

[Report 1966] / Medical Officer of Health, Taunton Borough.

Contributors

Taunton (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1966

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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 1966



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FOR THE YEAR 1966

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

July, 1967.

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 1966.

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 various sections have been amended to bring the account of health matters in the Borough up to date, but I have not undertaken extensive re-writing since this had been done for the previous Annual Report.

A comment on the year's Vital Statistics may enliven this section of the report, and special reference is made to the new Day Nursery, to the present state of Tuberculosis in the Borough and to the subject of Health Education. I have retained the section dealing in some detail with Immunisation for a further year because there are indications that this has proved useful.

A special event of note during the year was the official opening by Princess Margaret of a residential home in Taunton for handicapped children, under the auspices of Dr. Barnardo's Association, and of an old persons' home at Blagdon Lodge.

We were sorry to lose the services of Mr. Eames, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector at the end of the year, but I should like to express appreciation of his excellent work in Taunton and to offer congratulations on his appointment to the senior post in Chippenham.

Mr. S. A. Turner, Trainee Public Health Inspector, is also to be congratulated on passing the Intermediate Examination of the Public Health Inspectors' Education Board.

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, 1966

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	37,120
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1966 (according to the rate books)	...	...	...	...	...	11,570
Rateable value at the end of 1966	...	...	...	...	...	£1,520,223
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£6,035

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	277	251	528
Illegitimate	36	28	64
Total	313	279	592

Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 15.9

Standardised Birth Rate :—

Taunton	16.3
England and Wales	17.7

Percentage illegitimate of total live births ... 10.8

(b) Still Births

Total	7
Rate per 1,000 live and still births :—	
Taunton	11.7
England and Wales	15.4
Total live and still births	599

2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	419
Death rate per 1,000 population	11.3
Standardised Death Rate :—	
Taunton	10.4
England and Wales	11.7

(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—

Total	8
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—	
Taunton	13.5
England and Wales	19.0

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	15.2
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)		5.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)		5.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)		16.7

Causes of Infant Deaths :—

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Congenital malformation	2	1	3
Heart disease	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	—	1
Totals	3	5	8

(c) Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Deaths NIL

(d) Deaths from Cancer

Cancer of the Lung	...	...	...	Males	...	15
				Females	...	3
				Total	...	18
Cancer in all other situations	...	...	...	Males	...	24
				Females	...	37
				Total	...	61

Number of Deaths from Cancer of Lung—England and Wales— (Four year period)

1963	...	24,434
1964	...	25,371
1965	...	26,399
1966	...	27,025

Comment on Vital Statistics.

The birth rate for Taunton was rather lower than that of England and Wales as a whole. The infant mortality rate was very low, at 13.5 per 1,000 live births, and compares very favourably indeed with that for the rest of the country. On the other hand the illegitimacy rate, at 10.8 per cent of total live births was a higher figure than any previously recorded for the borough.

The death rate in Taunton was also fractionally lower than that of the country as a whole. There were 12 accidental deaths, including 4 from motor accidents, as against figures of 13 and 6 respectively in the previous year. The number of deaths from suicide rose to 5 as against 1 in 1965.

A figure approaching a quarter of the total number of cancer deaths in both sexes was attributable to lung cancer in 1966. In the male sex almost two fifths of the number dying from cancer in all situations of the body succumbed to cancer of the lung. The causative connection between this disease and cigarette-smoking has passed beyond the stage of reasonable argument, and fresh statistical evidence supporting this view has come to light from various parts of the world in the past year. The figures of lung cancer deaths in England and Wales over the past four years, as detailed on previous page can be allowed to speak for themselves.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	3	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	15	3	18
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	27	45
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	21	32	53
Coronary disease, angina	47	39	86
Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
Other heart disease	17	24	41
Other circulatory disease	15	19	34
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	17	25	42
Bronchitis	10	10	20
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	4	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	12	17
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
All other accidents	4	4	8
Suicide	2	3	5

HEALTH EDUCATION

This has become a very important aspect of Public Health work. It is unfortunate that we are not able to devote more time and attention to it in the borough at present because of the pressure of other work, but an endeavour is made to carry out health education whenever the opportunity arises. Formal instruction is given in the schools by School Medical Officers from time to time, but it is felt that a more regular and routine schedule of school health education would be of great benefit. The Health Visitors conduct regular parentcraft classes and carry out a great deal of educative work with families and individuals in the course of their day-to-day activities. The Public Health Inspectors have a special field of interest in the health education of caterers and food handlers. The Medical Officer of Health took part as one of the panel on a brains-trust dealing with food hygiene organised by the Hospital Caterers' Association, and also gave a talk on health matters to the personnel of the newly established Citizens' Advice Bureau in Taunton. The Central Council for Health Education are very helpful in advising on any special problems which arise, and extensive use is made of their health posters which are put on display in appropriate places. It is felt, however, that the best results of health education are likely to be obtained from the conduct of small discussion groups on various subjects, and this is the sort of activity which we have in mind as a project for the future.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis)

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was exceptionally low. Measles, of which 199 cases were notified, was the only condition showing any degree of epidemic prevalence. The other infections in no instance reached a higher level than five cases for the year. The following table summarises the statistics :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The continued decline in incidence of this once fearsome disease is reflected in the figures for the year. As a vivid demonstration of the trend over the past generation, a table of the tuberculosis figures of forty years ago for the Borough of Taunton is appended to the statistics for the year 1966. Improved economic conditions, better ideas of hygiene, a more healthy and better nourished population are all factors which have helped to lessen the effects of tuberculosis, but there can be little doubt that the greatest benefit of all in this direction has resulted from the discovery of antibiotics.

					Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1966	{	Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.66	...	...	50	10
	{	New cases notified during 1966	...	...	6	—
	{	Deaths during 1966	...	...	1	—
1926	{	Cases on Borough Register on 31.12.26	...	...	324	49
	{	New cases notified in 1926	...	...	56	7
	{	Deaths during 1926	...	...	26	—

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 1966, 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 ...	...	506	162
4—7 years ...	...	40	448
8—16 years ...	...	9	347
Totals ...	...	<u>555</u>	<u>957</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 ...	...	505	162
4—7 years ...	...	9	46
8—16 years ...	...	2	2
Totals ...	...	<u>516</u>	<u>210</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 ...	...	506	162
4—7 years ...	...	47	442
8—16 years ...	...	156	196
Totals ...	...	<u>709</u>	<u>800</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	...	...	569	—
4—7 years	...	...	65	459
8—16 years	...	...	18	123
Totals	...	...	652	582

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	...	...	80	—
1 year	...	...	171	—
2—4 years	...	...	51	5
5—15 years	...	...	35	68
Totals	...	...	337	73

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	...	1,351
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Number of children immunised	...	1,194
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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.

Number immunised	...	188
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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 1966, 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	...	599
Children aged one to five years	...	2,179

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 :—

583 attended Tower Lane on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

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

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

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

A total attendance of 8,380 children under 5 years of age, including 604 new cases. This is a decrease of 1,682 over the previous year.

The decrease in clinic attendances is due to the fact that a number of the local doctors are now offering their own child welfare facilities at their practice premises.

Liaison with Family Doctors.

The scheme of Health Visitor and District Nurse attachment to general practices in the Borough, as outlined in the report for 1965, was brought into full operation in 1966, and is working very well indeed.

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 1966, 175 women attended and the total number of attendances was 945.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing.

32,573 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 1966, 33 premature infants were born in hospitals of whom 1 died; 7 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 proprietary 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 1966, 354 Borough residents received assistance from the Home Help Service, as against 344 in 1965.

Help was sent for the following reasons : —

Maternity	...	...	...	20
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	11
Old age	...	...	...	246
General illness	...	...	...	18
Chronic illness	...	...	...	37
Post operative	...	...	...	11
Care of children	...	...	...	5
Mental illness	...	...	...	2
Accidents	...	...	...	4

Of these, 191 remained on the books at 31st December, 1966. The Service continues to be staffed in part by Home Helps resident outside the Borough.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane, Taunton.

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1966 was as follows : —

Number In-spected	Number requiring Treatment	Number treated	Extractions		Fillings		Other Treatment (Dentures, Crowns Orthodontics, X-rays, etc.)
			Decid.	Perm.	Decid.	Perm.	
3,909	2,528	1,924	1,414	526	1,446	3,712	585

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	92
2. Number found to require treatment	23	67
3. Number of cases treated	24	101
4. Number of attendances	131	309
5. Dentures provided	16	—

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

Day Nursery

The new Day Nursery at Holway Road was opened and brought into use during the summer of 1966. This is an elegant building, of which Taunton may be proud, and it is laid out and equipped to the best modern standards for the care of young children. The Matron and her Staff who do such excellent work in the nursery are gratified to be able to provide a service in first-rate premises after many years of struggling along in an old-fashioned dilapidated structure which had outlived its normal period of usefulness. The new building provides five extra places for children, but the applicants for entry to the nursery still exceed the numbers who can be taken in and a waiting-list has to be maintained.

Some relief to the pressure on the Day Nursery is provided by a number of ladies in various districts of the town who are registered as Child-minders. This is a valuable service to the community, although in most cases it is only found possible to provide this kind of care for small children during the mornings rather than for the full working day.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued with their excellent scheme of providing cooked meals to old people in the Borough. During the year there has been an increase in the average number of people receiving meals from about 68 to 88. The total number of meals served was 8,152 which was a considerable increase on the previous year, and the number is constantly growing. The Organiser reports that the meals, served from Musgrove Park Hospital Kitchen, are very much appreciated, and she would like to express grateful thanks for help given by the Hospital Kitchen Staff.

A point of interest may be that the Home Office Maintained Van, on loan to Taunton, has been withdrawn during the last quarter and the Borough and County Council have agreed to maintain a second gift van, which the W.R.V.S. were able to buy with the remainder of the legacy left after the purchase of the first van. Taunton Borough W.R.V.S. thus now possess two vans of their own.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The fortnightly service was operated throughout the year, from 1st January to 1st June at the Old Gas Works Car Park and from 15th June to 31st December at Tangier Car Park.

The reports on these were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	671	760	1,431
Abnormalities detected.			
Active pulmonary tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis—requiring observa- tion	1	—	1
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis ...	2	—	2
Acquired cardiac lesion	1	—	1
Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs	2	—	2
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Cyst of oesophagus	1	—	1
Emphysema	1	—	1
Old calcified rib fracture	1	—	1
Pleural calcification	1	—	1
Pleural effusion	1	—	1
Sarcoidosis	1	1	2
	15	2	17

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

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	383	177	560
Abnormalities Detected.			
Pleural thickening and fibrosis ...	—	1	1
Bacterial and virus infection of the lung	1	—	1
	1	1	2

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

An account was given in the previous report of the sort of circumstances which lead to the application for compulsory powers of removal of a person from their home to a hospital or institution and this need not be repeated. Only one case had to be dealt with in this way during 1966, and the outcome proved to be satisfactory for all concerned.

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
5 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 1966 :—

Ambulances	...	12,917	136,064
Sitting-case			
Ambulances	...	22,164	173,924
Cars		2,145	33,526

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the facts mentioned in this paragraph and also for those in the following section on Refuse Disposal.

No major sewerage operations were carried out in 1966. The new fine screens chamber at the sewerage works was completed in March and its performance has been satisfactory. A recent tightening of requirements as to the condition of the final effluent by the Somerset River Authority, together with the increase of the Town's population, has necessitated a programme of expansion of the works and this has been provided for in the financial estimates of the Borough.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Approximately three thousand cubic yards of refuse are collected weekly by the Engineer's cleansing department. Road sweepings alone account for about thirty cubic yards a week. Disposal is of course done by controlled tipping. The pilot paper sack collection scheme launched in 1965 continued to operate satisfactorily in a small area of the town. It was hoped to extend this facility to cover the whole area at a later date but national restrictions on capital expenditure have frustrated this project.

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 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 3,433,000 gallons, giving a figure of 44.6 gallons per head per day.

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

213

Unsatisfactory

9

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 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 1966, the number of houses erected by the Borough, acting as Local Authority, was 3,052, and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 1,070.

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-bed-roomed flats, one bed-roomed flats and two-bed-roomed temporary bungalows had also been erected.

During the year 1966, 9 houses were completed for the Council and 72 were in course of erection. In the same period, 91 houses were built by private enterprise and 105 private houses were in course of erection.

No Clearance Area procedure was carried out, but a number of houses were dealt with by individual demolition procedure. Details of these are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses at the end of the year was 504, which shows a decrease from the figure of 573 at the end of the previous year. The number of applications for Old People's Dwellings was 141.

Improvements to Concrete Houses at Lambrook Estate.

Modernisation and improvement was being carried out during the year on a further 55 concrete houses on the Lambrook Estate. This work involves the complete replanning of the houses to form two and three bedroom accommodation, the plastering of walls and complete re-decoration and the provision of a new bathroom and hot water system in each house. The cost, in each case, amounts to just over £1,000.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during the year 1966 :—

			Applications	No. of dwellings
Received	...	...	19	19
Approved	...	...	9	9

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year—7.

Average cost per dwelling approved during year—£418.

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority —£209.

Standard.

1.	Number of applications (a) Received	...	...	35
	(b) Approved	...	...	34
2.	Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided	...	...	21
	Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year	...	...	28

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	1	1	2
Engineer	31	5	36
Housing	—	1	1
Housing Maintenance	3	—	3
Library	2	1	3
Town Clerk	2	—	2
Treasurer	3	1	4
	42	9	51

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1966.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I present my Annual Report for 1966. As before the inspection of meat has accounted for the greater part of the work undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors, and this has somewhat restricted the time available for other important health duties. However, considerable progress has been made with regard to the inspection of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, and many such premises have now received their initial inspection. As much time as possible has been spent in dealing with housing problems, and with food hygiene and sampling.

Mr. A. E. Eames, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector was successful in passing the final examination of the Diploma in Municipal Administration, and Mr. S. Turner, our Pupil Public Health Inspector, passed his Intermediate professional examination—both are to be congratulated on their well deserved success. At the end of December Mr. Eames was also successful in obtaining the appointment of Senior Health Inspector with the Borough of Chippenham. I would like to record my sincere appreciation for his loyalty and support during his six years with the Borough of Taunton, and to wish him every success and happiness in his new appointment.

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	168
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts	75
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act	43
Re-inspections under the above Acts	709
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	166
Miscellaneous housing inspections	40
Smoke observations, etc.	64
Moveable dwellings	25
Dealers in old metal	31
Infectious diseases and disinfections	3
Drainage, in connection with	571
Factories	724
Verminous or infested premises	106
Interviews	745
Noise, in connection with	75
Offensive trades	30
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections	166
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits	733
Pet Shops	29
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment	4
Refuse collection and disposal	11
Rag Flock premises	1
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)	144
Schools	11
Shops (Shops Acts)	43
Water Sampling	211
Miscellaneous visits	583

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.

During the year 571 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 773.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Drains cleared	39
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired ...	27
New drains provided	20
Sewers cleared	41
Cesspools emptied	—
Inspection chambers built	17
Inspection chambers repaired	37
Inspection chambers—new covers provided ...	4
New gullies provided	5
Yard surfaces renewed	9
Eaves gutters renewed	9
Eaves gutters repaired	8
Rainwater pipes renewed	11
Waterclosets provided	19
W.C. pans renewed	19
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	17
Flush pipes repaired	5
W.C.'s—new seats provided	3
Roofs renewed	5
Roofs repaired	32
Chimney stacks rebuilt	3
Chimney stacks repaired	12
Chimneys—flashings renewed	1
Walls rebuilt	4
External walls repaired	29
Ceilings renewed or repaired	22
Floors renewed	21
Floors repaired	19
Skirting boards renewed	6
Waste pipe renewed	4
Sub-floor ventilation improved	1
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	34
Dampness abated	50
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	3
Doors renewed or repaired	12
New windows provided	20
Windows repaired	19
Window sills renewed	1
Windows—sash cords provided	22
Natural lighting improved	3
Ventilation improved	7
Water service pipes renewed	3
Water heating systems installed	29
Bath provided	34
Wash-hand basins provided	32
Kitchen sinks provided	22
Staircases repaired	4
Ventilated food cupboards provided	26
Electric services repaired	1
Hand rails repaired or renewed	2
Total	773

HOUSING ACTS

During the year no actual Clearance Areas were declared, but two small areas comprising eleven and six houses were dealt with by means of informal undertakings. In such cases the Owners undertook to demolish the premises, after all the tenants have been rehoused by the Council. Such procedure is rarely possible but when it does happen it greatly reduces the associated administrative and clerical work.

329 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 are as follows :—

Houses closed under Section 17	...	...	...	...	4
Houses where Undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	3
Houses where Closing Orders have been determined	...	...	...	...	1
Parts of Houses closed under Section 18	...	...	...	...	3
Parts of Houses where Undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

This particular problem has, due to unavoidable circumstances, received but very little attention during the current year. In fact only four such premises were the subject of an initial detailed inspection, and these involved thirteen separate lettings.

The total number of Houses in Multiple Occupation which have so far received a detailed inspection is 83 involving over 300 separate lettings.

During the year 166 visits were made to these premises in connection with the enforcement of notices and as a result the following matters received attention.

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External.

Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Extra dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	4
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2

Internal.

Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Staircase repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases redecorated	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	—
Lighting and/or ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	1
Ladders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
New ventilated ladders provided	...	...	...	...	5
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	...	1
Electric fittings repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	1
Heating installations provided/repared	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	4
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Wash-hand basin renewed/repared	...	...	...	...	—
Sink and/or draining board renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Cooking facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	...	1
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	3
Additional bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	4
Baths renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	—

Other Items.

Units of accommodation closed as unfit for habitation	—
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-occupation	...
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	...
Total	97

Complaints.

During the year 846 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	89
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	106
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	221
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	194
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	121
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	115

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24.

During the year 59 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 12 proposals for new boiler installations were considered and in four 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.

RENT ACT, 1957.

During the year one Certificate of Disrepair was issued, and was later cancelled on completion of the necessary works of repair.

This particular piece of legislation appears to be completely ineffective in achieving a reasonable standard of maintenance. This is due to the fact that the houses most likely to be concerned are the pre-war ones, where the older generation form the largest proportion

of the tenants. Many such tenants are unable to pay the increased rents which are permissible once the repairs have been completed. In this manner many houses are being allowed to fall into such an advanced stage of decay, that ultimately any question of repair will be impossible at a reasonable cost, so that demolition or closure will be the only answer.

In these circumstances it would be a great advantage if Local Authorities were given the opportunity to purchase such properties with a view to improvement before the state of disrepair was so far advanced as to be irretrievable. Such action would greatly assist in a general improvement of the country's stock of dwellings.

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.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatments at private dwellings	...	...	...	305
Visits involved	...	...	...	900
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	246
Visits involved	...	...	...	671
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	89
Visits involved	...	...	...	280
Survey visits	...	...	...	66
Wasps' nests destroyed	...	...	...	64
Other vermin, etc.	...	...	...	61

Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out in 7 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.

There has been no material change in the two residential sites during the year. The number of individual vans is now three: and there are from time to time vans in use by building operatives in connection with their work.

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	...	28
---	-----	----

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	...	...	...	6
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

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

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 220 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	...	...	...	...	1,106
Wholesale Meat Depots	...	...	...	...	122
Butchers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	118
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	43
Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	160
Grocers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	281
Food preparation premises	...	...	...	...	105
Restaurants and Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	...	265
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	96
Other visits	...	...	...	...	580
Total	...	...	...	...	2,876

This total is about 200 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 1966.

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 31 registered Distributors of Milk operating within the Borough.

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	...	...	...	...	2
Storage and Sale	...	...	...	...	111

Food Preparation Premises.

The total of such premises is 54. 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 routine sampling of all types of foodstuffs has continued, and normally about thirty or more such samples are submitted to the laboratory for examination each month.

It has been found that pathogens are rarely present in such samples: but the mere fact of sampling does tend to keep both the manufacturers and other food handlers alert as to the absolute necessity of following proper routines of hygiene.

Details of the various samples are given as follows :—

Cream.

Artificial and dairy cream are sampled both at the places of production and the retail shops. 115 artificial and 16 dairy cream samples were examined and found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

During the year 39 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, but subsequent "follow-up" samples were in Grade I.

Details are as follows :—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	21	—	1	—
Cold Mix	15	—	1	—
Soft Ice Cream	1	—	—	—

Liquid Egg.

Eleven samples of raw and thirty-five 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 148 samples were examined, and none gave any pathogenic results.

Details of samples are as follows :—

Beef—boiled	2	Beef—brisket	1
Beef—corned	1	Beef—minced	2
Beef—pressed	3	Beef—roast	1
Beirwurst	1	Black Pudding	5
Brawn	7	Chicken & Vegetable Pie	1
Cooked chap	1	Faggots	8
Ham—boiled	13	Hog Pudding	2
Irish Stew	1	Jellied Veal	1
Luncheon Tongue	2	Meat Roll	1
Meat Savourie	1	Pasties	12
Polony	3	Pork Luncheon Meat	2
Pork—roast	12	Pork—pressed	1
Pork Roll—stuffed	2	Pork pie	7
Pork and Tongue	1	Sausage—beef	5
Sausage—Lachshinken	1	Sausage—liver	2
Sausage—Luncheon	2	Sausage—pork	6
Sausage—Polish	1	Sausage—roll	8
Sausage—Meat	1	Sausage—smoked	1
Salami	2	Scotch Egg	1
Steak and Onion Pie	4	Steak and Kidney Pie	4
Tee Wurst	2	Steaklette	1
Tongue Sausage	1	Tongue	7
Veal, Ham and Egg Pie	3	Tripe	1
		White Pudding	1

Water.

The routine examination of water has continued, and 216 samples were submitted to the laboratory. Of this total 22 were of raw water from the Fulwood Works, and 6 from a private well.

All samples were satisfactory.

Food Inspection.

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

CANNED FOODS

Meat (various)	208	Tomatoes	257
Corned beef	131	Baked beans	83
Luncheon meat	84	Other vegetables	124
Jellied veal	15	Milk, cream rice	101
Ham	103	Fruit	706
Tongue	39	Fruit juice	71
Chicken	1	Soup	124
Fish	146	Jam	8
Fish products	3	Miscellaneous	196
Peas	205	Baby Food	1,800
Carrots	20		

FROZEN FOODS

	Packets
Meat (various)	307
Chicken	9
Fruit	17
Fish	372
Fish products	309
Peas	281
Other vegetables	188
Cakes and sponges	10
Pies	84
Sausages	1
Miscellaneous	201

OTHER FOODS

Butter	25 pkts.
Cooking fat	16 pkts.
Margarine	6 pkts.
Cheese	76 lbs.
Cheese Spread	5 pkts.
Cream	2 gal.
Turkey	1
Chicken	14
Faggots	57 lbs.
Fish	294 lbs.
Seed Pearl Tapioca	100 lbs.
Coconut	1 pkt.
Cereals	34 pkts.
Biscuits	1 pkt.
Pastry	1 pkt.
Jam	3 jars
Spanish onions	7½ cwt.
Ham	26 lbs.
Other cooked meats	59 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The routine inspection of food premises of all types has continued throughout the year, and 1,344 such visits were made as follows :—

Bakers and Confectioners	160
Butchers	240
Catering Establishments	192
Canteens	19
Dairies	8
Fishmongers and Poulterers	28
Food Preparation Premises	105
Fried Fish Premises	31
Grocers	255
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	26
Ice Cream	36
Licensed Premises	96
Other Premises	148

1,344

This total shows an increase of about 10% over the number of visits in the previous year.

As a consequence of some of these visits informal notices were served on occupiers to bring their premises up to the standard as required under the Food Hygiene Regulations. A total of 469 such items received attention and 8 premises were the subject of major works of reconstruction. The details of the various items are given in the following schedule.

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

Offence	Result
1. Butcher smoking in his shop ...	£5 fine imposed.
2. Dead fly in chocolate éclair ...	£15 fine imposed.
3. Baker smoking in his bakehouse	£8 fine imposed.
4. Mould in pork pie	£10 fine imposed.
5. Mould in sausage rolls	£20 fine imposed.
6. Fly in sausage	£15 fine imposed plus costs.
7. Failing to wear head covering when carrying meat	£5 fine imposed.
8. Failing to wear head covering when carrying meat	£5 fine imposed.
9. Grocer smoking in his shop ...	£15 fine imposed.

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1966

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction ...	2	—	3	2	1	8
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	4	2	2	10	—	18
Walls redecorated ...	5	6	9	28	3	51
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	2	2	4	16	—	24
Ceilings redecorated ...	7	6	6	19	3	41
Floors repaired or renewed ...	7	2	6	19	1	35
Improvement of lighting ...	4	4	4	10	3	25
Improvement of ventilation ...	6	2	5	10	1	24
Renewed or repaired drainage ...	3	—	—	4	1	8
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided ...	2	—	2	6	—	10
Hot water supply provided ...	1	—	1	2	1	5
New draining boards provided ...	2	—	—	5	—	7
Preparation tables, etc. retopped ...	4	4	—	10	—	18
New equipment, etc. provided ...	4	6	1	10	1	22
Dustbins provided/Improved collec- tion ...	5	7	9	7	—	28
Means of protection of food pro- vided ...	6	3	2	—	—	11
Refrigerators provided ...	4	—	4	1	—	9
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ...	3	—	—	18	—	21
New flushing cisterns provided ...	—	—	—	4	—	4
Sanitary accommodation repaired...	4	1	5	3	—	13
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated ...	2	1	2	3	—	8
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	1	—	5	1	—	7
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	6	—	4	13	—	23
Hot water supply provided ...	—	—	2	3	—	5
Toilet requisites provided ...	1	2	4	5	—	12
Provision of lockers ...	—	1	3	4	—	10
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ...	2	1	2	2	—	7
Treatments for infestations ...	1	1	—	2	—	4
Provision of first-aid materials ...	2	2	2	11	2	19
Totals ...	90	53	84	226	16	469

PESTICIDES IN FOOD

The dangers of pesticides in food is causing general concern, and a Government Committee of Inquiry has been set up to thoroughly investigate the matter. One of the results of this inquiry has been for Local Authorities all over the country to submit selected samples of foodstuffs for detailed analysis. Here in Taunton we submitted two samples—one of potatoes and one of apples. The results are as follows:—

Apples.

Arsenic	...	...	Less than 0.05 parts per million.
Lead	...	...	Nil.
D.D.T.	...	...	Less than 0.07 parts per million.
D.D.E.	...	...	Less than 0.02 parts per million.

No other pesticides were detected in any significant trace.

Potatoes.

No pesticides were detected in any significant trace.

MEAT INSPECTION

This occupies a great deal of the time of the Public Health Inspectors and two Inspectors spend most of each week at a bacon factory where the annual "kill" is nearly 40,000 pigs. Meat inspection also takes place at two small private slaughterhouses, wholesale meat depots and retail butchers' shops.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	216
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	70
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	1,526
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	25
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	39,633

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	216	70	25	1,526	39,633
Number inspected	216	70	25	1,526	39,633
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B. ...	—	—	—	1	134
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	—	—	10	12,132
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	12.59%	—	—	0.66%	30.61%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	867
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	2.19%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	366 lbs.
Lamb	80 „
Bacon	2,569 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

The figures below set out the main readings for 1966 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
1966 ...	29.89	50.64	1,569.50	65	31.90	178	137
1965 ...	29.94	49.21	1,540.25	54	30.86	169	138
Average	29.93	49.59	1,549.49	66	28.88	178	125

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1966

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	29.82	30.93	29.14	40.16	57	18	39.0	5.25	15	2.48	12	10	.64
February	29.55	30.01	28.78	45.46	58	32	44.25	8.50	15	4.49	20	16	.57
March	30.18	30.76	29.15	45.00	55	25	155.75	10.00	1	.92	8	7	.43
April	29.75	30.56	29.15	47.50	70	31	96.00	12.50	12	4.35	20	18	.65
May	30.03	30.44	29.47	52.84	75	35	264.25	15.25	2	2.04	14	12	.34
June	29.97	30.28	29.54	60.00	75	44	188	14.75	1	2.68	14	11	1.12
July	30.01	30.24	29.70	60.11	78	40	215.50	15.00	—	1.60	11	8	.35
August	29.94	30.50	29.49	60.00	79	41	187.25	13.00	4	2.63	17	10	.56
September	30.04	30.45	29.58	58.30	73	38	145.75	9.00	3	.76	7	4	.25
October	29.59	30.40	29.06	51.16	69	30	122.50	8.50	1	4.87	20	16	1.17
November	29.98	30.33	28.81	42.48	54	24	69.25	7.50	2	2.39	16	10	.92
December	29.87	30.31	28.99	44.71	55	27	43.00	5.75	9	2.89	19	15	.52
Total or Average	29.89	—	—	50.64	—	—	1569.50	—	65	31.90	178	137	—

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1966

BAROMETER

Annual Average	...	...	29.93
June	...	...	30.00
February	...	...	29.97
July	...	...	29.97
September	...	...	29.94
August	...	...	29.94
March	...	...	29.94
October	...	...	29.93
May	...	...	29.92
April	...	...	29.91
December	...	...	29.90
January	...	...	29.88
November	...	...	29.87

TEMPERATURE

Annual Average	...	...	49.59 Degr. F.
July	...	...	61.54
August	...	...	60.69
June	...	...	58.18
September	...	...	56.83
May	...	...	52.57
October	...	...	50.49
April	...	...	47.19
November	...	...	44.29
March	...	...	43.31
December	...	...	40.96
February	...	...	40.78
January	...	...	40.47

SUNSHINE IN HOURS

HOURS OF SUNSHINE				NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS			
Annual Average	...	1549.49 Hrs.		Annual Average	...	65.73	
June	...	218.28		August	...	1.38	
May	...	206.27		July	...	1.43	
July	...	201.64		June	...	1.64	
August	...	189.21		May	...	1.94	
April	...	151.08		September	...	2.98	
September	...	130.63		April	...	3.13	
March	...	116.68		October	...	4.16	
October	...	102.72		March	...	5.16	
February	...	73.70		February	...	8.20	
November	...	59.87		November	...	9.73	
January	...	46.66		January	...	13.46	
December	...	39.88		December	...	13.91	

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1966

RAINFALL

Annual Average	...	...	28.88 Inches
November	...	...	3.39
December	...	...	3.16
January	...	...	3.01
October	...	...	2.93
September	...	...	2.41
August	...	...	2.33
May	...	...	2.29
July	...	...	2.09
February	...	...	2.08
April	...	...	2.03
March	...	...	1.91
June	...	...	1.61

NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL

Annual Average	...	...	178.31 Days
December	...	...	18.50
January	...	...	17.48
November	...	...	17.39
October	...	...	16.17
August	...	...	14.60
September	...	...	14.15
April	...	...	13.89
February	...	...	13.77
July	...	...	13.69
May	...	...	13.29
March	...	...	13.13
June	...	...	11.29

Days of Rainfall of .04 inches or more

Annual Average	...	...	124.95 Days
December	...	...	13.02
November	...	...	12.70
January	...	...	12.16
October	...	...	11.50
August	...	...	10.12
September	...	...	9.89
April	...	...	9.84
February	...	...	9.64
May	...	...	9.61
July	...	...	9.02
March	...	...	8.82
June	...	...	7.93

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The work of inspection has continued steadily through the year and besides making ninety-four initial inspections nearly nine hundred other visits were recorded.

During the year ninety informal notices were complied with completely and in many other instances the work was well in hand.

Fifteen accidents were officially reported and in each case a thorough investigation was carried out. Falling and slipping was the most frequent type of accident reported and in no instance was machinery involved.

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

TABLE A	(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
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS	Offices	10	223	20
	Retail Shops	17	282	52
	Wholesale Shops, Ware- houses	1	26	12
	Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	8	32	10
	Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
	TOTALS	36	563	94

TABLE B	Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 899	
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TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE	(1) Class of workplace	(2) Number of persons employed
	Offices	1,981
	Retail Shops	2,019
	Wholesale Departments, Ware- houses	342
	Catering Establishments open to the public	328
	Canteens	42
TOTAL		23
		4,735
		2,138
TOTAL MALES		2,597
TOTAL FEMALES		...

During the year informal notices were served in respect of 1,494 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	Door Fastenings	Unsuit. accom. Discontinue use	Renew fittings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Renew Fittings	Hot Water Supply	Additional accommodation	Drinking water
Shops	19	22	45	16	5	8	5	5	3	—	3	6	4	27	14	—
Offices	11	2	17	6	3	—	1	—	1	1	6	3	1	9	3	—
Catering Premises	2	7	4	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	2	—
Wholesale ware-houses	5	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	37	32	67	22	15	9	8	6	5	1	9	11	6	39	19	—

Other Items

Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating Facilities	Staircases Floors, Passages,	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Accommodation for Clothing	Machinery	First-Aid	Safety	Abstract of the Act	Waste Bins	Registrations	Unsuit. accom. Discontinue use	Noise	
112	—	7	167	32	30	97	33	14	21	49	16	3	2	8	—	775
39	22	3	79	17	33	116	8	6	12	47	10	1	—	—	2	459
59	—	—	54	6	10	21	1	8	8	11	2	4	3	2	—	217
9	1	—	8	—	2	4	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	43
219	23	10	308	55	75	238	43	28	42	110	29	8	5	11	2	1494

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

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

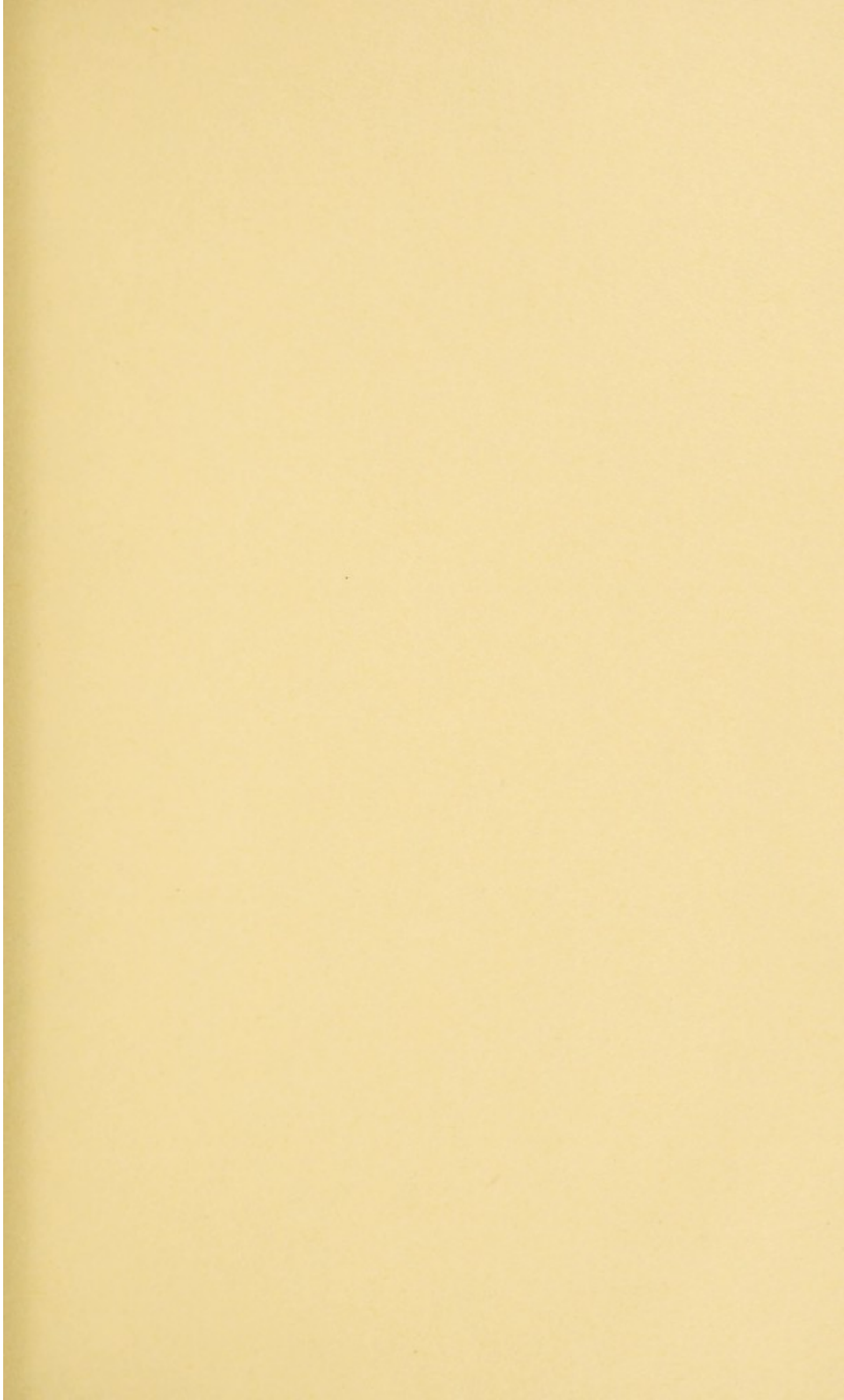
Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	10	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	342	706	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	22	8	—	—
TOTAL	385	724	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	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	5	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	3	—	3	—
TOTAL	12	11	—	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 ...	278	—	—	—	—



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Printers,
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