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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

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

AND

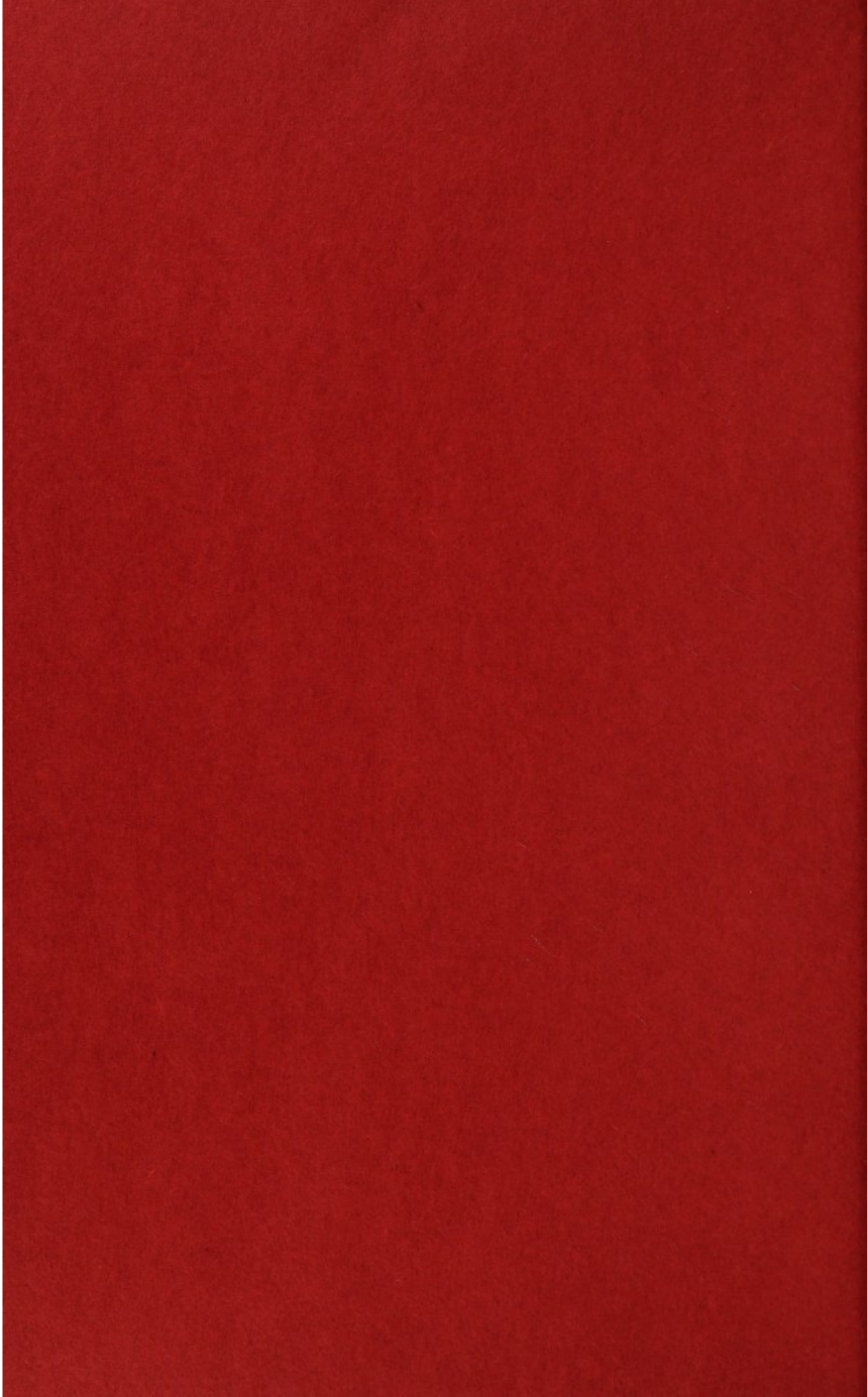
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

FOR THE YEAR 1965





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setting out in detail of the schedule of immunisation regarded as desirable will be of practical value to parents and others concerned with the upbringing of children.

An account is given of a new scheme for the attachment of Health Visitors to general medical practice. This is a welcome development in the unification of personal health services.

The activities carried on at the Taunton Day Nursery are described in some detail since it is felt that the public may not be fully aware of this important work.

The Chief Public Health Inspector deals in his portion of this report with the subject of meat inspection, but I think that the point needs emphasising by me as Medical Officer of Health that this is a most exacting assignment. In Taunton at the present time it means that, in order to comply with the standards of inspection laid down by the Ministry, two Public Health Inspectors from the staff of the department have to spend a large portion of their time each week on this work, and while they are thus engaged there remain available only two others to attend to all the general public health services of the Borough, which are constantly increasing in extent and complexity. It seems to me that our priorities are going wrong here, and with the probability of a considerable rise in the amount of slaughtering to be carried out in Taunton in the near future, the question of appointing an Authorised Meat Inspector to give relief with this work will soon have to be faced.

Miss N. Baird relinquished her post as Senior Clerk in October, 1965 after doing good work in the Department for a number of years. She was succeeded in this post by Mrs. D. Hamilton whom we are pleased to have with us now. Mr. S. Turner, Pupil Public Health Inspector, is to be congratulated on passing his first year examination at Bristol.

In conclusion I wish to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, 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, 1965
GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	36,850
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1965 (according to the rate books)	...	...	...	...	...	11,427
Rateable Value at the end of 1965	...	...	...	...	...	£1,470,386
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£5,900

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.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	326	244	570
Illegitimate	24	24	48
Total	350	268	618
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	16.77
Standardised Birth Rate :—			
Taunton	...	...	17.1
England and Wales	...	...	18.0
Percentage illegitimate of total live births	...	...	7.7

(b) Still Births

Total	...	...	9
Rate per 1,000 live and still births :—			
Taunton	...	...	14.4
England and Wales	...	...	15.7
Total live and still births	...	...	627

2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	...	...	428
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.6
Standardised Death Rate :—			
Taunton	...	...	10.9
England and Wales	...	...	11.5
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—			
Total	...	...	11
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—			
Taunton	...	...	17.8
England and Wales	...	...	19.0

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	15.7
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	41.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)		8.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)		8.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths) under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)		22.3

Causes of Infant Deaths :—

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Congenital malformation	—	2	2
Other diseases	5	—	5
Accident	—	1	1
Totals	5	6	11

(c) Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Deaths NIL

(d) Deaths from Cancer

Cancer of the Lung	...	Males	13
	...	Females...	1
		Total	14
Cancer in all other situations	...	Males	26
	...	Females...	42
		Total	68

Number of Deaths from Cancer of Lung—England and Wales—

(Three year period)

1963	...	24,434
1964	...	25,371
1965	...	26,399

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	4	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	13	1	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	27	44
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	4	7	11
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	30	36	66
Coronary disease, angina	57	30	87
Hypertension with heart disease	2	7	9
Other heart disease	20	28	48
Other circulatory disease	18	13	31
Pneumonia	11	4	15
Bronchitis	18	4	22
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	17	12	29
Motor vehicle accidents	6	—	6
All other accidents	4	3	7
Suicide	1	—	1

HEALTH EDUCATION

Activities in this field were continued throughout the year, though not on the scale which one might wish for because of pressure on the staff of other commitments. A great deal of individual health education by doctors and Health Visitors goes on constantly in schools and clinics, and in addition to this, talks of a more or less formal nature on particular aspects of hygiene were given by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors to various groups including Hospital Nurses, School Meals Workers, members of the Hospital Catering Service and others. The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector has a particular interest in health education on the subject of Food Hygiene and has done valuable work in this direction. The Medical Officer of Health periodically attends meetings of the Accident Prevention Committee and endeavours to focus attention on the problems of Home Safety. The Health Visitors arranged a well attended exhibition at the Taunton

Flower Show, dealing with aids and appliances for the elderly and disabled, which was found interesting and instructive. Posters referring to various matters of Public Health importance are obtained from the Ministry and from the Central Council for Health Education and are put on display in various situations in the town.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1965

Disease	No. of cases notified
Measles	354
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	30
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Meningococcal Infection	1
Dysentery	20
Whooping Cough	5
Erysipelas	2
Tuberculosis—	
Respiratory	3
Non-respiratory	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Malaria	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Cases on the Borough Register at 31.12.65...	72	12
New cases during 1965	3	1
Transfers from other districts	4	—
Deaths	2	1

From the above tables it will be seen that the only infectious disease producing a substantial number of cases during the year was measles. The disease is one which tends to show a peak of incidence during every second year, and the previous year had produced fewer cases. There is now a reliable method of immunisation against measles, though it has not so far been made universally available, but is being used with children, who, for some reason or another, are at special risk from an attack of the disease.

Scarlet Fever, with 30 cases, shows a rather higher level of notification than usual. The position here is that the disease is at present of a very mild type which responds readily to antibiotic treatment. Patients are nursed in their own homes unless there are special circumstances which render their admission to hospital desirable.

The only other infectious disease in which the number of notifications reached double figures was dysentery. The type, showing a scattered distribution in this as in other areas of the country, is due to the Sonne bacillus, and the illness produced is generally mild and quickly brought under control. There may be some danger when young babies or very old and debilitated persons acquire the infection, and dysentery can be a troublesome problem in relatively closed communities such as mental hospitals or residential schools, but speaking generally it is not of serious import at the present time.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis was very low at 3 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. This is in accordance with experience in the country as a whole where the disease, we hope, is being gradually eliminated. Concern is still felt in regard to two aspects of the epidemiology: the continuing occurrence of infection in a relatively silent form in elderly men, which may give rise to risk of spread among those with whom they have contact, and the high prevalence of the disease among immigrants. Steps are being taken at a national level to reduce the extent of the latter problem, which in any case has not made its effect felt in the Taunton area. It is certain that the administration of B.C.G. vaccine to school children has been of great help in lowering the level of tuberculous infection in the community, and this procedure deserves continued support from parents and others concerned.

IMMUNISATION

The protection against various infectious diseases which can now be given by immunisation is one of the most important of public health benefits, and has contributed largely to the decline in prevalence of these conditions and to the very great reduction in the number of deaths which they now cause. The actual procedure of immunisation is carried out either by the family doctor or at child welfare clinics and schools, and records of the immunisation of individual children residing in the borough are kept by the health department. It is hoped that very soon the recording side of the matter will be handled entirely by computer, with a resulting reduction in clerical work and an increased simplicity and certainty in ensuring that each child is called for the required injection at the correct time. The percentage of children immunised in this part of Somerset is on the whole satisfactory, and compares favourably with other areas, but this is a subject which requires to be constantly kept in the public mind, because with the present low prevalence of infectious diseases, their potential danger to health and life is all too easily forgotten.

The following table sets out the complete schedule of immunisation which is considered desirable for children at the present time :—

Age	Immunisation Procedure
1—6 months	1. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth) 4—6 weeks interval
	2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth) 4—6 weeks interval
	3. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
During 2nd year of life	4. Smallpox Vaccination
18—21 months	5. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
At School Entry	6. Diphtheria, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
8—12 years	7. Diphtheria and Tetanus (re-inforcing combined injection)
12 years	8. B.C.G. Vaccination against T.B.

Details follow of the numbers protected in Taunton at various ages in the year 1965, with brief notes referring to each of the diseases concerned :

Diphtheria.

Immunisation against diphtheria was the first mass campaign of protection against an infectious disease carried out in this country, apart from vaccination against smallpox which has never been applied to such a wide extent. The result is that, whereas there used to be thousands of deaths from diphtheria each year in England and Wales, the mortality is now almost down to vanishing point. It is necessary for the percentage of protected children in the community to be kept high in order to avoid the recurrence of outbreaks.

Numbers Immunised :—

			Primary courses	Re-inforcing Injections
Under 4 years	...	...	536	122
4—7 years	...	...	59	394
8—16 years	...	...	24	462
Totals	...	...	<u>619</u>	<u>978</u>

Whooping Cough.

This is now probably the most generally disabling of the common infectious diseases affecting young children. There are risks to life, especially in infants, and lung complications can be severe and prolonged. Immunisation is preventive in a good proportion of cases and in the remainder modifies the disease to produce a mild attack.

Numbers Immunised :—

			Primary courses	Re-inforcing Injections
Under 4 years	...	...	536	120
4—7 years	...	...	14	24
8—16 years	...	...	2	3
Totals	...	...	<u>552</u>	<u>147</u>

Tetanus.

This is an uncommon infection in this country but important because of its very severe character and the high rate of mortality in those affected. It is much commoner in some of the less developed parts of the world, and even in Europe at least 26,000 have died from this cause in the past ten years. Immunisation gives the practical certainty of complete protection.

Numbers Immunised :—

			Primary courses	Re-inforcing Injections
Under 4 years	...	...	536	122
4—7 years	...	...	67	393
8—16 years	...	...	147	383
Totals	...	...	<u>750</u>	<u>898</u>

Poliomyelitis.

It is hardly necessary to stress the misery which can result from this disease in view of the widespread epidemics which have occurred in this country within recent memory. Many of the sufferers die, and others are left with a lifetime of disablement. Immunisation is now simple with the use of vaccine given by mouth and has been largely responsible for the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis as a serious epidemic risk in this country at the present time. Here again it is essential that a high proportion of children continue to be immunised in order to avoid the danger of further outbreaks.

Numbers Immunised :—

			Primary courses	Re-inforcing Injections
Under 4 years	...	...	551	—
4—7 years	...	...	55	442
8—16 years	...	...	22	173
Totals	...	...	628	615

Smallpox.

Smallpox is one of the most deadly of all infectious diseases. Its incidence in this country has been confined in latter years to scattered outbreaks, but the dangers of large-scale epidemics are increasing owing to the ease and rapidity of air transport from countries where the disease is still endemic. Vaccination gives excellent protection, and is best done initially in the second year of life.

Numbers Immunised :—

			Primaries	Re-vaccination
Under 1 year	...	...	62	—
1 year	...	...	159	1
2—4 years	...	...	20	3
5—15 years	...	...	9	41
Totals	...	...	250	45

Tuberculosis.

One of the most dramatic improvements in the state of the national health has been the enormous fall over the period since the

last war in the prevalence of tuberculosis and in the number of deaths which it causes. There are many factors responsible for this gratifying development, and one of them undoubtedly is the beneficial effect of the widespread campaign of immunisation with B.C.G. which has been carried out. The required injection is given at about the age of twelve after preliminary skin testing to determine which children are susceptible to an attack of the disease.

Number of children tested	...	593
Number of children immunised	...	514

Yellow Fever.

This disease does not occur in Great Britain but it is still prevalent and dangerous in various parts of the world. Immunisation is very effective and is required of those proposing to travel to affected areas. Since Taunton Health Department is one of the centres in the South West where this procedure is carried out, figures of the number of cases dealt with during the year are included here.

Numbers immunised	...	222
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PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton Municipal Borough by the Somerset
County Council

Health Visiting Service

There were 7 Health Visitors engaged on work in the Borough during 1965, supervised generally by the Medical Officer of Health for Taunton in his capacity of Area Medical Officer of Health, and their activities included :—

Home Visiting of Children.

Number of cases dealt with :—

Children under one year ...	...	664
Children aged one to five years ...	...	2,658

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 inspection 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 matters referred to and dealt with by the Health Visitors are problems of handicapped persons, infectious diseases, difficult school 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.

Number of children who attended were as follows :—

642 attended Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

331 attended All Saint's Church Hall, Halcon, on Wednesday afternoons.

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

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

A total attendance of 10,062 children under 5 years of age, including 759 new cases. This is an increase of 543 over the previous year.

Liaison with Family Doctors.

A scheme of attachment of Health Visitors to general medical practices in the Borough was worked out in the latter part of the year, and a meeting of all the medical practitioners concerned was held before the end of 1965 to discuss the merits of the arrangement and settle details of organisation. I am pleased to report enthusiastic co-operation from the local doctors in the launching of this scheme. What it means in practice is that each health visitor, instead of attending to mothers, babies and others in a geographically defined segment of the town, will be attached to the practice of one or more general practitioners and will deal with families on his list who may be residing in any part of the Borough. The advantage, in brief, is that doctor and health visitor can have ready consultation on problems in the nursing and medico-social fields affecting patients in the particular practice concerned. This is a great step forward in the unification of medical care, and will replace a state of affairs in which the doctor and health visitor were all too often working in ignorance of each others activities. The same arrangement has been planned in the case of local district nurses and midwives. The scheme was due to come into operation in the early months of 1966.

Ante-natal Clinics.

The blood test 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 fortnightly on Mondays 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 1965, 169 women attended and the total number of attendances was 728.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing.

31,460 midwifery and nursing visits were made to patients in their own homes during the year by domiciliary midwives and nurses. These included a large number of special visits to old people. The demands of domiciliary nursing are increasing because of the shortage of hospital beds and 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 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.

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, 39 premature infants were born in hospitals of whom 2 died; four (of whom one died) were born at home.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

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

Certain brands of dried milk, babies cereals and vitamin C syrups are sold at approximately cost price to mothers and children who attend the Clinics.

Home Help Service.

During 1965, 344 Borough residents received assistance from the Home Help Service, as against 329 in 1964.

Help was sent for the following reasons : —

Maternity	...	...	...	27
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	12
Old Age	...	...	...	231
General Illness	...	...	...	5
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	36
Post Operative	...	...	...	20
Care of Children	...	...	...	6
Mental Illness	...	...	...	6
Accidents	...	...	...	1

Of these, 187 remained on the books at 31st December, 1965, after having received continuous help for a minimum of twelve months.

This Service is handicapped in the Borough by lack of suitable local recruits, and many of the Home Helps employed travel from outlying districts.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane, Taunton.

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1965, was as follows :—

Number In- spected	Number requiring Treat- ment	Number treated	Extractions		Fillings		Other Treatment (Dentures, Crowns Orthodontics, X-rays, etc.)
			Decid.	Perm.	Decid.	Perm.	
6,450	4,114	2,300	927	551	1,782	5,193	1,168

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 ...	41	174
2. Number found to require treatment	35	109
3. Number of cases treated	43	99
4. Number of attendances	200	442
5. Dentures provided	13	Nil

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

Day Nursery.

The nursery is situated at Victoria Park where it has occupied a temporary building dating from the war years. These premises, which accommodate 30 children, had become very unsatisfactory for their purpose, and during 1965, plans were prepared for the provision of a new building to be erected on a site at Holway Road. It was expected that the new premises would be available in the summer of 1966, and this will enable much better facilities to be offered. Tribute should be paid to the Matron and Staff of the Day Nursery who have given devoted service to their small charges over many years under very difficult conditions, and who will be continuing this work in better surroundings. The new nursery will have places for 35 children as against the figure of 30 for the old building.

There is a heavier demand for day nursery accommodation in Taunton than can be satisfied by the places available. A waiting list is kept and children have to be admitted according to priority of need, the sort of circumstances which qualify for high priority being divorce or separation of the parents, prolonged parental illness, deficient housing accommodation, mismanagement or neglect of the children, and so on. In 1965, 29 out of the 34 children admitted fell into first priority categories according to the classification which is in use, and thus it seems clear that there is a social need for additional nursery provision to be made available in the town. This, however, is not the present policy of the bodies responsible for making this provision, namely the County Council and the Ministry of Health. It is understood that their reasons for not favouring the extension of nursery services are mainly financial.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Women's Voluntary Service continued with their excellent scheme of providing cooked meals to old people in the Borough. A hot meal is provided at mid-day on two days of each week to individual old people who are normally unable to leave their homes. During 1965 an average of 68 cases received this benefit, and during the course of the year a total of 6,916 meals were distributed. It is of interest that one old lady, a former recipient of the meals who died in 1964, left a sum of money to the W.V.S. Trustees to purchase a van for helping with the delivery of meals in Taunton. This has been done and the van has been in use during 1965, its maintenance being undertaken jointly by the Taunton Borough Council and the Somerset County Council.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The fortnightly service at the Old Gas Works Car Park was operated throughout the year, and a total of 1,242 examinations were made.

The reports on these were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	577	665	1,242
Abnormalities detected.			
Acquired cardiac lesion	3	1	4
Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs	5	1	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	—	4
Goitre	—	1	1
Localised Fibrosis	1	—	1
Sarcoidosis	1	1	2
Healed Pulm. Tuberculosis	4	6	10
No diagnosis received	1	—	1
	19	10	29

In addition to this a number of systematic surveys were done of the staff of various institutions and industrial establishments which produced the following results :—

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	3,045	1,842	4,887

				Male	Female	Total
Abnormalities Detected.						
Healed pulm. Tuberculosis	...			14	3	17
Active pulm. Tuberculosis	...			2	—	2
Acquired cardiac lesion	...			7	8	15
Abnormality of diaphragm	...			3	1	4
Bacterial and virus infection of						
the lungs	...	...	...	1	2	3
Chronic bronchitis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...			4	3	7
Benign tumours	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	2	1	3
Pleural thickening	...	...	...	4	—	4
Abnormality of bony thorax	...			1	—	1
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Foreign body in lung	...	...	...	1	—	1
Multiple Exostosis	...	...	...	1	—	1
				40	21	61

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

This is a matter which is dealt with personally by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy. Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1947 provides that, when the Medical Officer of Health has good reason to believe that a person in the district is aged and infirm, is living in insanitary conditions, and is not receiving proper care and attention, he may after thorough enquiry and investigation of the circumstances advise the Council that a court order should be sought requiring the patient's compulsory removal to hospital or other institution. It should be emphasised that it is only when things come to a very serious pass that this step is taken. It has happened very seldom indeed in this area since the Act came into force. Nevertheless the powers are occasionally required, and during 1965, one such case was dealt with in this way in the Borough.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The main Ambulance Station and Control for South-West Somerset is situated at Parkfield Drive, Taunton. 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
- 24 Driver/Attendants

All vehicles are equipped with two-way radio communication.

The following details refer to patients carried and mileage run by vehicles at the Taunton Station during 1965 :—

Ambulances	...	12,225	120,820
Sitting-case			
Ambulances	...	21,470	170,057
Cars		1,437	25,335

On referring to the figures for the previous year it will be seen that the ambulance runs have decreased, while there has been a slight increase in the running of ambulance cars.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following main drainage works have been undertaken during the year :—

(a) Grays Road Sewer Reconstruction

This is a short length of new sewer in Grays Road to replace an existing length of sewer in a bad condition which ran along the backs of the houses fronting Grays Road. The work is now nearly complete.

Estimated cost £5,000

(b) New Sewer—Vivary Park

This sewer has been laid to serve the Bowling Club and Golf Club Pavilion which previously lacked main drainage.

Estimated cost £2,050

(c) Pyrland Farm Foul Water Sewer

This is a small main sewer to connect Pyrland Farm near the Slapes Estate which previously lacked main drainage facilities.

Estimated cost £1,500

(d) Moor Fields Sewer

A new main sewer of 24in. dia. running from Ruishton to serve the new Moor Fields Housing Estate.

Estimated cost £25,000

(e) **New Siphon under the River Tone at Priory Bridge in conjunction with the new River Cut**

This plan consists of 2—30in., 1—27in. and 1—12in. pipe and replaces an old brick siphon of very limited capacity.

Estimated cost £15,000

The Sewage Disposal Works.

The Sewage Disposal Works has maintained a satisfactory standard of effluent throughout the year. Discussions are, however, taking place with the River Authority for an improved standard of effluent as a result of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1961. During the year a new screen chamber was constructed at the Sewage Works to improve the treatment of the crude sewage by the removal of rags, straw and other large obstructions by mechanical and automatic means. The screens were put into operation in October and are functioning satisfactorily.

Estimated cost £11,000

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Pilot Paper Sack scheme for approximately 500 domestic properties in the north part of the town was introduced in July. The scheme employs sacks and sack holders, and the cost of the sacks to each household works out at about £1 a year. Householders may purchase additional sacks if required and collection is made from the backdoor instead of the front gate as hitherto. Generally, comments regarding the scheme from the householders concerned have been favourable.

A new refuse collection vehicle of 35 cubic yards capacity has been delivered and put into operation. This vehicle has almost double capacity of the existing vehicles. Compaction of the refuse within the vehicle is carried out by mechanical means.

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. J. Moat, 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 District 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 3,433,000 gallons, giving a figure of 44.6 gallons per head per day. In addition to this, 927,580 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 Board's 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 bacteriological sampling of treated water :—

Satisfactory
261

Unsatisfactory
8

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

HOUSING

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

In the period between the end of the last war and the end of 1965, the number of houses erected by the Borough acting as Local Authority was 3,043 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 979.

Of the post-war houses built by the Council the majority were three-bedroomed houses, although a substantial number of two-bed-roomed houses, two-bedroomed flats, one bed-roomed flats and two-bedroomed temporary bungalows had also been erected.

During the year 1965, 63 houses were completed for the Council and 61 were in course of erection. In the same period 138 houses were built by private enterprise, 10 conversions were carried out, and 104 private enterprise houses were in course of erection.

A row of 14 old houses was dealt with as a Clearance Area during the course of the year, details of the circumstances being set out in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report.

Owing to the ageing of the population, the demand for older persons' dwellings is constantly increasing. Up to the end of 1965 accommodation of this kind, with warden service, had been made available for 206 people, 189 of the houses being flats and 17 bungalows. There are 30 units planned at Wilton Park and approximately 60 at Moor Fields. The Housing Committee are fully aware of the need for this type of accommodation, and are building a high proportion of it in relation to their total housing 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 :—

1949	...	...	...	1,889
1954	...	...	...	1,701
1959	...	...	...	943
1964	...	...	...	586
1965	...	...	...	573

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during the year 1965 :—

			Applications	No. of dwellings
Received	...	...	16	16
Approved	...	...	15	15

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year—14.

Average cost per dwelling approved during year—£483.

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority —£280

Standard.

1.	Number of applications (a) Received	...	...	39
	(b) Approved	...	...	36
2.	Number of Houses where Standard Amenities have been provided	...	...	13
	Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year	...	...	29

Improvements to Concrete Houses at Lambrook Estate.

The first stage of these improvements has just been completed, comprising 44 concrete houses built in 1926. These houses had no modern amenities and only an external toilet. Old baths, hot water geysers, shallow sinks and fireplaces were removed and the interior completely replanned to give a new bathroom, and a hot water system. The walls have been insulated and the whole property redecorated.

The houses cost about £400 each when they were built and the improvements have been carried out at a cost of something over £850 each.

The Housing Committee have decided to invite tenders for the modernisation of a further 55 of these concrete houses.

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 principal 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 extensions 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	...	...	...	...	30	1	31
Health	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Housing Maintenance	...	...	...	...	6	0	6
Library	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Town Clerk	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Treasurer	...	...	...	...	9	1	10
					50	8	58

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1965.

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

It is with much pleasure that I present my Annual Report for 1965. As in previous years work in connection with the inspection of meat has accounted for the largest share of the manifold duties undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors: and has in fact encroached even further than before on other important work. This is a state of affairs which should not be allowed to continue; as the routine inspection of houses has fallen into great arrears, and the majority of Houses in Multiple Occupation remain unvisited after 3½ years. Clearly a solution must be found; and it is suggested that the employment of Meat Inspectors or Technical Assistants working under the direct supervision of the Public Health Inspectors would relieve them of much of the basic routine of inspection: and at the same time enable such officers to be released for other essential duties.

Considerable progress has been made with the work of inspection and record making of premises registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Mrs. J. R. Hayes, a Technical Assistant, has been employed full time in connection therewith; and all the Public Health Inspectors have undertaken similar work from time to time.

During the year I was able to attend a very instructive and interesting conference in London on noise measurement and abatement. This extremely difficult and complex problem seems destined to become more and more part of this modern age: and it is only by a well-informed knowledge of the technical nature of the problem that such nuisances can be alleviated. Often it is a delicate problem of reconciling the needs of industry and commerce: against reasonable living conditions and the health of people living in certain noise-prone areas.

Mr. A. E. Eames, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector has continued to give his lectures on environmental health and hygiene. It is felt that the scope and frequency of such lectures could be extended to the benefit of all concerned; but unfortunately at the present there is little time for such extension.

I join with the Medical Officer of Health in welcoming to the staff Mrs. D. Hamilton who joined us in October as Senior Clerk; and in offering congratulations to Mr. S. Turner—Pupil Public Health Inspector—on passing his First Year Examination at Bristol Technical College.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and 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	149
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts	306
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act	88
Re-inspections under the above Acts	909
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	252
Miscellaneous housing inspections	54
Smoke observations, etc.	109
Moveable dwellings	53
Dealers in old metal	2
Infectious diseases and disinfections	3
Drainage, in connection with	697
Factories	876
Verminous or infested premises	53
Interviews	743
Noise, in connection with	46
Offensive trades	15
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections	283
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits	643
Pet Shops	10
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment	8
Refuse collection and disposal	60
Rag Flock premises	2
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)	119
Schools	10
Shops (Shops Acts)	59
Water Sampling	254
Miscellaneous visits	425

Housing Repairs.

The repair of unfit houses has always been one of the most essential and important of the duties enforced by the Public Health Inspectors. However with the ever increasing encroachment of other work, it has only been possible during the year to deal with those premises where the tenants have made complaints direct to the Health Department. Such work has, for the most part, been dealt with under powers conferred by the Public Health Act.

The reluctance of builders to undertake work of this nature has increased; and often willing landlords have great difficulty in securing a builder who will undertake such comparatively unluccrative commissions.

This state of affairs has been reflected in the greatly extended time lag between the inception of a complaint and the completion of the necessary works of repairs, which are often of a minor character. This results in much time wasting by the Inspectors in making revisits to the various premises; and a sense of frustration by the tenants who become exasperated by the non-appearance of the builder.

During the year 697 visits were made concerning defective drainage, which among other things resulted in 48 sewers and drains being cleared of obstructions. The total number of items which received attention was 1,016.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Drains cleared	48
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired ...	36
New drains provided	25
Sewers cleared	48
Cesspools emptied	—
Inspection chambers built	19
Inspection chambers repaired	63
Inspection chambers—new covers provided ...	5
New gullies provided	7
Yard surfaces renewed	12
Eaves gutters renewed	12
Eaves gutters repaired	11
Rainwater pipes renewed	10
Waterclosets provided	18
W.C. pans renewed	35
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	37
Flush pipes repaired	1
W.C.'s—new seats provided	1
Roofs renewed	10
Roofs repaired	36
Chimney stacks rebuilt	3
Chimney stacks repaired	13
Chimneys—flashings renewed	2
Walls rebuilt	4
External walls repaired	39
Ceilings renewed or repaired	37
Floors renewed	13
Floors repaired	20
Skirting boards renewed	11
Waste pipe renewed	3
Sub-floor ventilation improved	—
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	45
Dampness abated	60
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	9
Doors renewed or repaired	9
New windows provided	20
Windows repaired	37
Window sills renewed	6
Windows—sash cords provided	15
Natural lighting improved	9
Ventilation improved	5
Water service pipes renewed	3
Water heating systems installed	41
Bath provided	45
Wash-hand basins provided	46
Kitchen sinks provided	36
Staircases repaired	10
Ventilated food cupboards provided	39
Electric services repaired	2
Total	<u>1,016</u>

HOUSING ACTS

During the year surveys were carried out of two areas with a view to the possibility of declaring them to be Improvement Areas as defined in the Housing Act, 1964. The two areas selected comprised brick built terraced houses, erected fifty or more years ago. Most of them were of the three-bedroom type with a living room, kitchen and scullery on the ground floor.

The two areas comprised 108 houses in Grays Road, Noble Street, Blake Street and Viney Street and 126 in Herbert Street, William Street, Thomas Street and Grove Terrace. The total number of houses which were Owner-Occupied was 62 (57%) in the first mentioned area, and 101 (80%) in the other. In the light of former experience this number would appear to be steadily increasing and most new Owner-Occupiers were found to be providing the Improvements of their own free will. The number of Owner-Occupied houses without the amenities was very small, and in most instances were occupied by elderly Owners of long standing, who generally were unable to expend large sums of money on providing the amenities. Nearly all the houses in the Owner-Occupied category were in a satisfactory state of repair.

The tenanted premises for the most part were found to be lacking in the amenities, and in 38 instances the tenants expressed a desire for their provision. However in some instances this desire was coupled with a reservation that any substantial increase in rent could not be afforded and in others the size of the tenants family or the physical arrangements of the houses and their surroundings precluded the formation of a bathroom or indoor toilet. As a rough guide it has been estimated that the rent increase would be in the region of 15/- per week (present average rent is approximately 25/- per week) where an extension is necessary to provide a bathroom; but would be less where a bedroom or other room was adapted for such use.

The state of repair of these tenanted properties was lower than in the Owner-Occupied category, and included several where a considerable amount of work would be needed to bring them up to standard.

In the table accompanying this report I have set out the details of the various conditions found in the two areas.

Having regard to the comparatively small number of houses where amenities are lacking, and the almost automatic improvement of such premises on being sold, it was doubtful if it would serve any useful purpose to declare either of the areas to be Improvement Areas. Such a decision would have entailed considerable administrative work, and where the tenants did not wish for such Improvements to be made, action could be delayed for as long as five years or until the particular house was sold. It was therefore suggested that in the first instance it might be best to revisit those houses where the tenants have already expressed a desire for the Improvements to be made. Such persons could be advised of the procedure whereby they can make individual applications for the Improvements to be made to the Local Authority, who are empowered to serve on the Owners concerned the same Improvement Notices as laid down in the Improvement Area procedure. The result of such action is still awaited.

During the year one group of houses was declared a Clearance Area, and was later confirmed by the Minister.

Nearly eight hundred inspections and visits were made under the Housing Acts for various purposes: and various individual houses were the subject of Closing Orders or of Undertakings not to let. The details of which are as follows :—

Houses Closed under Section 17	...	...	...	...	1
Houses where Undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	2
Houses where Undertakings have been determined	...	...	...	...	3
Parts of Premises where Undertakings have been determined	...	...	...	...	1

The following premises have been demolished :—

Houses in confirmed Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	14
Houses in Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	2
Houses the subject of Undertakings to demolish	...	...	...	...	9
Unfit homes for other development	...	...	...	...	42

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

It is a source of great concern that this extremely important sphere of housing has received little attention in so far as the inspection of fresh premises has been concerned. In fact only eight such premises received attention, and these involved 23 separate lettings. The reason for this "falling off" is due to other calls on the time of the Health Department—mainly concerned with meat inspection which has steadily increased over the last five years, and the inspection of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. It is extremely difficult in the circumstances to know just how the available man-hours can be utilized to the best advantage.

The total number of Houses in Multiple Occupation so far inspected is 80 involving well over 300 separate lettings.

During the year 252 visits were made to these premises in connection with the enforcement of notices (served mainly in preceeding years) requiring certain works to be carried out or amenities provided, etc. As a result the undermentioned items received attention. One of the most rewarding items during the year was the renovation and conversion of a large type house which had had a chequered career as a cafe, lodging house and hotel, and had fallen into squalor and extreme disrepair. The Owner made a very commendable effort and spent several thousand pounds to provide one self contained flat and five flatlets with all amenities.

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External.

Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Extra dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	7
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5

Internal.

Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	21
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Staircase repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	25
Staircases redecorated	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	21
Lighting and/or ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	22
Ladders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
New ventilated ladders provided	...	...	...	...	19
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	...	7
Electric fittings repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	13
Heating installations provided/repared	...	...	...	...	3
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	19
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand basin renewed/repared	...	...	...	...	1
Sink and/or draining board renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Cooking facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	...	8
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	3
Additional bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	5
Baths renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Other Items.

Units of accommodation closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	—
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-occupation	...	...	...	...	17
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	...	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	...	350

Complaints.

During the year 882 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	78
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	121
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	216
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	173
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	182
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	112

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24.

During the year 48 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 14 proposals for new boiler installations were considered and in five cases the chimney height was modified in accordance with our recommendations. It is encouraging to record that architects and others concerned with new buildings are now more prepared to consult the department regarding chimney height and new installations.

A number of complaints were again received regarding smuts being emitted from oil fired combustion equipment and with this type of complaint considerable investigation is required in order to eliminate the source of the trouble. Complaints were also received regarding fume nuisance from low chimneys in the area, a reminder that visible smoke is not the only source of pollution.

As far as domestic pollution is concerned the new Building Regulations will come into effect next year and subject to some qualification should ensure that only improved appliances are fitted in new houses.

RENT ACT, 1957.

During the year one Certificate of Disrepair was issued—this was the first 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 131 treatments were carried out for the eradication of vermin. Wasps accounted for 82 of these treatments compared with 43 in the previous year. The remainder of the treatments concerned the eradication of ants, silver fish, cockroaches and fleas.

RODENT CONTROL

The number of inspections and visits in connection with rodent control showed little variation from the previous year. Mr. L. Wood, the Rodent Operator, has continued with the system of regular surveys of various districts in the Borough: and this has provided much useful information as to the degree of infestation—if any—of the districts concerned.

It is disturbing to note that rats in certain parts of the country are becoming immune to the toxic effects of Warfarin. This, I feel, may most likely be due to the improper use of the poison in the hands of unskilled operators. Here in Taunton it has been decided to revert to the use of other poisons for periods of a month twice in each year so as to minimise any chance of rodents becoming Warfarin-resistant.

The use of a new rodenticide, which received much publicity, was tried out experimentally but was not found to be so effective as the older methods.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	309
Visits involved	...	...	...	856
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	289
Visits involved	...	...	...	768
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	92
Visits involved	...	...	...	289
Survey visits	...	...	...	77
Wasps' nests destroyed	...	...	...	82
Other vermin, etc.	...	...	...	49

Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out in 3 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 four; 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	...	...	...	...	...	5
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

These premises are subject to regular inspection, and during the year one sample of rag flock was analysed and found to be of the required standard.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

This Act came into force on 1st April and replaced Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1861.

Under this Act Local Authorities are required to maintain registers of persons carrying on business in their area as scrap metal merchants. Registration to be renewed every three years. Dealers are also required to keep records of their transactions; and are forbidden to acquire scrap metal from a person apparently under the age of 16 years.

Number of Dealers registered under this Act ... 22

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 were 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.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water.

During the year 180 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; and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1,360
Wholesale Meat Depots	...	...	...	250
Butchers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	85
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	57
Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	123
Grocers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	305
Food preparation premises	...	...	...	100
Restaurants and Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	164
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	81
Other visits	...	...	...	539
Total	...	...	...	3,064

This total is about 100 less than in the previous year; but it still represents about 33% of the total number of inspections and visits of all types of premises carried out during 1965.

This figure reflects very accurately the great importance which is laid on all stages of food inspection; and the securing of high standards of hygiene both as to personnel, premises and equipment. It is work which calls for the most careful and constant vigilance; and every effort is made to secure a constant improvement in this sphere.

Milk Supply.

There are 8 registered Dairies, and 29 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 4 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	...	...	...	...	114

Food Preparation Premises.

The total of such premises is 54, 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

This routine has continued throughout the year, and has now become standard practice. It is complementary to the inspection of food preparation and catering premises: and serves as a good guide as to the standard of hygiene practised in any particular premises.

Whilst the laboratory reports more often than not indicate the complete absence of pathogenic organisms the results cannot be considered as in any way negative. The cost of such work is amply justified in the increased awareness of the food handlers as to the absolute necessity for the practice of a high standard of hygiene at all times; as any slackness is usually reflected in adverse laboratory reports.

Whilst such sampling does much to improve the bacteriological standard of any food, it does not of necessity ensure its absolute purity. This can only be achieved when the food handlers are examined to ascertain if they themselves are "carriers": and unfortunately at the present time there is no legal obligation for this to be done. Needless to say the more enlightened manufacturers have adopted the practice as part of their routine.

Details of the various samples are given below.

Artificial Cream.

Regular sampling of this product has continued, and it is very encouraging to be able to report that none of 105 samples submitted to the laboratory for examination showed any evidence of pathogenic

contamination. About one-fifth of the samples were obtained from the bakehouses or places of manufacture : and the rest from confectionery on display in the shops. Such samples besides those of local origin included ones from national manufacturers.

Ice Cream.

During the year 55 samples of Ice Cream were examined. Half of them were from national manufacturers, and the rest were either Complete Cold Mix or Soft Ice Cream made within the Borough.

Two unsatisfactory results were obtained. The first concerned a wrapped block made by one of the national manufacturers, and the other Soft Ice Cream. A complete investigation was made in each case, and in the first instance no satisfactory explanation could be found, though subsequent sampling proved satisfactory. In the case of the Soft Ice Cream, it was thought that incomplete cleansing of the manufacturing equipment was the cause: and after the operator had been instructed in the correct technique, no further unsatisfactory results were forthcoming.

Details are as follows :—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	25	1	1	—
Cold Mix	17	2	—	—
Soft Ice Cream	8	—	1	—

Liquid Egg.

Twenty-one samples of raw and twenty-eight of pasteurised liquid egg were tested. The former are examined for the presence of pathogens, and the latter to ascertain compliance with the Alpha-Amylase Test. In each instance satisfactory results were obtained.

Meat Products, etc.

During the year 139 samples were examined, and none gave any pathogenic results. However four revealed the presence of Staph. Aureus which indicated a degree of contamination. In each instance a thorough investigation was made and the persons at fault made aware of the possible dangers of improper hygiene practice as to their persons, equipment and premises.

Details of samples are as follows :—

Beef—boiled	2	Beef—corned	4
Beef—burgers	1	Beef—minced	6
Beef—brisket	1	Beef—roast	1
Black pudding	7	Bullock's Heart	1
Brandenburge Teewurst	1	Brawn	5
Chicklets	1	Chicken, Turkey and Veal	1
Faggots	11	Ham—boiled	7
Ham—Lachas Chinken	1	Hazlet	1
Liver Sausage	5	Luncheon Meat	6
Luncheon Sausage	3	Meat Savourie	2
Ox Tongue	3	Pasties	12
Pie—Bacon and Egg ...	1	Pie—Beef and Onion ...	1
Pie—Steak and Kidney	6	Pie—Veal, Ham and Egg	1
Polony	4	Pork—Brawn	1
Pork—Meat	1	Pork—Pâte	1
Pork—Pie	9	Pork—Stuffed Roll ...	2
Sausage—Beef	7	Sausage—Roll	3
Sausage—Pork	8	Salami (Foreign types)	6
Steaklette	1	Tripe	2

Water.

The routine examination of water has continued, and 279 samples were submitted to the laboratory. Of this total 28 were of raw water from the Fulwood Works, and 26 from a private well. Five samples of the town's water showed a very slight marginal contamination, and this was thought to be due to a certain amount of disturbance caused during work on an adjacent main. This condition was soon cleared up. All other samples were 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)	602
Fish	225
Fish products	189
Soups	85
Milk, cream, rice	106
Fruit (various)	603
Fruit Juices (various) ...	29
Peas	283
Baked beans	72
Tomatoes	351
Carrots	10
Other vegetables	165
Chicken	22
Miscellaneous	193

OTHER FOODS

Jams	...	...	...	...	...	111 jars
Cakes and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	3 pkts.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	295 lbs.
Meat paste	...	...	...	...	...	2 jars
Butter and Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	30½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	103 lbs.
Cooking fats	...	...	...	...	...	7½ lbs.
Spreads, relishes	...	...	...	...	...	7 jars
Pickles and sauces	...	...	...	...	...	13 jars
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	114 lbs.
Meat pies	...	...	...	...	...	161
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	161½ lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	15 pkts.
Beverages	...	...	...	...	...	2 bottles
Cornish cream	...	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	27 items

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The routine inspection of food premises of all types has continued throughout the year, and 1,212 such visits were made as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	123
Butchers	...	...	...	...	225
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	143
Canteens	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	23
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	100
Fried Fish Premises	...	...	...	...	21
Grocers	...	...	...	...	271
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	34
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	54
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	81
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	125
					1,212

This total shows a drop of about 33% over the previous years 1,765. The decrease is due in part to the fact that in 1964 an extra 250 visits were carried out in connection with the tracing of suspected tins of corned beef following the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak: and partly to the fact that an ever increasing amount of time has to be spent by all the Public Health Inspectors on meat inspection.

As a result of these visits numerous informal notices were served on the occupiers to carry out certain works to bring their premises into conformity with the Food Hygiene Regulations. A total of 261 items received attention, and premises were the subject of works of major reconstruction. The details of the various items are given in the accompanying table.

Details of legal proceedings taken during the year are as follows :

Offence	Result
1. Mould on sausage meat	Both Firm and Manager fined £10 each plus 10/- costs
Butcher failing to wear head covering whilst carrying pig carcase	£2 fine imposed
3. Mould in carton of dairy cream ...	£15 fine imposed

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1965

	Butchers & Fish-mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction ...	2	—	1	1	—	4
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	9	—	5	3	3	20
Walls redecorated ...	8	4	13	8	1	34
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	5	1	2	3	2	13
Ceilings redecorated ...	3	3	12	7	1	26
Floors repaired or renewed ...	2	1	3	2	1	9
Improvement of lighting ...	2	—	2	3	1	8
Improvement of ventilation ...	1	—	2	3	—	6
Renewed or repaired drainage ...	1	—	2	2	—	5
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided ...	1	—	3	4	—	8
Hot water supply provided ...	—	1	4	1	1	7
New draining boards provided ...	—	—	2	1	—	3
Preparation tables, etc. retopped ...	3	—	4	4	—	11
New equipment, etc. provided ...	1	—	3	2	—	6
Dustbins provided ...	2	—	1	4	—	7
Means of protection of food provided ...	6	—	3	2	—	11
Refrigerators provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refrigerated Display/Storage ...	—	—	2	—	—	2
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ...	—	—	1	2	—	3
New flushing cisterns provided ...	—	—	1	1	1	3
Sanitary accommodation repaired ...	1	1	3	1	1	7
Sanitary accommodation redecorated ...	1	—	4	3	3	11
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	1	—	4	5	—	10
Improved lighting ...	1	—	—	2	—	3
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand Basins provided ...	—	—	3	3	—	6
Hot water supply provided ...	—	—	2	2	—	4
Toilet requisites provided ...	1	—	3	3	—	7
Provision of lockers ...	1	2	3	1	—	7
Redecoration of toilet accommodation ...	—	—	3	3	—	6
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ...	—	—	1	1	—	2
Treatments for infestations ...	—	2	—	12	—	14
Provision of first-aid materials ...	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	51	16	91	88	15	261

PESTICIDES IN FOOD

Considerable attention has been focussed on the use of pesticides in agriculture and there is widespread concern regarding the long term effect of these pesticides, particularly those of a more persistent nature. Little attention has however been given to the use of these pesticides in retail food premises, particularly by means of automatic thermal vapourising units which dispense a fine vapour containing the pesticides into the atmosphere of the room where it eventually forms a deposit on the counters, shelving or food displayed or stored in the room.

A limited survey was carried out in Taunton with the willing co-operation and advice of the County Analyst, Miss Peden and her staff, and the results confirmed our view that the use of these thermal dispensers could deposit significant amounts of pesticides on food displayed in shops.

A Government Committee of Inquiry into the use of Pesticides is expected to report further on the use of pesticides towards the end of 1966 and in the meantime more research into this problem is urgently required. The introduction of less toxic pesticides and more stringent controls on their use in food premises is essential, but whether the use of thermal vapourising units can be justified in view of their random spraying technique is open to serious doubts.

Summary of Survey Results.

SHOP A.

Storage shelf scrapings per sq. ft.	284 p.p.m. Lindane	
Bacon per sq. ft. surface ...	1.5 p.p.m. Lindane	
Cheese per sq. ft. surface ...	1.25 p.p.m. Lindane	
	Lindane content calculated on whole sample	Lindane content surface layer only
Cheese (Cheddar) ...	0.70 p.p.m.	—
Bacon ...	0.55 p.p.m.	—
Cheese (Canadian) ...	Nil	—
Sugar (Demerara) ...	Nil	—
Raisins ...	0.13 p.p.m.	—
Dried Apricots ...	0.55 p.p.m.	—
Candied peel ...	0.60 p.p.m.	—
Cheese (Blue) ...	0.12 p.p.m.	—
Bacon (sliced) ...	0.14 p.p.m.	—
Ice cream (Choc. bar) wrapped ...	Nil	—
Deposit on counter ...	558.0 p.p.m.	—
Deposit on ceiling ...	60.5 per cent.	—

SHOP B.

Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	0.06 p.p.m.	—
Apples	...	...	...	...	0.07 p.p.m.	0.40 p.p.m.
Plums	...	...	...	...	0.04 p.p.m.	—
Cucumber	...	...	...	...	Nil	0.10 p.p.m.

SHOP C.

Shortcake	...	...	...	...	0.3 p.p.m.	2.0 p.p.m.
Split (cake)	...	...	...	...	0.2 p.p.m.	0.82 p.p.m.
Currant puffs	...	...	...	...	0.28 p.p.m.	1.2 p.p.m.
Cushions (cakes)	...	...	...	...	0.3 p.p.m.	1.6 p.p.m.
Dust and deposit	...	...	...	...	6.6 per cent.	—

SHOP D.

Grapefruit	...	...	...	...	1.7 p.p.m.	—
Apples	...	...	...	...	1.4 p.p.m.	8.8 p.p.m.
Marrow	...	...	...	...	0.5 p.p.m.	—

An experiment was also carried out in three different shops, by leaving six petri dishes at each one, in positions near the thermal dispenser normally occupied by foods on sale. One of the dishes was removed from the shop each day and the gamma-B.H.C. estimated in the collected dust.

The results are as follows :—

Length of exposure in days	Weight of gamma-B.H.C. deposited in micrograms per square foot		
	Shop 1	Shop 2	Shop 3
1	0.52	0.69	6.20
2	0.87	1.10	8.50
3	1.56	1.84	13.10
4	1.68	1.94	17.00
5	1.94	2.04	20.00
7	2.17	2.37	21.30

It can be seen that pesticides deposition in the third shop was almost ten times as great as it was in the other two, but this could be accounted for by the fact that the thermal dispensing unit in this case had just been renewed.

Meat Inspection.

Meat inspection is the most demanding and time consuming of any of the duties which fall to the lot of the Public Health Inspector; and in this respect Taunton is no exception. During the last six years there has been a steady increase in the total number of animals killed each year (see accompanying graph). This increase together with the additional work associated with the implementation

of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and their meat marking requirements has made ever-increasing encroachments on the number of man-hours available to the Health Department for all duties.

It will be appreciated that meat inspection is a duty which overrides all others, and as a consequence many other important duties often have to be relegated to second place. Much of the frustration and inconvenience could be avoided if the times of slaughtering were fixed by statutory implement to reasonable hours, which would eliminate late evening and week-end work. The modern butcher with his refrigerators and cool rooms would suffer no inconvenience.

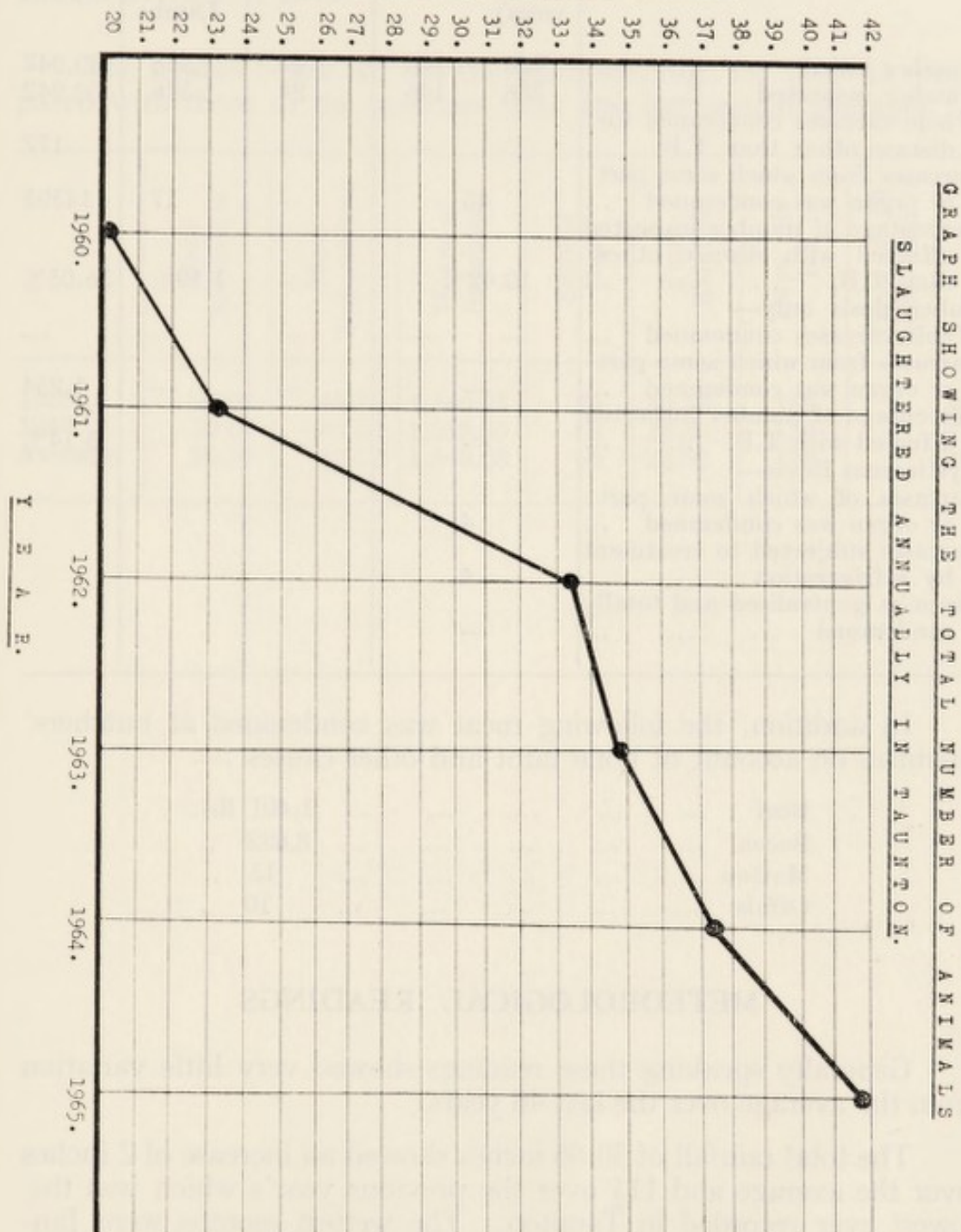
In Taunton two Public Health Inspectors are on duty together at the bacon factory for the greater part of each week; whilst a third deals with the two small private slaughterhouses. These latter whilst not having a very big "kill" each week, do however spread their work over four or five days so that a considerable amount of time is spent in inspecting and marking a disproportionately small number of carcasses. As a consequence of this meat inspection, it means that there is virtually only one Public Health Inspector available each week for other essential duties; and even this is not possible for sixteen weeks of the year when staff are taking their annual leave.

It is felt that in the present circumstances the best means of improving the position would be to have a Meat Inspector working full time at the bacon factory under the control of a Public Health Inspector. This would then release the second Public Health Inspector for other general duties such as the inspection of houses, houses in multiple occupation and food premises, etc.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	286
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	146
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	1,546
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	39,942

NUMBERS OF ANIMALS IN THOUSANDS
SLAUGHTERED ANNUALLY.



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	286	146	24	1,546	39,942
Number inspected	286	146	24	1,546	39,942
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B. ...	—	—	—	—	172
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	45	—	—	17	14395
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	10.42%	—	—	1.10%	36.03%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1,254
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	3.14%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	1,401 lbs.
Bacon	8,892 „
Mutton	13 „
Offals	10 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

Generally speaking these readings showed very little variation from the average over the last 46 years.

The total rainfall of 30.86 inches showed an increase of 2 inches over the average and $11\frac{1}{2}$ over the previous year's which was the lowest ever recorded in Taunton. The wettest months were January, July, November and December when over four inches were recorded; and the driest was October with only .30 inches. The heaviest single fall on any day was .96 inches in January.

As to barometric readings the highest was 30.73 in February, and the lowest 28.51 in January.

There were no particularly outstanding temperature readings: and the total hours of sunshine were almost identical with the annual average of 1549.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1965 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
1965 ...	29.94	49.71	1,540.25	54	30.38	169	138
1964 ...	30.07	49.99	1,519.50	68	19.38	139	97
Average	29.93	49.57	1,549.08	66	28.82	178	125

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1965

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	29.81	30.63	28.51	39.44	53	20	50.75	5.00	14	4.30	17	14	0.96
February	30.35	30.73	29.79	38.21	50	19	59.00	7.25	10	.14	4	2	0.06
March	29.93	30.51	29.26	43.06	69	13	150.50	10.00	1	3.43	16	14	*0.94
April	29.93	30.38	29.50	47.83	65	27	175.50	10.75	2	.95	10	7	0.46
May	29.94	30.24	29.27	53.09	78	31	193.75	0.38	1	1.78	14	13	0.38
June	29.95	30.42	29.52	57.98	75	37	200.75	13.50	—	1.90	12	10	0.48
July	29.91	30.30	29.43	58.52	70	41	167.75	13.75	4	4.42	16	15	0.83
August	29.96	30.18	29.50	60.50	78	40	209.00	13.00	—	2.22	20	11	0.59
September	29.82	30.44	29.15	54.87	69	35	103.50	7.75	3	3.18	18	14	0.70
October	30.07	30.50	29.70	52.39	71	31	103.75	8.00	2	0.30	4	3	0.11
November	29.74	30.45	28.58	41.53	58	16	64.75	6.50	10	4.17	15	14	0.82
December	29.94	30.30	28.92	43.13	57	20	61.25	4.50	7	4.07	23	21	0.44
Total or Average ...	29.94	—	—	49.21	—	—	1540.25	—	54	30.86	169	138	—

* Snow

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1965

BAROMETER

Annual Average	...	...	29.93
June	...	...	30.00
February	...	...	29.98
July	...	...	29.97
September	...	...	29.94
August	...	...	29.94
October	...	...	29.94
March	...	...	29.93
May	...	...	29.92
April	...	...	29.91
January	...	...	29.90
December	...	...	29.90
November	...	...	29.87

TEMPERATURE

Annual Average	...	...	49.57 Degr. F.
July	...	...	61.57
August	...	...	60.71
June	...	...	58.13
September	...	...	56.82
May	...	...	52.56
October	...	...	50.47
April	...	...	47.19
November	...	...	44.33
March	...	...	43.27
December	...	...	40.88
February	...	...	40.19
January	...	...	40.07

SUNSHINE IN HOURS

HOURS OF SUNSHINE				NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS			
Annual Average	...	1549.08 Hrs.		Annual Average	...	...	65.75
June	...	218.85		August	...	...	1.33
May	...	205.01		July	...	...	1.46
July	...	201.34		June	...	...	1.62
August	...	188.96		May	...	...	1.93
April	...	152.25		April	...	...	2.94
September	...	130.30		September	...	...	2.98
March	...	115.79		October	...	...	4.25
October	...	102.27		March	...	...	5.25
February	...	74.36		February	...	...	8.05
November	...	59.63		November	...	...	9.91
January	...	46.83		January	...	...	13.42
December	...	39.83		December	...	...	14.02

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1965

RAINFALL

Annual Average	...	...	28.82 Inches
November	...	...	3.42
December	...	...	3.16
January	...	...	3.05
October	...	...	2.89
September	...	...	2.45
August	...	...	2.33
May	...	...	2.30
July	...	...	2.09
February	...	...	2.02
April	...	...	1.98
March	...	...	1.93
June	...	...	1.61

NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL

Annual Average	...	...	178.32 Days
December	...	...	18.51
January	...	...	17.59
November	...	...	17.43
October	...	...	16.09
August	...	...	14.55
September	...	...	14.29
April	...	...	13.74
July	...	...	13.74
February	...	...	13.64
May	...	...	13.28
March	...	...	13.23
June	...	...	11.29

Days of Rainfall of .04 inches or more

Annual Average	...	...	124.67 Days
December	...	...	12.98
November	...	...	12.77
January	...	...	12.21
October	...	...	11.42
August	...	...	10.10
September	...	...	10.02
April	...	...	9.65
May	...	...	9.56
February	...	...	9.49
July	...	...	9.02
March	...	...	8.86
June	...	...	7.93

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This has been the first full year of inspections under the above Act, and these have been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in conjunction with the Technical Assistant—Mrs. J. Hayes.

Full statistical details of the work are given in the tables at the end of the report: but it is interesting to note that by the end of the year 551 premises had been registered, half of them being retail shops. The initial inspection of any premises takes a considerable time as much detailed information has to be recorded, and a proper assessment made before asking the occupiers or owners to carry out the remedial measures necessary to secure compliance with the Act. However 210 such inspections were carried out, and as a consequence 216 informal notices, involving 2,194 items were served. By the end of the year 40 of these notices had been fully complied with, and in many other instances the work was well in hand.

The various defects found covered a very wide field, and included 385 instances of a lack of cleanliness, 45 of overcrowding, 75 of a lack of hot water supply to wash-hand basins, 197 of poor ventilation and 290 of inadequate lighting.

With regard to the last two items mentioned above, it has been found that many modern shop fitters seem to completely ignore the necessity for providing means of adequate ventilation both in the shop and associated accommodation. In several instances it has been found that our requirements as to ventilation—particularly of store rooms—has been in conflict with the security arrangements advocated by the police authority. However these points have usually been resolved after a discussion with all interested parties.

The question of proper lighting is a difficult one to resolve at the present time as no Regulations have yet been made on which definite action can be taken. However, here in Taunton, we have been guided by the I.E.S. Code which gives a very practical guide to all types and conditions of premises and the work carried on therein. The Minister of Labour has been very much concerned with this question of lighting and asked for a special survey to be carried out over the whole of the Country during November. In Taunton 58

premises were inspected, comprising 36 offices, 6 shops, 7 stockrooms and 9 preparation rooms. The general standard of illumination in the majority of the offices was found to be good or very good, apart from 4 premises which were poorly lit and 4 in the intermediate class. All shops were well lit but preparation and stockrooms generally suffer from poor illumination. In actual fact these figures are not truly representative of the whole picture, which generally shows a far lower standard.

While a number of occupiers were willing to co-operate in providing an acceptable standard of illumination it was found that in some instances this had led to glare problems through lack of appreciation of the need to provide suitable shades or diffusers.

Details of survey as follows :—

Special Survey of Lighting Conditions carried out during November, 1965

Type of Premises	Less than 5L	5—10L	10—15L	15—25L	25L or more
Offices ...	0	4	4	19	9
Shops ...	0	0	0	1	5
Stockrooms ...	1	3	0	2	1
Prep. rooms ...	0	4	3	0	2

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 Retail Shops Wholesale Shops, Ware- houses Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ... Fuel Storage Depots TOTALS	20 22 1 4 — 47	218 279 29 23 2 551	76 123 6 4 1 210
TABLE B	Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 926			
TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE		Number of persons employed		
		(1) Class of workplace	(2)	
		Offices	1,865	
		Retail Shops	1,965	
		Wholesale Departments, Ware- houses	337	
		Catering Establishments open to the public	328	
		Canteens	30	
		Fuel Storage Depots	23	
		TOTAL	4,548	
		TOTAL MALES	2,099	
		TOTAL FEMALES	2,449	

During the year 216 informal notices were served in respect of 2,194 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									
	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Identification	Additional Accommodation	Means for disposal of sanitary dressings	Door Fastenings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Trapped Waste	Hot Water Supply	Additional accommodation	Identification	Renew Fittings	Discontinue Use
Shops	37	37	69	15	12	3	7	4	2	2	15	4	33	13	6	3	—
Offices	18	18	40	15	7	2	2	3	3	10	16	2	39	20	—	—	—
Catering	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—
Total	60	56	116	32	19	5	9	8	5	12	31	7	75	35	6	3	—

Other Items

Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating Facilities	Eating Facilities	Staircases Floors, Passages,	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Drinking Water	Accommodation for Clothing	Machinery	First-Aid	Abstract of the Act	Waste Bins	Discontinue Use	Safety	Total
151	—	11	6	224	93	67	87	5	41	10	62	57	4	9	49	1138
80	42	14	2	173	50	53	119	10	17	—	27	27	2	—	67	878
20	—	—	—	20	3	5	23	—	3	3	4	3	1	—	7	101
6	3	1	1	17	6	4	10	—	3	—	3	—	2	—	6	77
257	45	26	9	434	152	129	239	15	64	13	96	87	9	9	129	2194

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	22	20	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	339	850	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	5	6	—	—
TOTAL	366	876	4	—

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	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	5	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	2	2	—	1	—
TOTAL	11	10	—	6	—

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 ...	295	—	—	—	—



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