming wider and more complex with every passing year; and the latest Act—The Housing Act 1964—now empowers Local Authorities to declare certain parts of their districts as Improvement Areas where certain basic amenities are lacking and the houses themselves are reasonably sound. If this is to be tackled in a thorough and comprehensive manner; it must naturally follow that some other duties will have to be neglected; and it is no easy task to arrange a scale of priorities in public health work which in all its aspects can be considered essential to the well being of the community. I do feel that the time has now come when very serious consideration should be given to the full time employment of a Public Health Inspector on housing inspection in all its various forms.

One of the most important of the new duties undertaken this year has been concerned with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 which gives to the employees in such premises the same degree of protection and standards of accommodation and

amenities as their counterparts in industry who come within the scope of the Factories Acts. The Health Committee considered very thoroughly the problem as it affected Taunton and decided that as there were a great number of premises likely to require inspection it would be impossible for existing staff to undertake the work. As a consequence it was decided to increase the Establishment by a Technical Assistant; and this appointment was filled by Mrs. J. R. Hayes who joined the staff from the Health Department of the Somerset County Council.

The Aberdeen typhoid outbreak had its repercussions over the whole country, and here in Taunton there was a week of intensive activity when about 250 visits were made to all types of food premises. This action was directed to finding any of the tins of corned beef from the consignment suspected of being initially responsible for the outbreak. Thirty such tins were found, and they were either voluntarily surrendered or put aside pending a decision as to their fitness or otherwise. Such outbreaks as this emphasise the vital necessity of all persons engaged in the preparation and handling of food being made aware of the basic facts of hygiene, which are woefully lacking in far too many sections of the food industry. In their own interests employers should encourage their staffs to attend any lectures or talks on food hygiene; which generally speaking most Local Authorities will arrange if there is the demand. Here in Taunton Mr. A. E. Eames, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, has given numerous lectures on environmental health and hygiene to audiences ranging from senior school children to Catering Officers of the Hospitals in the region. In all instances these lectures have been well received; and it is felt that they play an important part in making people hygiene-conscious where it is most beneficial.

The other newly delegated duties during the current year include The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, and the Bye-laws for Hairdressers and Barbers.

I would like to welcome Mr. S. Turner who has joined the Department as a Pupil Public Health Inspector; and to congratulate Mr. Eames in passing Part I of the Final Examination of the Diploma of Municipal Administration.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and all Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, and all members of the staff for their unfailing co-operation and kindness at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. M. PAWSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work.

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	153
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts	61
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act	60
Re-inspections under the above Acts	645
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	472
Miscellaneous housing inspections	51
Smoke observations, etc.	103
Moveable dwellings	16
Dealers in old metal	20
Infectious diseases and disinfections	9
Drainage, in connection with	812
Factories	745
Verminous or infested premises	81
Interviews	614
Noise, in connection with	2
Offensive trades	3
Office, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections	134
Office, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits	170
Pet Shops	19
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment	21
Refuse collection and disposal	6
Rag Flock premises	3
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)	127
Schools	15
Shops (Shops Acts)	184
Water Sampling	219
Miscellaneous visits	719

Housing Repairs.

The inspection of houses has been from the earliest times one of the most important and rewarding of the duties which fall to the lot of a Public Health Inspector regardless of the type of district in which he works. With each passing year there are fresh Acts and Regulations dealing with housing, and which are introduced as being essential to the easing and betterment of housing conditions throughout the country. Unfortunately much of this new legislation is very complex, and instead of easing the procedure for alleviating sub-standard housing conditions often makes matters far more difficult. The machinery for dealing with houses was much simpler in the immediate pre-war years; and this is reflected in the vast slum clearance programmes which were undertaken then.

Another contributory factor in the slowing down of essential repairs is the great reluctance of reputable builders to undertake work of a comparatively minor nature; when more profitable work on big contracts is readily available. The consequence is that a large proportion of such repair work nowadays falls into the hands of

the "odd job" men—many of whom at the best are skilled in only one particular trade, and are therefore incapable of coping in a competent manner with an extensive repair schedule. The net result is often frustration all round with the tenant inconvenienced out of all proportion to the amount of work involved; and the owner faced with an extortionate bill for indifferent work which may easily have to be renewed again in short time.

During the year 812 visits were made in connection with complaints concerned with defective drainage, and as a consequence 69 sewers and 36 drains were cleared of obstructions. Other items of repair showed little material change from previous years; and the total of 682 items showed a decrease of about 100 over the year before—this was no doubt due to the milder winter which meant there was less frost damage.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	36
Drains renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	18
New drains provided	...	...	...	...	19
Sewers cleared	...	...	...	...	69
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	59
Inspection chambers—new covers provided	...	...	...	...	9
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	16
Yard surfaces renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Eaves gutters renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Rainwater pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Waterclosets provided	...	...	...	...	26
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s—new seats provided	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	35
Chimney stacks rebuilt	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Chimneys—flashings renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Ceilings renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Floors renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Skirting boards renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Sub-floor ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	3
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	27
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Doors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New windows provided	...	...	...	...	20
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Window sills renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Windows—sash cords provided	...	...	...	...	2

Natural lighting improved	...	...	...	7
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	5
Water service pipes renewed	...	...	...	7
Water heating systems installed	...	...	...	25
Baths provided	...	...	...	27
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	29
Kitchen sinks provided	...	...	...	19
Ventilated food cupboards provided	...	...	...	24
Electric services repaired	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
			Total	682
				<hr/>

HOUSING ACTS

The number and condition of those houses in Taunton which might be considered as being suitable for inclusion in Clearance Areas is very finely balanced. Quite a few have robust "shells" and good roofs, but are otherwise in a very poor state of repair besides lacking in the various amenities associated with modern housing. As such they pose the very difficult problem as to whether it is sound policy to expend comparatively large sums of money on putting them into good order, and thereby giving them a further minimum lease of life of twenty years. The only alternative being to demolish them, and replace with new houses whose cost could well be three or four times that of repairing and improving the original structures. A possible answer to this problem may be found next year when the scheme of Improvement Areas as set out in the Housing Act 1964 is put on trial; but I think it would be foolish to expect too much from this scheme which seems to be fraught with numerous difficulties. In the future, I think it will be found, that more and more Local Authorities will purchase the type of property referred to above and after carrying out the necessary repairs and improvements, will use them as part of their normal stock of housing accommodation.

During the year no groups of houses were inspected in connection with Clearance Areas. Nevertheless about three hundred inspections and visits were made under the Housing Acts to remedy various defects; and numerous individual premises were the subjects of Closing Orders or of Undertakings not to let. The details are as follows :—

Houses Closed under Section 17	...	...	...	...	5
Houses where Undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	3
Parts of Premises Closed under Section 18	...	...	...	...	3
Parts of Premises where Undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	9

During the year 27 houses in three confirmed Clearance Areas in Tangier and East Reach were demolished; besides 29 others which were sub-standard and whose removal was necessary for planned development.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

This particular sphere of housing has not received as much attention during the year as had been anticipated. Whilst only a few fresh premises were the subject of a detailed initial inspection; a considerable number of visits were made in connection with work which had been put in hand following visits the previous year.

To date 76 houses involving 292 separate dwellings have been inspected and as a result of informal notices and consultations with owners, a very appreciable improvement in the standard of accommodation and associated amenities has been achieved in many of these houses.

The following schedule sets out the work carried out during the year and as previously this has entailed numerous visits outside normal working hours.

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External.

Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	9
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Extra dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	2
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	7

Internal.

Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	10
Staircases redecorated	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	7
Larders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New ventilated larders provided	...	...	...	...	5
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	...	2
Electric fittings repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	9
Heating installations provided/repared	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	18
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Wash-hand basin renewed/repared	...	...	...	...	5
Sink and/or draining board renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Cooking facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	...	4
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	1
Additional bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	4
Baths renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2

Other Items.

Units of accommodation closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Complaints.

During the year 861 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	67

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24.

During the year 74 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleared by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

During the year seven proposals for new boiler installations were considered and in three cases the chimney heights were modified in accordance with our recommendations. In one instance the proposed height of a chimney serving a large oil fired central heating installation was 50ft. which was 36ft. less than the recommended minimum height. The building was exempt from the provisions of the Act and after further consideration of the aesthetic effect of a higher stack, the public authority concerned decided to adhere to the original height of 50ft.

It is essential when buildings are being designed that early consideration should be given to the problems relating to the proper dispersal of the waste products of combustion created by heating installations or process work. It is not enough that the equipment shall be designed to operate smokelessly, provision must be made for an adequate chimney to disperse the invisible but potentially more harmful gaseous pollutants.

The existing exemptions of certain buildings from the provision of Section 10 of the Act relating to chimney heights is illogical, and it would be far more satisfactory to all concerned if exemptions were based on the capacity of the plant as is the case with Section 3 of the Act.

The new Building Regulations are still awaited, and in the meantime houses continue to be constructed with fireplaces which are incapable of burning the cheaper smokeless fuels. Any progress in this field has so far been due to a more enlightened attitude towards domestic heating and clean air which is becoming apparent amongst members of the public; but as there is no shortage of suitable fuel in this area it is to be hoped that we shall shortly be able to give further consideration to the problem of domestic pollution in the town.

RENT ACT, 1957

During the year one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair—this was the first such application in three years. The almost complete ineffectiveness of this particular piece of legislation is amply demonstrated by the fact that since its inception over eight years ago only 34 applications for such Certificates have been received here in Taunton. The reason for this state of affairs is not difficult to find, and is due mainly to the fact that the tenants of the type of houses likely to be involved are very loath to take any action which might in any way precipitate an increase in rent—however small it might be. On the other hand Landlords are likewise loath to expend comparatively large sums on repairs in return for very small rent increases. So a state of stalemate comes into existence with neither party wishing to initiate a move involving any extra expenditure; and the eventual result is likely to be that the house deteriorates to such an extent that it becomes the subject of a Demolition Order or Clearance Order.

VERMIN

A total of 81 treatments were carried out for the eradication of vermin. Wasps accounted for 43 of these treatments compared with 80 in the previous year. The remainder of the treatments concerned the eradication of ants, silver fish, cockroaches, fleas and most unusually two cases of bugs.

During recent years there has been much public concern about the residual toxic effects of certain pesticides particularly the Persistent Organochlorine group. As a result the Government appointed a Committee to advise on Poisonous Substances used in Agriculture and Food Storage. The main recommendations of this Committee are as follows :—

“(1) The use of Aldrin and Dieldrin in fertilizer mixtures should cease as soon as this can be arranged.

(2) (a) Seed dressings containing Aldrin, Dieldrin and Heptachlor may continue to be used, but only on (i) winter sown wheat (up to the end of December) where there is a real danger of attack from wheat bulb fly, and (ii) on rubbed and graded sugar beet seed for precision drilling.

(b) Aldrin and Dieldrin may be available for commercial use only (i) against wireworm in potatoes, (ii) to control cabbage root fly and (iii) to control narcissus bulb fly;

(c) Dieldrin may be available to control cockroaches and tropical species of ants.

(3) The use of Aldrin and Dieldrin in dips and sprays for sheep should cease as soon as this can be arranged.

(4) All current uses of Aldrin, Dieldrin and Heptachlor in agriculture, horticulture, home gardens and food storage practice should cease as soon as this can be arranged.

(5) The uses listed in recommendations 2 (a), (b) and (c) above should be reviewed at the end of three years with a view to discontinuance.

(6) No restrictions should be placed on the current uses of DDT in agriculture, horticulture, home gardens and food storage practice, but its use should be reviewed at the end of three years.

(7) No restrictions should be placed on the current uses of BHC (including Gamma—BHC) in agriculture, home gardens, horticulture and food storage practice.

(8) The hazards possibly arising from the use of organochlorine pesticides for purposes other than in agriculture, horticulture, home gardens and food storage, including any contribution which these uses might make to the general environmental contamination by organochlorine pesticides should be studied without delay.

(9) Government and other bodies should intensify their efforts to encourage by education and advice the use of less persistent pesticides, and to encourage economy in the use of persistent organochlorine pesticides where these may continue to be used."

RODENT CONTROL

The work of rodent control has continued to be carried out in a very conscientious and efficient manner by the Council's Rodent Operator—Mr. L. Wood. The number of business premises availing themselves of the service provided by the Council increased by over 40%. The system of surveying different areas of the Borough at regular intervals has paid good dividends; and has been the means of detecting hitherto unknown centres of infestation, which were subsequently treated and completely eradicated.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	289
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	889
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	278
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	798
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	...	95
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	305
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	144
Wasps' nests destroyed	...	...	...	...	43
Other vermin, etc.	...	...	...	...	73

Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out in 9 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

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The Owners of the two residential sites have continued with their programmes of general improvements; and since the present Act came into force many amenities have been added to the sites. Both Owners are replacing some of their older and smaller caravans with the larger and more modern types; so that the standard of accommodation is tending to rise all the time.

The number of individual caravans is five; and from time to time others are occupied by personnel engaged on building site operations which are exempt from the usual licensing requirements.

The Rag, Flock and Other Materials Act, 1951.

Registered premises	6
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These premises are subject to regular inspection, and during the year one sample of white cotton felt was analysed and found to be of the required standard.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86.

This Act provides for the registration of all Dealers in Old Metal or Marine Stores and their places of business, etc. Such places are subject to police control, but periodic visits are also paid by the Public Health Inspectors.

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered
under this Section 14

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 107 (3).

This Section provides for the consent of Local Authority to authorise the carrying on of "Offensive Trades" in their district. In Taunton this is confined to two old-established firms who are Rag and Bone Dealers. Both businesses are well conducted, and have not given any grounds for complaint.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Licences to keep pet shops 5

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

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act provides for the inspection and licensing of Animal Boarding Establishments on somewhat similar lines to the Pet Animals Act. No such premises are established in the Borough at the present time.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1961.

The Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960.

The Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962.

The powers and duties of the Council are delegated to the Accident Prevention Committee, but the Health Committee have given consent for the Public Health Inspectors to exercise that power to inspect, test and enforce the Regulations.

These Regulations came into being as a result of the very high incidence of fires which were directly attributable to unflued domestic oil heaters. At the time the British Standards Institution tested 22 different types of oil heater, and only 3 of these were found to be in all respects safe.

The manufacturers were most concerned with the seriousness of the problem, and after these results they modified their appliances so that all the models would stand up to the most vigorous tests. Unfortunately the Act overlooked one very obvious factor—the second hand market where the under-privileged are able to buy old, unsafe and obsolete heaters at a few shillings each. This factor, I feel sure, is mainly responsible for the nationally ever increasing number of fires due to this type of heater. The recent statistics published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office give the following figures of fires caused directly by oil heaters—3,696 (1959); 3,520 (1960); 3,458 (1961); 3,824 (1962); and 4,780 (1963). Between 1961 and 1963 deaths in these fires rose from 38 to 61—in 1963 this was out of a total of 818 deaths in fires.

Fortunately, here in Taunton, there have been no serious fires or fatalities due to oil heaters. From experience it has been found that the obsolete type of oil heater is most likely to be found in the type of dwelling known as a "house in Multiple Occupation" where often in the sole interests of economy the landlord provides the cheapest form of space heating for his tenants regardless of the fire hazards which may be involved. Where possible all tenants are discouraged from using any such dangerous appliances.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water.

During the year 166 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlets 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; and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1,283
Wholesale Meat Depots	...	...	...	...	153
Butchers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	155
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	89
Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	127
Grocers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	498
Food preparation premises	...	...	...	...	118
Restaurants and Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	...	241
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	152
Other visits	...	...	...	...	363
					<hr/>
			Total	...	3,179
					<hr/>

This total shows an increase of 678 visits over the previous year's total of 2,501 and is a clear indication of the better supervision of such premises which has been made possible with the increase in staff.

Milk Supply.

There are 8 registered Dairies, and 28 registered Distributors of Milk operating within the Borough.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 greatly reduced the duties of the Council, so that sampling is no longer carried out. The Council are still responsible for the registration of persons as Distributors of Milk.

Ice Cream.

There were no new registrations during the year and the total number of registrations under the Food and Drugs Act is as follows :—

Manufacture and Sale	...	...	...	...	3
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and Sale	...	...	...	...	111

Food Preparation Premises.

The total of such premises is 52, and 2 of these were new registrations. These premises are mainly butchers, fried fish and chip shops, and bakehouses where meat pies or faggots are manufactured. These premises receive frequent visits and their products are subject to periodic sampling.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

The well established practice of submitting samples of all types of foodstuffs for bacteriological examination has continued during the year. At times the cost in terms of time and money has been questioned, but the wisdom of the practice has been amply demonstrated by the publicity given to the question of the bacterial purity of canned foodstuffs following the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak, where contaminated corned beef was found to be the cause of infection. The results of such examination do reflect to a great extent the standard of hygiene (or lack of) practiced in all stages of food production from raw materials to the final article as sold in the retailer's shop. Nevertheless, however carefully attention is paid to hygiene as regards the premises and equipment, nothing will stop the spread of infection if any food is handled by a careless handler who is a

“carrier.” If the system of producing pure food is to be made more fool-proof it is essential that legislation should be introduced whereby all persons engaged in any way with handling open food should be required to submit to regular medical inspection including tests for the detection of “carriers.”

Details of the various samples taken are given below :—

Artificial Cream.

During the year a total of 102 samples were taken. About 20% of these were taken at the place of manufacture—usually the bakehouse; and the remainder from confectionery exposed for sale in the shops. No evidence of pathogenic organisms was found; and many samples were reported to be sterile.

Ice Cream.

The total number of samples taken was 58, and the only unsatisfactory result was from one of the large national producers, but subsequent sampling gave good results. Fifteen of the samples were of the Cold Mix type and were made by local producers, and three others were of the Soft Ice Cream type which is actually made at the time of purchase in a special apparatus usually installed in a mobile van.

Apart from the one Grade 3 sample referred to above, all the results can be considered satisfactory, but careful attention must be paid at all times to the proper cleaning of apparatus especially that concerned with manufacture of Soft Ice Cream.

Details are as follows :—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	35	4	1	—
Cold Mix	10	5	—	—
Soft Ice Cream	1	2	—	—

Liquid Egg.

Seventeen samples of raw and thirty-one samples of pasteurised liquid egg were taken during the year. The raw egg is examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms, and the pasteurised to ascertain compliance with the Alpha-Amylase Test. In each instance satisfactory results were obtained.

The liquid egg producing factory which had very modest beginnings with a small staff of about a dozen employees has recently undergone a vast programme of expansion as to both premises and plant, and the staff now numbers well over 120. Much of the egg

breaking which was originally manual is now done by specially designed machines which enable a 25% saving in manpower to be made; the only drawback to the machines is the very meticulous cleansing required after use. The plant at the present moment can break out 360,000 eggs and pasteurise 4,200 gallons of liquid egg per day, and even this figure will be exceeded if plans for further expansion come to fruition.

Meat Products, etc.

The routine sampling of meat and meat products at butchers and other retail shops has continued throughout the year, and has usually taken place at the same time that the premises have been inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The combination of sampling and inspection has had a very marked effect in the general improvement of all food premises, and this has been reflected in the fact that of the 144 samples sent for examination not one was positive.

Details of the various samples are as follows :—

Beef—boiled salt	...	1	Beef—corned	...	1
Beef—minced	...	6	Beef—pressed	...	2
Beer Wurst	...	1	Black Puddings	...	7
Brawn	...	3	Beef—roast	...	1
Cervecat Wurst	...	1	Faggots	...	7
Ham	...	18	Lachsshinken	...	1
Luncheon Meat	...	3	Luncheon Sausage	...	1
Lunch Tongues	...	1	Ox Tongue	...	8
Pasties	...	9	Pies—Pork	...	11
Pies—Steak and Onion		1	Pies—Steak and Kidney		4
Polonies	...	4	Pork—Chopped	...	2
Pork—luncheon meat	...	2	Pork—roast	...	8
Pork—tenderloins	...	1	Pig's trotters	...	1
Sausages—beef	...	7	Sausages—ham	...	1
Sausages—garlic	...	1	Sausages—pork	...	12
Salami—foreign types	...	4	Sausage rolls	...	5
Stuffed roll	...	2	Steaklet	...	1
Tripe	...	4	Veal—jellied	...	2

Water.

The routine sampling of water has continued, and 226 samples were examined. Of this total 27 were of raw water from the Fulwood Works, and six from a well. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Food Inspection.

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

CANNED AND FROZEN FOODS

	Tins or Packets
Meat (various)	482
Tongue	37
Fish	123
Soups	52
Milk and Cream	76
Fruit (various)	811
Fruit Juices (various)	110
Vegetables	26
Peas	126
Beans	134
Tomatoes	259
Carrots	16
Miscellaneous	99

OTHER FOODS

Jams	134 Jars
Sauces and Pickles	19 „
Cakes and Confectionery	210 Items
Biscuits and Cereals	20 Packets
Tea and Coffee	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Fish	232 „
Butter and Margarine	259 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Cooking fats	38 „
Cheese	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Sausages	24 „
Poultry	99 Birds
Cooked Meats	50 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	364 „
Relish	15 Jars
Pies	82
Beverages	2 Bottles
Miscellaneous	53 Items

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The routine inspection of food premises of all types has continued throughout the year, and 1,765 such visits were made as follows :

Bakers and Confectioners	137
Butchers	300
Catering Establishments	234
Canteens	13
Dairies	16
Fishmongers and Poulterers	29
Food Preparation Premises	118
Fried Fish Premises	42
Grocers	448
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	50
Ice Cream	61
Licensed Premises	132
Other Premises	185

1,765

As a consequence of some of these visits informal notices were served on occupiers to carry out certain works to bring their premises into conformity with the Food Hygiene Regulations. A total of 555 such items received attention; besides which 12 premises were the subject of works of major reconstruction. It is interesting to note that in no instance was it necessary to resort to statutory action to secure compliance and this says a great deal for the good relations existing between the food trade in general and the public health inspectorate.

The details of the 555 items which received attention are given in the table (No. 1) which follows :—

As a matter of general information a further table (No. 2) is also appended and this sets out the various items which have received attention at the different food premises since the inception of the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1955. It is difficult to over-emphasise the importance of the work carried out in this particular field and the bare bones of statistics tell only a very small fraction of the enormous amount of work and time spent in connection with the inspection of premises and the general enforcement of the Regulations. During this nine year period over 3,000 items received attention and among these were the provision of 100 new sinks, 141 wash-hand basins, 236 hot water appliances, and about 300 new pieces of equipment. In addition the occupiers of 91 premises undertook works of major reconstruction and of these more than half were either catering establishments or licensed premises.

It is a matter of some concern that more time is not spent on education; as it is only in this way that the workers in the food industry can be made aware of the vital necessity for the practice of hygienic methods at all stages of food production, from the time the raw materials enter the factory or preparation room, until the finished product is either sold in the shops or served as a meal.

The number of complaints received concerning unsound food etc., was 238 and this showed a sharp increase on the previous year's total of 140. Each complaint was the subject of a thorough investigation, and in a number of cases the Health Committee authorised that legal proceedings should be taken.

The results of such action are as follows :—

Offence	Result
1. Plastic fragment in cake ...	£20 fine imposed
2. Mould in sausage rolls ...	£15 fine imposed
3. Mould in sliced bread ...	£10 fine imposed plus £3 2s. 0d. costs
4. Mould in apple turnovers (two offences) ...	£15 fine imposed in each case plus £2 3s. 0d. costs
5. Plastic fragment in fruit tart ...	£10 fine imposed
6. Mould on sausages ...	(1) Case proved, but dismissed as plea of Warranty accepted (2) Suppliers at a later hearing were fined £15
7. Maggots in a joint of bacon ...	£25 fine imposed
8. Mould in pork pie ...	£30 fine imposed
9. Rodent excreta in packet ground almonds ...	£30 fine imposed

A careful study of the back-ground of the above cases showed that most of them were the result of negligence; and particularly was this so where mould was found. It is surprising to find in this day and age that there are still some manufacturers of perishable goods who steadfastly refuse to appreciate the wisdom of date stamping or code marking their goods and retailers should refuse to handle any goods not marked in this manner. The importance of proper stock rotation cannot be underestimated and failure to put this into practice was a prime factor in several instances where mouldy food was sold.

One prosecution was taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations where a butchery manager was found smoking whilst handling meat and a fine of £5 was imposed. For the first time in Taunton a prosecution was taken under the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, when a slaughterman contravened the Regulations by emptying the contents of a bullock's stomach in the slaughter-hall where the carcass was being dressed. A fine of £5 was imposed.

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1964

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc	Grocers and Green- grocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction ...	—	—	1	6	5	12
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	7	2	7	14	7	37
Walls redecorated ...	10	2	17	18	17	64
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	1	—	5	6	2	14
Ceilings redecorated ...	10	3	20	17	17	67
Floors repaired or renewed ...	2	1	5	8	7	23
Improvement of lighting ...	2	—	2	3	3	10
Improvement of ventilation ...	—	—	6	4	8	18
Renewed or repaired drainage ...	3	—	5	7	9	24
Premises cleansed ...	—	4	6	—	—	10
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided ...	3	1	4	5	—	13
Hot water supply provided ...	3	1	3	1	1	9
New draining boards provided ...	1	—	1	4	—	6
Preparation tables, etc. retopped ...	5	—	2	9	—	16
New equipment, etc. provided ...	9	2	2	8	—	21
Dustbins provided ...	6	—	3	1	—	10
Means of protection of food pro- vided ...	1	1	4	—	1	7
Refrigerators provided ...	5	—	3	—	—	8
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ...	—	—	—	1	1	2
New flushing cisterns provided ...	—	1	—	1	2	4
Sanitary accommodation repaired...	3	—	7	—	1	11
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated ...	6	1	10	1	9	27
Improved lighting ...	—	—	4	1	—	5
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	44	18	22	6	—	90
Ventilated lobby provided ...	—	—	2	1	—	3
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand Basins provided ...	1	—	5	2	—	8
Hot water supply provided ...	2	1	3	2	—	8
Toilet requisites provided ...	4	2	3	5	—	14
Redecoration of toilet accommo- dation ...	3	—	1	—	—	4
Provision of lockers ...	2	3	2	1	—	8
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ...	2	—	1	—	—	3
Treatments for vermin ...	—	4	—	—	4	8
Fly destruction units fixed ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Provision of first-aid materials ...	2	—	3	1	—	6
Totals ...	138	47	158	127	89	555

Table No. 2

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955—1960

Summary of works carried out at food premises from 1956-1964	Butchers & Fish-mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc	Grocers and Green-grocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction ...	11	7	20	31	22	91
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	27	11	25	40	35	138
Walls redecorated ...	59	21	51	97	116	344
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	12	2	21	20	20	75
Ceilings redecorated ...	42	16	46	80	108	292
Floors repaired or renewed ...	18	8	25	37	37	125
Improvement of lighting ...	6	3	8	11	13	41
Improvement of ventilation ...	1	4	12	22	30	69
Renewed or repaired drainage ...	15	5	13	17	31	81
Premises cleansed ...	2	13	12	6	—	33
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided ...	11	5	17	34	33	100
Hot water supply provided ...	20	6	25	24	24	99
New draining boards provided ...	3	—	3	31	18	55
Preparation tables, etc. retopped ...	22	11	17	50	7	107
New equipment, etc. provided ...	48	24	37	63	12	184
Dustbins provided ...	25	9	22	36	8	100
Means of protection of food provided ...	15	17	38	11	11	92
Refrigerators provided ...	20	3	29	11	4	67
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ...	3	2	14	25	51	95
New flushing cisterns provided ...	1	1	3	9	23	37
Sanitary accommodation repaired...	7	7	11	14	13	53
Sanitary accommodation redecorated ...	8	6	17	10	24	65
Improved lighting ...	5	—	5	2	2	14
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	88	44	58	58	7	225
Ventilation lobby provided ...	—	2	6	1	—	9
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand Basins provided ...	25	10	42	29	35	141
Hot water supply provided ...	30	16	43	31	17	137
Toilet requisites provided...	21	8	20	21	3	73
Redecoration of toilet accommodation ...	5	1	2	8	1	17
Provision of lockers ...	6	4	5	7	—	22
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ...	14	2	11	4	1	32
Treatments for vermin ...	2	8	1	13	6	26
Fly destruction units fixed ...	3	—	1	—	—	4
Provision of first-aid materials ...	18	9	32	21	13	93
Totals ...	583	278	672	844	704	3077

Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering of food animals is carried on in two licensed slaughterhouses and a bacon factory. It will be seen that there has been an increase (7.5%) in the number of animals slaughtered during the year.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	231
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	127
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	1,807
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	36
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	35,146

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

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	231	127	36	1,807	35,146
Number inspected	231	127	36	1,807	35,146
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	1	—	142
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	45	—	—	22	11,328
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	12.57%	—	2.77%	1.22%	32.6%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1,435
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	4.1%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	6	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	—	6	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	798 lbs
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	3,268 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

The outstanding feature of the weather for 1964 was the rainfall figure of 19.38 inches which was the lowest for any year since records were first taken in 1889, and far below the average of 28.77 inches. The previous lowest falls of rain were 20.02 inches in 1953 and 21.45 inches in 1905. It should be noted that during the four months period June—September only 1.25 inches fell. The wettest month was May with 2.59 inches, of which 1.26 inches fell on one day. Rain actually fell on 139 days compared with the average of 178.5.

The hours of recorded sunshine were well below average for the first six months, but after that exceeded the average so that the final figure of 1,519.5 hours was only 30 hours below average. In May, July and August the hours exceeded 200 but June's total of 178.5 was in poor contrast to its average of 219.2 and about half the record reading of 350 hours in June, 1925.

The temperatures were in no way remarkable, and the annual mean average of 49.99 degs. F. almost coincided with the general average of 49.59 degs. F. The lowest temperature of 15 degs. was in December, and the highest of 81 degs. F. in May and August.

The barometric pressures were generally slightly higher than usual. The January average of 30.37 was well above the average of 29.90, as was November's 30.08 compared with 29.87.

As a matter of interest to those who like to compare current figures with averages, I am giving a set of tables setting out the monthly averages for certain readings worked out for the years 1919 to 1964.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1964 as compared with those in the previous year and the annual averages.

	Mean Barometer	Mean Temperature	Hours of Sunshine	Sunless Days	Total Rainfall	Days rain fell	Days of .04 inches rain or more
1964 ...	3007	47.99	1,519.50	68	19.38	139	97
1963 ...	29.93	47.59	1,454.25	61	30.34	188	137
Average	29.93	49.59	1,549.27	66	28.77	178	124

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1964

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	30.37	30.71	29.83	38.71	53	19	20.00	5.50	20	0.65	8	6	.18
February	29.96	30.86	29.21	40.52	58	19	65.25	7.00	10	1.11	11	8	.35
March	29.88	30.46	29.30	41.76	57	20	85.75	10.00	6	2.27	11	10	.47
April	29.90	30.28	29.41	47.93	56	27	147.00	11.75	2	1.87	14	10	.45
May	29.98	30.51	29.66	56.68	81	34	200.00	12.75	2	2.59	10	7	1.26
June	29.96	30.35	29.50	58.68	75	42	178.50	15.75	4	1.51	15	8	.35
July	30.04	30.35	29.47	62.53	81	43	216.75	14.75	—	.64	10	7	.19
August	30.00	30.47	29.14	59.78	81	36	201.25	12.00	—	1.20	9	6	.39
September	30.00	30.34	29.38	58.08	76	34	190.25	9.25	—	1.08	8	4	.32
October	29.99	30.47	29.11	48.25	67	28	111.00	9.00	5	2.51	15	11	.82
November	30.08	30.52	29.38	46.47	59	20	60.50	7.50	5	2.12	12	9	.42
December	29.92	30.31	29.11	39.37	58	15	43.25	5.00	14	1.83	16	11	.46
Total or Average ...	30.07	—	—	49.99	—	—	1,519.50	—	68	19.38	139	97	—

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1964

BAROMETER

Annual Average	...	...	...	29.94
June	...	...	...	30.00
February	...	...	...	29.97
July	...	...	...	29.96
September	...	...	...	29.94
August	...	...	...	29.94
October	...	...	...	29.94
March	...	...	...	29.93
May	...	...	...	29.91
April	...	...	...	29.91
January	...	...	...	29.90
December	...	...	...	29.89
November	...	...	...	29.87

TEMPERATURE

Annual Average	...	...	...	49.59 Degr.F.
July	...	...	...	61.64
August	...	...	...	60.71
June	...	...	...	58.14
September	...	...	...	56.86
May	...	...	...	52.52
October	...	...	...	50.43
April	...	...	...	47.18
November	...	...	...	44.38
March	...	...	...	43.28
December	...	...	...	40.82
February	...	...	...	40.22
January	...	...	...	40.08

SUNSHINE IN HOURS

HOURS OF SUNSHINE				NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS			
Annual Average	...	1549.27	Hrs.	Annual Average	...	...	66.02
June	...	219.20		August	...	...	1.36
July	...	206.56		July	...	...	1.40
May	...	205.30		June	...	...	1.65
August	...	188.55		May	...	...	1.96
April	...	151.70		April	...	...	2.96
September	...	131.00		September	...	...	3.00
March	...	114.98		October	...	...	4.30
October	...	102.20		March	...	...	5.35
February	...	74.70		February	...	...	8.00
November	...	59.50		November	...	...	9.91
January	...	46.74		January	...	...	13.41
December	...	39.31		December	...	...	14.19

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1964

RAINFALL

Annual Average	...	...	28.77 Inches
November	...	...	3.40
December	...	...	3.14
January	...	...	2.98
October	...	...	2.95
September	...	...	2.43
May	...	...	2.32
August	...	...	2.28
February	...	...	2.07
July	...	...	2.05
April	...	...	2.00
March	...	...	1.90
June	...	...	1.60

NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL

Annual Average	...	...	178.52 Days
December	...	...	18.39
January	...	...	17.63
November	...	...	17.48
October	...	...	16.35
August	...	...	14.44
September	...	...	14.22
February	...	...	13.85
April	...	...	13.82
July	...	...	13.69
May	...	...	13.26
March	...	...	13.17
June	...	...	11.29

Days of Rainfall of .04 inches or more

Annual Average	...	...	124.36 Days
December	...	...	12.79
November	...	...	12.71
January	...	...	12.17
October	...	...	11.57
August	...	...	10.09
September	...	...	9.93
April	...	...	9.72
February	...	...	9.66
May	...	...	9.48
July	...	...	9.07
March	...	...	8.74
June	...	...	7.88

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into force on 1st May, 1964, in so far that existing employers were required to register with their responsible Authority before 31st July, and others as and when persons became employed. With certain exceptions, premises had to conform to the requirements of the Act and any Regulations made thereunder after 1st August, 1964.

The Act deals with such matters as cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, seating arrangements, eating facilities, safety measures for common parts, fencing of exposed parts of machinery, prohibition of heavy work and first aid arrangements. Thus it will be seen that almost every aspect of the working conditions in shops and offices, etc., is covered by this legislation; and the enforcement and administration thereof poses no easy problem. In Taunton it was estimated that approximately 900 premises would become registered with the Local Authority; and in order that the task of inspection and associated clerical work should proceed without undue delay, a Technical Assistant was appointed to the staff to help the Public Health Inspectors in this particular field.

The details of the work, etc., during the year are as follows:—

		(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
TABLE A					
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS					
	Offices	...	198	198	78
	Retail Shops	...	260	260	55
	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	29	29	—
	Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	...	19	19	1
	Fuel Storage Depots	...	2	2	—
	TOTALS	...	208	508	134
TABLE B					
Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 431					
TABLE C					
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE					
		(1) Class of workplace	(2) Number of persons employed		
	Offices	...	...	...	1,796
	Retail Shops	...	...	...	1,927
	Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	...	...	...	337
	Catering Establishments open to the public	...	...	...	325
	Canteens	...	...	...	28
	Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	23
	TOTAL	...	...	...	4,436
	TOTAL MALES	...	...	...	2,033
	TOTAL FEMALES	...	...	...	2,403

During the year 91 informal notices were served in respect of 611 items requiring attention in order to secure conformity with the Act.

These items are as detailed in the schedule below :—

Type of premises	Sanitary Accommodation						Washing Facilities							Other Items												Total
	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Identification	Additional accommodation	Means for disposal of sanitary dressings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Trapped Waste	Hot Water Supply	Additional Facilities	Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Drinking Water	Accommodation for Clothing	Machinery	Seating	Eating Facilities	Floors, Passages, Staircases	Fist-Aid Arrangements	
Shops	12	12	29	2	5	1	2	2	4	1	1	22	11	47	—	39	29	17	2	12	5	4	3	78	33	373
Offices	3	2	6	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	18	6	6	24	15	6	6	5	1	1	2	48	36	194
Catering	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	3	4	2	—	4	—	—	—	8	2	44
Total	15	15	35	5	6	1	2	2	4	1	1	30	14	85	6	66	48	25	8	21	6	5	5	134	71	611

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

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	23	38	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	343	697	6	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	6	10	—	—
TOTAL	272	745	6	—

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	3	3	—	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	10	—	8	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	17	15	—	10	—

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 133		Section 134	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel ...	265	—	—	—	—



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