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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 1967**





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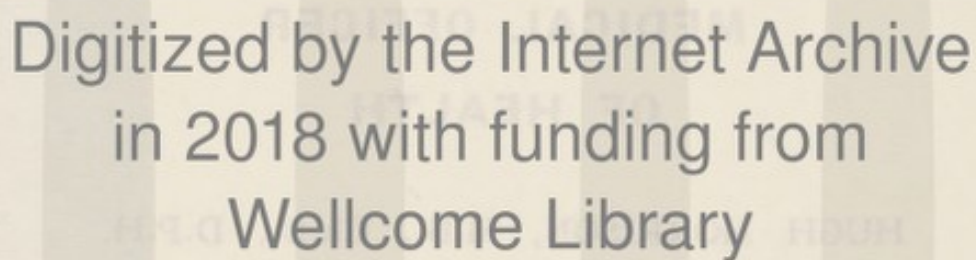
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

FOR THE YEAR 1967



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Public Health Department,
Chadwick House,
11 Middle Street,
Taunton.

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 1967. This is drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, and follows the lines of previous reports, so that comparisons with the conditions of former years may easily be made. The various sections have been amended as necessary to bring the account of health matters in the Borough up to date, and fresh comment has been made on various subjects, but it has not been thought necessary on this occasion to undertake extensive re-writing of the report.

Mr. Pawson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, contributes a full account of the activities of the Public Health Inspecting Staff who have had a busy and fruitful year of work, and I should like to thank him and join with him in welcoming Mr. Andrews and Mr. Stephens to the Department.

I wish to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, from Dr. Thomson, who acts as my deputy when the occasion arises, from the Public Health Inspectors and Staff of the Public Health Department, and from my fellow officials of the Council.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1967

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	37,180
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1967 (according to the rate book)	...	...	...	...	...	11,700
Rateable value at the end of 1967	...	...	...	...	...	£1,585,566
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£6,385

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	284	257	541
Illegitimate	18	21	39
Total	302	278	580

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.6

Standardised Birth Rate :—

Taunton 15.9

England and Wales 17.2

Percentage illegitimate of total live births 6.7

(b) Still Births

Total 8

Rate per 1,000 live and still births :—

Taunton 13.6

England and Wales 14.8

Total live and still births 588

2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	...	...	...	...	...	421	
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
Standardised Death Rate :—							
Taunton	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.5
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—							
Taunton	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.07
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	51.3
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.2
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.7

Causes of Infant Deaths :—

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Bronchopneumonia	—	2	2
Prematurity	2	—	2
Asphyxia	1	—	1
Pneumococcal meningitis	—	1	1
Hydronephrosis	—	1	1
Totals ...	3	4	7

(c) Maternal Mortality							
Total Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

(d) Deaths from Cancer							
Cancer of the Lung	...	...	...	...	Males	...	17
					Females	...	3
					Total	...	20
Cancer in all other situations	...	...	...	...	Males	...	25
					Females	...	42
					Total	...	67

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

1963	...	24,434
1964	...	25,371
1965	...	26,399
1966	...	27,025
1967	...	28,250

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, often taken as a good index of the general state of health of a community, was again low, at 12.07 per 1,000 live births, compared with a figure of 18.3 for the whole of England and Wales. The rate of illegitimate births, which is expressed as a percentage of total live births, was much lower at 6.7 than the figure of 10.8 for the previous year.

The death rate in Taunton was also rather lower than that of the country as a whole. There were 8 accidental deaths, including 3 from motor accidents. The motor accident mortality has fallen to 3 from 4 in the previous year and 6 in the year before that, a trend which one would very much like to see continued.

Once again the figures for lung cancer deaths have gone upwards. 20 of these occurred in the borough as against 18 in 1966. The same thing is happening in the country as a whole where these deaths have shown a rise in the region of 1,000 in each of the past 5 years.

It will be seen that a single death from pulmonary tuberculosis is the only case listed as dying from an infective disease. This is a great change from the state of affairs in years gone by.

As always, deaths from disease of the heart and circulation outnumber all others, but these of course include many people in whom the vital mechanisms have simply come to the end of their natural function and who die at a ripe old age.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	17	3	20
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	28	49
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18	40	58
Coronary disease, angina	48	41	89
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
Other heart disease	12	19	31
Other circulatory disease	11	19	30
Pneumonia	22	22	44
Bronchitis	13	4	17
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	2	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	19	32
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	1	2	3

HEALTH EDUCATION

An endeavour was made throughout the year to give as much attention as possible to this important branch of Public Health work.

Instruction in health matters is given whenever opportunity arises in the course of visits carried out by doctors and health visitors as part of the School Medical service. A group of senior children from different schools in the town had an afternoon of instruction and discussion during the course of which they attended a Child Welfare Clinic session and paid a visit of inspection to the Taunton Deane Crematorium. The Medical Officer of Health gave a talk to senior boys at Huish's Grammar School on health problems

confronting young people leaving home to enter college or university. This resulted in a lively discussion with few inhibitions as regards the subjects brought under review.

A course of weekly lectures and demonstrations on Food Hygiene for members of the catering, food retailing and allied trades in the borough was undertaken by members of the Public Health Department. The introductory session was conducted by the Medical Officer of Health, and Public Health Inspectors shared the ensuing sessions along with the County Analyst and a Bacteriologist. The course was run under the auspices of the Royal Society of Health and was considered highly successful.

Health Visitors, in addition to the regular counselling which they carry out as part of their professional work, conducted regular parentcraft classes at the Tower Lane Health Centre. They also arranged and managed a Health Education display tent at the Taunton Flower Show.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis)

As in the previous year, the number of cases of infectious diseases notified was low. Measles was the only condition producing a substantial number of notifications, and there are high hopes that this disease will soon lose its place at the top of the league when the measles immunisation campaign has had a chance to show results. Changes in the law regarding notification of infectious disease which are being introduced in 1968 should provide a more realistic picture of the incidence of these conditions in the community.

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases discovered during the year was again very low. 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 1967. 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 anti-biotics.

					Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1967	{	Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.67 ...			52	10
	{	New cases notified durin 1967 ...	...	...	3	2
	{	Deaths during 1967 ...	...	...	1	—
1927	{	Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.27 ...			334	49
	{	New cases notified in 1927 ...	...	...	49	8
	{	Deaths during 1927 ...	...	...	17	4

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.

Immunisation is carried out either by the family doctor or at child welfare clinics and schools by doctors from the Health Department. The whole of the recording side of the procedure has now been transferred to the County Council computer, and for this purpose children are grouped according to the family doctor on whose medical list they are. This will have the result that very few children will in future have their immunisation carried out by Public Health medical staff. It is logical and desirable that preventive medical procedures should to an increasing extent be among those benefits to the population available through the family doctor under the National Health Service. However, until the computer arrangements are in full working order, it will no longer be possible to give figures of the number of children immunised at various ages

in any particular local authority area, and thus the percentage rate of immunisation against different diseases cannot be stated. It is desirable to know these figures, and we are assured that they will become available at some later time. Meantime it has been thought worth while to insert in this Report an up-to-date schedule of the immunisation programme recommended for children, together with brief notes on the diseases against which the procedure is aimed.

Age	Prophylactic	Interval
During the first year of life	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough and oral Polio vaccine. (First dose)	Preferably after an interval of 6-8 weeks
	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough and oral Polio vaccine. (Second dose)	
	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough and oral Polio vaccine. (Third dose)	Preferably after an interval of 6 months
During the second year of life	Measles vaccination	After an interval of not less than 3-4 weeks.
	Smallpox vaccination	After an interval of not less than 3-4 weeks.
At 5 years of age or school entry	Diph/Tet and oral Polio vaccine or Diph / Tet / Polio vaccine Smallpox revaccination	
Between 10 and 13 years of age.	B.C.G. vaccine	
At 15-19 years of age or on leaving school	Polio vaccine (Oral or inactivated) Tetanus toxoid Smallpox revaccination	

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. The Taunton Health Department is one of the centres in the South West where this procedure is carried out.

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 1967, supervised generally by the Medical Officer of Health for Taunton in the capacity of Area Medical Officer of Health, and their activities included :—

Home Visiting of Children.

Number of cases dealt with :—

Children under one year ...	552
Children aged one to five years ...	1,817

Ante-natal Visits.

During the year the scheme was continued whereby expectant mothers booked for hospital confinement were visited and advised 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 Centre.

Number of individual children who attended were as follows:—

551 attended Tower Lane on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

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

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

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

Total attendances of children under 5 years of age were 8,210, which was a decrease of 170 from the previous year. The figure included 652 first attendances. 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 1967, 139 women attended and the total number of attendances was 720.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing.

31,402 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 1967, 28 premature infants were born in hospitals of whom 2 died; 2 were born at home.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver 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 1967, 350 Borough residents received assistance from the Home Help Service, as against 354 in 1966.

Help was sent for the following reasons :—

Maternity	...	...	...	27
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	7
Old age	...	...	...	239
General illness	...	...	...	9
Chronic illness	...	...	...	39
Post operative	...	...	...	13
Care of children	...	...	...	10
Mental illness	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	3

Of these, 193 remained on the books at 31st December, 1967. 136 of these had received continuous help for over 12 months.

The recruitment of Home Helps in the Borough continues to present a serious problem.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane, Taunton.

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1967 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.	
7,421	4,359	2,707	1,575	382	3,404	4,935	361

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 ...	25	107
2. Number found to require treatment	25	75
3. Number of cases treated	32	133
4. Number of attendances	130	297
5. Dentures provided	8	—

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

Day Nursery

The Day Nursery at Holway Road which was opened in the Summer of 1966 is an immense improvement on the sub-standard accommodation which had to be occupied for so many years. The new building gained an architectural award during the year. It will be seen to full advantage when the adjoining school meals kitchen building which is no longer in use is demolished. Pressure of demand for places in the nursery remained very high throughout the year and there was some prospect that steps might be possible to increase the number of places by an extension of the building.

There were many applications for registration under the Child Minders Regulations and as a result substantially more places were available for toddlers in play-groups. If some of the ladies who are providing this excellent service could find it possible to offer a whole-day session rather than mornings only, so that mothers might be able to take up regular work, there would undoubtedly be a great demand in the town for this facility.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued with their excellent scheme of providing cooked meals to old people in the Borough. Throughout the year an average of 88 people received two hot meals each week. The total number of meals served was 8,526 which was an increase on the previous year, and the number is constantly growing. The Organiser would like to express grateful thanks for the tremendous amount of help received from the staff of Musgrove Park Hospital kitchen, without which the service would be unable to continue and expand.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The fortnightly service was operated throughout the year at the Tangier Car Park.

The reports on examinations were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined	485	714	1,199*
Abnormalities detected.			
Healed pulmonary tuberculossi ...	1	—	1
Acquired cardiac lesion	1	—	1
Bronchiectasis	—	1	1
Pneumonitis	1	—	1
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	—	3
Elevated R. diaphragm	1	—	1
Dorsal scoliosis	—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	1	1	2

*Doctors' cases included—161

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

An account has been given in a 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, except that one would wish to emphasise that every other means of dealing with these difficult cases is tried before making use of the legal procedure as a last resort. Two persons had to be removed by Magistrate's Order during the course of the year.

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, 1967, the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows :—

Vehicles—8 Ambulances
6 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car

Staff— 5 Sub-Officers
24 Driver/Attendants

All vehicles are equipped with two-way radio communication.

	Patients carried	Mileage run— during 1967
Ambulances ...	13,031	134,683
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	22,982	193,266
Cars	1,987	34,700

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.

Major drainage works carried out in the Borough during 1967 were as follows :—

1. Hamilton Road/Roman Road Junction: Surface water drainage to relieve combined system which has caused flooding.
2. Obridge: Completion of new sewer syphons under the new line of the river cut, carried out in conjunction with River Tone Improvement.
3. Blackbrook Stream Improvement. Improvement of stream to relieve flooding in Eastleigh Road/Midford Road/Northleigh Road areas, together with new main surface water and foul water sewers for the Moor Fields Housing Estate.
4. Staplegrove Road: Provision of surface water drainage system to relieve existing combined sewer which surcharged in times of storm.

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 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

I should like to thank the Chief Engineer to the West Somerset Water Board, 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
179

Unsatisfactory
—

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 and the Housing Manager for the following information :—

In the period between the end of the last war and the end of 1967, the number of houses erected by the Borough, acting as Local Authority, was 3,105 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 1,168.

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

During the year 1967, 53 houses and flats were completed for the Council and 114 were in course of erection. In the same period, 98 houses were built by private enterprise and 110 private houses were in course of erection. Three old peoples' dwellings were completed during the period and 27 were in course of erection.

No Clearance Area procedure was carried out, but a number of houses were dealt with individually. 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 468, which shows a decrease from the figure of 504 at the end of the previous year. The number of applications for Old People's Dwellings was 124.

Improvements to Concrete Houses at Lambrook Estate.

Modernisation and improvement was carried out during the year on pre-war concrete houses on the Lambrook Estate. The 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. Towards the end of the year there were numerous complaints of dampness in these houses and the Council decided to put in hand an investigation into this matter before proceeding with further modernisations.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during the year 1967 :—

		Applications	No. of dwellings
Received	... ..	26	26
Approved	... ..	26	26

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year—21.

Average cost per dwelling approved during year—£467.

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority—£6,060.

Standard.

1. Number of applications (a) Received	... ..	27
(b) Approved	... ..	27
2. Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided	... ..	18
Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during the year	... ..	22

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
Engineer	13	2	15
Housing	—	1	1
Housing Maintenance	7	1	8
Library	1	3	4
Town Clerk	—	1	1
Treasurer	4	3	7
Markets	1	—	1
Health	3	—	3
	30	11	41

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1967

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

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report for 1967. During the year we welcomed two new Public Health Inspectors—Mr. J. Andrews who joined us from Liskeard M.B. and Mr. G. N. Stephens from Camborne and Redruth U.D.C.; and Miss F. Woodman who became our first female Pupil Public Health Inspector.

The work generally has followed very much in the pattern of previous years, apart from that concerned with the inspection of Houses in Multiple Occupation. As a consequence of the increase in the Establishment of another Public Health Inspector, it was possible to carry out the detailed inspections of such premises on a much larger scale than had hitherto been found possible. Nearly a hundred houses comprising 272 separate lettings were the subject of more than a thousand visits; and it is gratifying to record some appreciable progress has been made in securing adequate housing conditions and provision of essential amenities. This type of work is never really finished and much remains to be done, but it can fairly be said that we have now secured a firm measure of control in this particular field.

Health Education has been in the very capable hands of the two senior Inspectors—Messrs. L. G. Hopes and G. W. Mathews. In addition to the usual talks and demonstrations to students and nurses, the two lecturers have been mainly responsible for a new course sponsored by the Royal Society of Health in preparing students for the Certificate in Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering. The response to this course has been encouraging, and it is hoped to run a similar one in the next session.

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 ...	219	*
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts ...	54	(75)
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act ...	22	(43)
Re-inspections under the above Acts ...	903	(709)
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	1,007	(166)
Miscellaneous housing inspections ...	35	(40)
Smoke observations, etc. ...	27	(64)
Moveable dwellings ...	32	(25)
Dealers in old metal ...	3	(31)
Infectious diseases and disinfections ...	7	(3)
Drainage, in connection with ...	728	(571)
Factories ...	693	(724)
Verminous or infested premises ...	101	(106)
Interviews ...	728	(745)
Noise, in connection with ...	62	(75)
Offensive trades ...	12	(30)
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections ...	99	(166)
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits ...	765	(733)
Outworkers ...	112	(0)
Pet Shops ...	22	(29)
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment ...	17	(4)
Refuse collection and disposal ...	27	(11)
Rag Flock premises ...	2	(1)
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator) ...	108	(144)
Schools ...	7	(11)
Shops (Shops Acts) ...	7	(43)
Swimming Baths ...	47	(55)
Water Sampling ...	204	(211)
Miscellaneous visits ...	480	(536)
Total ...	6,800	(5,519)

*Figures in brackets refer to 1966

Complaints.

During the year 879 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions ...	83	(89)
Drainage ...	124	(106)
Rats or mice ...	235	(221)
Unsound food ...	175	(194)
Miscellaneous ...	113	(121)
Insect Pests ...	149	(115)

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Drains cleared	53	(39)
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired ...	35	(27)
New drains provided	18	(20)
Sewers cleared	74	(41)
Cesspools emptied	—	—
Inspection chambers built	17	(17)
Inspection chambers repaired	8	(37)
Inspection chambers—new covers provided ...	4	(4)
New gullies provided	11	(5)
Yard surfaces renewed	5	(9)
Eaves gutters renewed	3	(9)
Eaves gutters repaired	8	(8)
Rainwater pipes renewed	5	(11)
Waterclosets provided	44	(19)
W.C. pans renewed	42	(19)
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	58	(17)
Flush pipes repaired	3	(5)
W.C.'s—new seats provided	2	(3)
Roofs renewed	1	(5)
Roofs repaired	28	(32)
Chimney stacks rebuilt	4	(3)
Chimney stacks repaired	8	(12)
Chimneys—flashings renewed	3	(1)
Walls rebuilt	1	(4)
External walls repaired	16	(29)
Ceilings renewed or repaired	13	(22)
Floors renewed	4	(21)
Floors repaired	4	(19)
Skirting boards renewed	2	(6)
Waste pipe renewed	1	(4)
Sub-floor ventilation improved	—	(1)
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	19	(34)
Dampness abated	42	(50)
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	1	(3)
Doors renewed or repaired	10	(12)
New windows provided	9	(20)
Windows repaired	15	(19)
Window sills renewed	1	(1)
Windows—sash cords provided	10	(22)
Natural lighting improved	—	(3)
Ventilation improved	—	(7)
Water service pipes renewed	2	(3)
Water heating systems installed	38	(29)
Bath provided	47	(34)
Wash-hand basins provided	44	(32)
Kitchen sinks provided	32	(22)
Staircases repaired	2	(4)
Ventilated food cupboards provided	33	(26)
Electric services repaired	1	(1)
Hand rails repaired or renewed	1	(2)
Total	782	(773)

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 728 visits were made concerning defective drainage, which among other things resulted in 74 sewers and drains being cleared of obstructions. The total number of items which received attention was 782.

HOUSING ACTS

No Clearance or Demolition Orders were made during the year. This is in part due to the very extensive slum clearance programme of the past, and the ever-increasing number of owner-occupiers who have a vested interest in seeing that their homes are as well maintained as possible.

Fourteen houses in a Clearance Area were demolished, as were 24 others which were either the subject of Undertakings not to Let or were needed for other development.

A total of 395 inspections and visits were made under the Housing Acts for various purposes, and a number of individual premises were the subject of Closing Orders or of Undertakings not to let.

Houses closed under Section 17	...	...	...	...	9
Houses where undertakings have been accepted	...	...	...	...	2
Houses where Closing Orders have been determined	...	...	...	...	1
Houses where Undertakings not to Let have been determined	...	...	...	...	1
Parts of houses closed under Section 18	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

This type of housing, which is mostly found in the larger three or four storied Victorian house, has during the last twenty years or so formed a very significant proportion of all available accommodation in our larger towns and cities. Taunton, in this respect, is no exception. Such premises were originally designed to house very large families, but now with the changing social pattern they have been let off to individuals and couples. In many instances no proper steps have been taken to provide the extra amenities that are necessary if a reasonable housing standard is to be achieved. Such houses pose many unique problems which are not easily or readily resolved, and require unlimited tact and resolution on the part of the Public Health Inspectors if any satisfactory conditions are to be achieved.

This year due to the adjustment in the establishment of Public Health Inspectors it has been possible to make a substantial effort in this field. A total of 97 premises were the subject of a detailed inspection and this involved 272 separate dwellings. The total number inspected since the relevant legislation came into force is 182 involving 601 separate lettings.

In one instance where the landlord had persistently refused to comply with informal notices it was found necessary to make a Management Order to reduce the total number of occupants and secure the necessary amenities.

1,007 (166) visits were made in connection with the enforcement of notices and as a consequence the following matters received attention :—

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External.

Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	1	(—)
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	11	(6)
Roofs renewed	...	...	...	1	(—)
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6	(1)
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4	(—)
Walls repaired	...	...	...	11	(6)
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	6	(1)
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2	(—)
Extra dustbins provided	...	...	...	—	(4)
Water closets repaired or renewed	..	...	...	5	(5)
Drainage repaired or renewed	...	...	...	5	(2)

Internal.

Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7	(6)
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	14	(5)
Floors repaired	...	...	...	17	(9)
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	13	(3)
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	24	(4)
Staircase repaired	...	...	...	2	(4)
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	8	(4)
Staircases redecorated	...	...	...	1	(1)
Dampness abated	...	...	...	30	(—)
Lighting and/or ventilation improved	...	...	...	10	(1)
Ladders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	—	(5)
New ventilated ladders provided	...	...	...	12	(5)
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	4	(1)
Electric fittings repaired or provided	...	...	...	8	(1)
Heating installations provided/repared	...	...	...	3	(2)
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4	(4)
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	10	(4)
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	...	...	...	—	(1)
Wash-hand basin renewed/repared	...	...	...	1	(—)
Sink and/or draining board renewed	...	...	...	7	(2)
Cooking facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	1	(1)
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	1	(3)
Additional bathrooms provided	...	...	...	2	(4)
Baths renewed or repaired	...	...	...	—	(—)

Other Items.

Units of accommodation closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	1	(—)
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-occupation	...	...	...	4	(1)
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	...	...	...	—	(1)
Total				236	(97)

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. This clearly indicates the complete ineffectiveness of this particular piece of legislation in improving housing conditions. This is no doubt due to the fact that the tenants of the type of property likely to be involved are reluctant to take any action which would undoubtedly involve some increase in rent however small. Conversely landlords will not willingly expend large sums of money on repairs which will yield a disproportionately small return on the increased rent. Therefore the only course available for achieving any improvement in housing conditions is by means of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24.

During the year 68 (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 4 proposals for new boiler installations were considered and where necessary 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.

In November the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a new Memorandum on chimney height. This recommends the reduction of the minimum chimney height from 40 ft. to 25 ft. under certain conditions, and makes no provision for emissions of less than 3 lbs. of sulphur dioxide per hour. Another Memorandum was issued at the same time on grit and dust emissions from large furnaces burning a ton or more of fuel per hour. Guidance is given on methods of reducing grit and dust emissions, and empowering Authorities to require measurement of such emissions.

Generally the abatement of domestic smoke has tended to have been neglected in all but our larger towns and cities. It is disturbing to think that many of the post-war houses in Taunton have fireplaces incapable of burning smokeless fuel, and it was certainly a long needed requirement of the new Building Regulations which has enabled the provision of suitable appliances in new houses to be enforced.

NOISE

No special mention has been made in previous reports of this subject which is becoming an ever increasing problem of our daily lives. Noise has been defined in the Wilson Report which came out in 1963 as "sound which is undesirable by the recipient". The report goes on to say "This simple description emphasizes the cardinal fact that noise is subjective; a noise problem must involve people and their feelings, and its assessment is a matter rather of human values and environments than of precise physical measurement. These values and environments are complex indeed. Not only do people vary in their susceptibility and adaptability to noise, but each of us may be annoyed by one noise but not by another of similar physical characteristics. A sound which most people would

ignore in, say, the industrial part of a city, would be a disturbing noise in a quieter environment, for example at night in a residential area or in the country. The annoyance produced by a noise is often related to the information it conveys or the association or emotion it excites rather than to its actual intensity; and a sound of small intensity, such as that from a dripping tap, may become unbearable simply from repetition. Thus, whether a sound is a noise, or whether a noise is annoying, may depend upon many factors which are independent of its physical qualities''.

It has been noticed that the public are becoming far less tolerant of noise, and are genuinely anxious to have it abolished or reduced to an acceptable maximum. The problems involved are many and varied, and often require expert and specialised knowledge in their solution.

In Taunton there have been numerous complaints concerning noise, and these have varied from the high pitched whine of cord spinners to the mooing of cows at night, and from the cacophony of beat groups to the roar of diesel engines. As may be imagined some of these complaints were frivolous, whilst others were genuine. One of some interest was at the beginning of the year when a petition was received from the residents of some houses situated near a club regarding an alleged nuisance caused by the loudness of the sound of the bands and groups playing at the club on Sunday evenings.

Numerous visits were made between the hours of 8.30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The level of the noise measured with a sound measuring instrument proved that the noise was sufficiently loud and excessive to be a statutory nuisance. It is interesting to note that at a distance of forty feet from the rostrum inside the club, a sound level of 108 (dB) was recorded when one of the groups was playing. This is 23 dB higher than that of a pneumatic drill measured at a distance of 50 feet from where the drill is working.

For some time the organisers arranged with the groups playing that the amplifiers be reduced in volume to a level that would not cause nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. This worked satisfactorily until the warm summer evenings and the mechanical ventilation had to be augmented by opening the windows. Complaints were again received.

The club then arranged for the sound level to be further reduced until the noise level was satisfactory to persons living in the premises nearest to the club. Consideration was also given to improving the mechanical ventilation so that the ventilation would be adequate without the necessity of opening windows.

RODENT CONTROL

The usual work of rodent control at dwelling houses and business premises has continued on very much the same scale as in the previous year.

For the first time this Department, with help from the Borough Engineer's Department, has carried out a complete treatment of all the sewers in the Borough. In order to complete this very considerable operation without interfering with the normal day-to-day routine, the borough was divided into ten areas—each of which contained approximately 60 manholes. Each month a separate district was treated, and on the first visit to each manhole a baiting tray was fixed if necessary—otherwise the bait was placed on the benching. A total of 153 trays were fixed and this of course accounted for a great deal of the time spent on the work.

The treatment was carried out with Warfarin, and this naturally necessitated several visits to each baiting point. In all there were 116 complete "takes" and 112 partial "takes", which signifies that there is a considerable infestation of the sewers. It is hoped that by reducing the rodent population of the sewers with regular treatments there will be an associated benefit by the reduction of rodent infestation in all types of premises in the borough.

The following work was carried out during the year ;—

Treatments at private dwellings	...	314	(305)
Visits involved	... ..	818	(900)
Treatments at business premises	...	210	(246)
Visits involved	... ..	512	(671)
Treatments at Council premises	...	68	(89)
Visits involved	... ..	208	(280)
Survey visits	... ..	39	(66)
Wasps' nests destroyed	... ..	108	(64)
Other vermin, etc.	... ..	35	(61)
Treatments of sewers	... ..	586	(—)
Visits involved	... ..	1,849	(—)
Drain tests	... ..	48	(20)

Disinfection.

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

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

Public Health Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades—

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

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

There are two residential sites in the borough with a total number of 38 vans, and both sites have been conducted in a satisfactory manner during the last twelve months. There are three individual vans, and from time to time vans are stationed and used 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	...	26
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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 7

During the year one shop closed down and two others opened up. All the businesses were conducted satisfactorily during the year, and 22 visits were made to such premises.

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 by agreement the Public Health Inspectors have undertaken the inspection and testing of appliances, and the enforcement of the Regulations.

These Regulations came about as the direct result of the high incidence of fires which were directly attributable to unflued oil heaters of the domestic type. When such appliances were tested at the British Standards Institution it was found that only about 14% could be regarded as completely safe. Thereafter the manufacturers modified their appliances so as to conform to the stringent requirements of the Regulations.

These Regulations require the following warnings to be displayed on the appliance.

- (a) against using petrol as a fuel.
- (b) against carrying the heater when alight.
- (c) against using it in unventilated places.
- (d) against using it where it may be exposed to draughts.
- (e) against placing it where it may be knocked over.

It should be pointed out that these warnings do not imply that the appliance conforms to the requirements as to its construction and safety, and Local Authorities are empowered to have tests carried out as regards spillage of fuel, emission of carbon monoxide, corrosion of fuel tanks, and draught resistance. Very few, if any, Local Authorities are equipped to carry out such tests and are compelled to invoke the help of Testing Stations. These tests are comparatively costly to carry out, and there has been a general reluctance to spend money in this direction, but I feel there is a moral obligation to see that such tests are carried out.

The loophole in the Regulations is that they are not applicable to second hand heaters. Experience has shown that very often such unguarded appliances are mostly likely to be found in the poorer type of house in Multiple occupation, where in the sole interest of economy the landlord conforms to the requirement of providing space heating by means of obsolete and potentially dangerous equipment regardless of any fire hazard. The Public Health Inspectors, in the course of inspection of such premises, discourage the use of all dangerous equipment and warn both landlords and tenants of the risks involved.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water.

During the year 166 (220) samples of the water at the St. James Street Baths from the inlet and outlet ends were tested for residual chlorine, total chlorine and Ph values. Apart from a few Ph values which were slightly low, the results were quite 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	...	...	1,031	(1,106)
Wholesale Meat Depots	...	...	154	(122)
Butchers and Fishmongers	...	...	192	(118)
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	...	...	59	(43)
Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	149	(160)
Grocers and Greengrocers	...	...	288	(281)
Food preparation premises	...	...	131	(105)
Restaurants and Hotels, etc.	...	...	243	(265)
Licensed Premises	...	...	104	(96)
Other visits	...	...	548	(580)
Total			2,899	(2,876)

As can be seen from the inspection figures there has been but little variation in the attention that this particular section of our work receives. As this figure represents about one third of all the various visits and inspections that are carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, it clearly shows that this work is very high in our list of priorities.

These visits are carried out for a variety of reasons other than routine inspection; and include the procurement of samples for bacteriological examination, investigation of complaints, inspection

of foodstuffs where there is doubt as to fitness for consumption, and to meet and discuss with architects, builders and other interested persons any proposals as to the design, layout, and equipment etc. of food premises.

Seven premises were the subject of works of major reconstruction; and as a result of informal action the following matters received attention at the various types of food premises in the area as shown in the table on page 33.

SPECIAL TYPES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION

Milk Supply.

There are 8 registered Dairies and 37 Distributors of Milk operating within the Borough. The County Council have wide responsibilities in this field and send us monthly reports of all milk samples taken in the Borough.

Ice Cream.

There were 5 new registrations under the Food and Drugs Act, and the total number of registrations is as follows :—

Manufacture and Sale	...	...	...	...	3
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and Sale	...	...	...	...	116

Food Preparation Premises.

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 all premises where sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale are prepared or manufactured must be registered by the local authority. Such premises mainly comprise of butchers, fried fish and chip shops and bakehouses where meat pies, pasties or faggots are manufactured or cooked.

During the year there have been four new registrations, bringing the total of such premises to 58. These new registrations were in respect of private houses, where pasties, pies and sausage rolls etc., are made for sale to shops specialising in home-made products. Generally the standard of hygiene and equipment in such houses was found to be quite reasonable, but proper supervision is far more difficult than in proper business premises. One has also to ensure that no food is given out for preparation by the retailer to any of the domestic premises concerned, as this practice is specifically forbidden by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1967

	Butchers & Fish-mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction ...	1	—	2	3	1	7
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	5	1	13	12	2	33
Walls redecorated ...	9	1	9	16	7	42
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	4	1	4	7	1	17
Ceilings redecorated ...	2	1	2	8	7	20
Floors repaired or renewed ...	5	1	10	13	4	33
Improvement of lighting ...	1	—	6	5	—	12
Improvement of ventilation ...	2	—	12	2	—	16
Renewed or repaired drainage ...	5	1	4	1	—	11
Yard surfaces renewed ...	6	—	2	—	—	8
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided ...	3	—	3	3	2	11
Hot water supply provided ...	1	1	2	1	1	6
New draining boards provided ...	1	—	1	1	—	3
Preparation tables, etc. retopped ...	3	2	2	8	2	17
New equipment, etc. provided ...	2	2	4	2	—	10
Dustbins provided ...	17	—	—	3	1	21
Means of protection of food provided ...	2	—	—	2	2	6
Refrigerators provided ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ...	—	—	2	5	1	8
New flushing cisterns provided ...	—	—	—	2	1	3
Sanitary accommodation repaired ...	2	—	—	4	—	6
Sanitary accommodation redecorated ...	4	—	1	5	4	14
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	13	3	28	4	—	48
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	—	—	1	5	1	7
Hot water supply provided ...	1	—	4	5	—	10
Toilet requisites provided ...	3	2	4	5	1	15
Provision of lockers ...	1	1	1	2	—	5
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ...	2	3	—	2	—	7
Treatments for infestations ...	1	8	3	1	—	13
Provision of first-aid materials ...	4	1	2	2	1	10
Totals ...	99	29	120	127	38	413 (469)

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. 128 artificial and 13 dairy cream samples were examined and found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

During the year 50 samples of Ice Cream were examined. Half of these were of the Hot Mix type coming entirely from national manufacturers. All of these gave satisfactory results, which clearly shows the advantage of having wrapped or otherwise protected ice cream as it comes from the large manufacturers who are all very conscious of the necessity of producing ice cream under the strictest of hygienic conditions. The rest of the samples included some from two local manufacturers who used the Cold Mix method, and all these were satisfactory. However there were three unsatisfactory samples of Soft Ice Cream, but "follow-up" samples proved satisfactory.

This last type of Ice Cream is the most difficult to control so as to ensure a satisfactory standard at all times. It is actually manufactured by the vendor in a rather complicated piece of apparatus at the time of sale. More often than not the apparatus is housed in a mobile shop, and unless the apparatus is properly cleansed at the end of each working period, the risks of contamination are very high. Unfortunately the type of person operating these machines is usually more interested in his cash return, rather than the somewhat complex routine of cleansing at the end of each day. Often these mobile shops are based on small lock-up garages which lack the proper sink and hot water supply essential for the cleaning operations.

Such vans should operate from a fully equipped depot, where specially trained staff are available to cleanse and service the vehicles. In this way the tired salesman is relieved of the irksome and lengthy task of cleaning at the day's end.

Details are as follows :—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	25	1	1	—
Cold Mix	13	2	1	—
Soft Ice Cream	2	4	2	1

Liquid Egg.

Sixteen samples of pasteurised and thirty samples of raw liquid egg were tested during the year. All of the former passed the Alpha-amylase Test, but in two of the raw egg samples salmonella organisms were isolated. Steps were taken to ensure that the batches from which these originated were subjected to pasteurisation.

Meat Products, etc.

During the year 144 samples were examined. There were four unsatisfactory results as follows :—

1. Minced beef—*Clostridium Welchii*.
2. Beef sausage—*Clostridium Welchii*.
3. Ham—*Staphylococcus Aureus*.
4. Minced beef—*Salmonella typhi-murium*.

The results of the first would seem to indicate contamination of intestinal origin; and the third from a food handler's nose or throat. Subsequent samples all gave negative results.

The *Salmonella typhi-murium* result was the subject of a very thorough investigation including the examination of faeces from three of the food handlers at the premises concerned, and the taking of drain swabs in the system serving the premises. These samples and further ones of the minced beef were all negative; so it is probable that the source of infection was either at the slaughter-house (from infected wiping cloths) or—less likely—during transport. This incident clearly demonstrated the very real need for hygiene practices to be observed at all stages of meat production, preparation and handling.

Details of samples are as follows :—

MEAT SAMPLES, etc.

Beef—corned	4	Beef—minced	15
Beef—pressed	2	Beef—roast	1
Black pudding	4	Brawn	3
Chicken	2	Country terrine	1
Curry puff	1	Faggotts	7
Hoggs pudding	1	Ham—baked	1
Ham—boiled	16	Ham—chopped	2
Ox tongue	4	Pasty	6
Pate—chicken & Liver	1	Pate—duck	1
Pate—smoked ham ...	1	Pie—Gala	1
Pie—chicken and		Pie—Pork	7
mushroom	1	Pie—scotch lamb	1
Pie—harvest	1	Pie—steak & onion	1
Pie—Pork with egg ...	1	Polony	1
Pie—Steak & Kidney	2	Pork—luncheon meat	4
Pie—Veal & egg	2	Pork—stuffed roll ...	1
Pork—chopped	1	Salami	2
Pork—roast	8	Sausage—garlic	2
Sausage—beef	13	Sausage—pork	10
Sausage—liver	2	Sausage—tongue	1
Sausage—roll	5	Tripe	2
Scotch egg	2		

Water.

The routine examination of the water supply to the borough has continued throughout the year. Each sample is checked for residual chlorine, and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. 204 samples were examined, and of this total 24 were of raw water from the Fulwood Works and 1 from a private bore-hole.

One complaint of cloudiness and deposits in the water was investigated, and the cause was found to be due to disturbance of the main following repairs. Sampling proved the water to be completely innocuous.

Food Inspection.

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

CANNED FOODS

Fruit	963	Vegetables (various)	83
Fruit juice	148	Peas	142
Meat (various)	173	Carrots	31
Corned beef	106	Tomatoes	224
Luncheon meat	70	Baked beans	131
Jellied veal	7	Soup	279
Ham	119	Spaghetti	17
Tongue	18	Syrup	5
Chicken	2	Jam	21
Fish	359	Baby food	2
Milk	27	Beverages	9
Cream	13	Cakes	1500
Rice	34	Miscellaneous	111

FROZEN FOODS

Fruit	3	Ice cream	399
Meat (various)	357	Chips	41
Sausages	7	Pastry	38
Fish	451	Pies	57
Fish products	303	Cakes, sponges	14
Vegetables (various)	203	Miscellaneous	133
Peas	314		

OTHER FOODS

Tea	2 pkts.	Miscellaneous	156 „
Dried fruit	39 „	Flour	311 lbs.
Cereals	67 „	Cream	45 „
Butter	1059 „	Fish	283 „
Margarine	12 „	Prunes	236 „
Lard	28 „	Cooked meats	440 „
Cheese	10 „	Sausages	186 „
Sugar	28 „	Fruit	108 „
Marzipan	142 „	Honey	10 jars
Biscuits	69 „	Jam	24 „
Salt	47 „	Pies, etc.	180
Rice	103 „	Turkeys, chicken	39

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

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

Offence	Result
1. Metal tack in can of blackberries	£20 fine imposed
2. Fly in chocolate eclair	£18 fine imposed
3. Mould in madeira cake	£5 fine imposed

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 lettuce and one of pork. The results are as follows:—

Lettuce.

gamma-B.H.C.	... ..	0.08 part per million
Dieldrin	... ..	0.04 part per million
D.D.E.	... ..	0.74 part per million

No other pesticides were detected in any significant trace.

Pork.

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 over 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	...	...	...	...	233	(216)
Cows	...	...	...	...	83	(70)
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	1,616	(1,526)
Calves	...	...	...	...	14	(25)
Pigs	...	...	...	...	43,475	(39,633)
Total					45,421	(41,470)

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	233	83	14	1,616	45,421
Number inspected	233	83	14	1,616	45,421
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	139
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	49	—	—	20	11,911
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	21.03%	—	—	1.24%	26.22%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1,021
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	2.25%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	...	...	...	...	917 lbs.
Lamb	...	...	...	...	92 „
Bacon	...	...	...	...	123 „
Pork	...	...	...	...	292 „
Offal	...	...	...	...	54 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

The readings for the year are not exceptional in any way. The totals of rainfall and hours of sunshine are very much as average. The wettest months were May and October with rainfalls of 4.27 inches and 5.93 inches—both about twice the average: whilst April, June and August were exceptional with rainfalls of less than 1 inch—being less than half the average in each instance. The highest day's rainfall was 1.10 which fell on May 2nd.

The highest barometer reading was 30.69 in January, and the lowest 28.87 in November.

The total hours of sunshine was 60 above average: and the sunniest day was in July with 15.25 hours. It is worth noting that there were no sunless days between May 28th and September 11th—a period of fifteen weeks!

There was a slight increase in the average mean temperature, but there were no heat waves or exceptional cold periods. The highest temperature was 82°F in July and the lowest 14°F in December. It is interesting to record that there were 6° of frost as late as May 2nd, and this did considerable damage to fruit crops in the area.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1967 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
1967	29.98	50.38	1,610.00	48	29.25	182	136
Average	29.93	49.78	1,550.81	65	28.88	178	125

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1967

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Max. Reading	No. of Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.04in. or more	Max. Reading
January	30.04	30.69	29.43	41.39	56	18	47.0	5	12	2.01	16	13	0.42
February	29.95	30.60	29.11	41.79	55	23	98.0	8	3	3.83	13	10	0.85
March	30.03	30.61	28.89	45.99	59	22	169.0	9.75	1	2.55	13	10	0.71
April	30.10	30.50	29.67	48.27	69	31	127.25	11.0	2	0.69	12	4	0.27
May	29.76	30.26	29.25	52.13	75	26	185.0	13.0	2	4.27	23	21	1.10
June	30.17	30.42	29.73	59.00	75	39	232.0	14.75	—	0.61	4	4	0.25
July	30.06	30.38	29.88	62.21	82	41	225.25	15.25	—	1.28	9	6	0.55
August	29.96	30.30	29.39	60.43	77	44	196.25	12.25	—	0.84	14	8	0.18
September	29.87	30.32	29.54	57.87	69	38	135.0	9.0	4	3.42	21	16	0.80
October	29.77	30.32	29.15	52.59	67	35	81.0	7.0	6	5.95	26	21	0.78
November	29.96	30.66	29.87	42.77	58	22	70.50	6.50	6	1.73	16	9	0.70
December	30.10	30.65	29.28	40.16	57	14	43.75	4.75	12	2.09	15	14	0.30
Total or Average ...	29.98	—	—	50.33	—	—	1610.00	—	48	29.25	182	136	—

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1967

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	...	...	29.91
January	...	...	29.88
November	...	...	29.87

TEMPERATURE

Annual Average	...	...	49.78 Degr. F.
July	...	...	61.51
August	...	...	60.68
June	...	...	58.18
September	...	...	56.87
May	...	...	52.56
October	...	...	50.53
April	...	...	47.22
November	...	...	44.24
March	...	...	43.36
December	...	...	40.95
February	...	...	40.11
January	...	...	40.08

SUNSHINE IN HOURS

HOURS OF SUNSHINE				NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS			
Annual Average	...	...	1550.81	Annual Average	...	...	65.35
June	...	...	218.49	August	...	...	1.35
May	...	...	205.82	July	...	...	1.42
July	...	...	202.10	June	...	...	1.60
August	...	...	189.02	May	...	...	1.98
April	...	...	150.59	September	...	...	3.00
September	...	...	130.78	April	...	...	3.10
March	...	...	117.84	October	...	...	4.22
October	...	...	102.25	March	...	...	5.07
February	...	...	72.22	February	...	...	8.09
November	...	...	60.09	November	...	...	9.65
January	...	...	46.66	January	...	...	13.43
December	...	...	39.85	December	...	...	13.87

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1967

RAINFALL

Annual Average	...	...	28.88 Inches
November	...	...	3.35
December	...	...	3.14
January	...	...	2.99
October	...	...	2.99
September	...	...	2.43
May	...	...	2.34
August	...	...	2.30
February	...	...	2.11
April	...	...	2.04
July	...	...	2.02
March	...	...	1.95
June	...	...	1.61

NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL

Annual Average	...	...	178.43 Days
December	...	...	18.43
January	...	...	17.45
November	...	...	17.01
October	...	...	16.37
August	...	...	14.59
September	...	...	14.29
April	...	...	13.84
February	...	...	13.76
July	...	...	13.59
May	...	...	13.49
March	...	...	13.12
June	...	...	11.20

Days of Rainfall of .04 inches or more

Annual Average	...	...	125.50 Days
December	...	...	13.11
November	...	...	12.62
January	...	...	12.18
October	...	...	11.71
August	...	...	10.02
September	...	...	10.02
February	...	...	9.76
April	...	...	9.71
May	...	...	9.64
July	...	...	9.11
March	...	...	8.84
June	...	...	7.91

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The work in this particular field is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in conjunction with the Technical Assistant—Mrs. J. Hayes. During the year sixty-six detailed initial inspections were made in addition to nearly nine hundred other visits. Eighty notices were served and 125 were complied with.

Since 1964 when the Act became operative 575 premises have been registered, and of these 328 are in respect of retail shops and 191 in respect of offices. Very few premises are found to be in compliance with the Act, though there are many with only minor contraventions. Lack of cleanliness and insufficient lighting were the two most prevalent defects found during the year. The question of lighting is not easy to resolve as the Minister after nearly four years has not thought fit to make Regulations fixing minimum illumination for specific operations or circumstances. However we have found the I.E.S. Code gives a very practical and useful guide to resolving most problems of artificial lighting.

Ventilation is also a fairly frequent cause of concern—this is especially so in many of the modern shops where little or no provision is made for natural means, and often the mechanical devices are ill-positioned or inadequate to meet the task expected of them.

Seven accidents—none of them fatal—were officially reported, and each was thoroughly investigated. In no instance was machinery found to be at fault.

The details of the work carried out during the year is as follows :—

TABLE A		(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises newly registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS		Offices	10	191	32
		Retail Shops	13	328	29
		Wholesale Shops, Ware- houses	0	24	1
		Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	2	30	4
		Fuel Storage Depots	0	2	0
		TOTALS	25	575	66

TABLE B		Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises 864		
TABLE C		(1) Class of workplace	(2) Number of persons employed	
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE		Offices	...	2,323
		Retail Shops	...	2,332
		Wholesale Departments, Ware- houses	...	271
		Catering Establishments open to the public	...	415
		Canteens	...	20
		Fuel Storage Depots	...	19
		TOTAL	...	5,380
		TOTAL MALES	...	2,522
		TOTAL FEMALES	...	2,858

During the year informal notices were served in respect of 607 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	11	7	28	1	3	3	1	3	7	3	7	10	4	10	4	—
Offices	1	—	3	3	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	2	3
Catering Premises	—	2	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	4	—	2	1	—
Wholesale warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12	9	34	5	6	3	2	3	8	6	7	16	4	14	7	3

Other Items

Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating Facilities	Staircases Floors, Passages,	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Accommodation for Clothing	Machinery	First-Aid	Abstract of the Act	Waste Bins	Registrations	Unsuit. accom. Discontinue use	Safety	
89	3	4	58	14	18	24	10	20	13	8	—	6	2	19	390
13	1	—	24	5	3	30	1	—	9	5	1	—	—	6	118
34	—	—	10	1	2	10	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	9	92
—	1	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
136	5	4	95	20	23	65	14	25	22	14	2	6	2	35	607

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	19	13	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	344	940	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	16	10	3	—
TOTAL	379	963	5	—

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	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	3	—	1	—
TOTAL	9	8	—	4	—

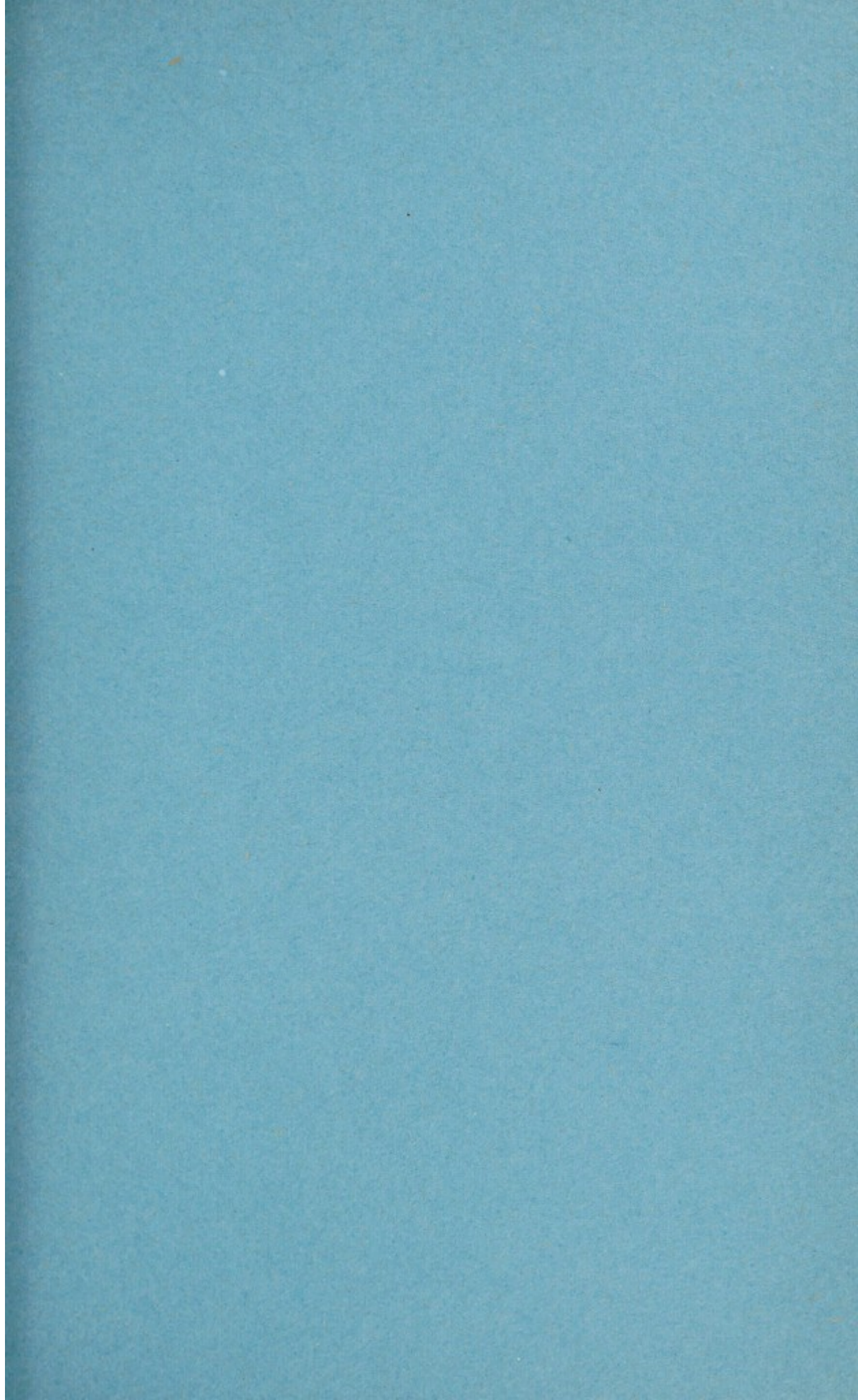
OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

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 ...	266	—	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS

For the first time in several years it has been found possible to carry out a detailed inspection of the premises notified as being those of Outworkers. These are premises where factory work is done in the domestic dwellings of the employees. The system has undoubted advantages as far as the employer is concerned, and sometimes for the worker. However, powers are necessary to control working conditions so as to ensure that standards are equal at least to those in the factories, and to safeguard against the spread of any dangerous infectious disease.

Conditions in all the premises in the Borough were found to be reasonably satisfactory and in no instance was it found necessary to ask an employer to discontinue giving work out.



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