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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 1969





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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 1969. This is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Health and Social Security, 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.

Mr. Pawson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, contributes a full account of the work of the Public Health Inspecting Staff. They have carried out their duties in a very able and conscientious manner, and their time has been fully occupied in attending to the many matters of hygiene and environmental control which arise in a Borough of this size.

I wish also to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee, from Dr. Thomson, who acts as my deputy when the occasion arises, and from 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, 1969

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	37,420
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed)	12,050
Rateable value at the end of 1969	£1,665,947
Estimated product of a penny rate	£6,874

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	267	258	525
Illegitimate	27	22	49
Total	294	280	574

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.3
Standardised Birth Rate:—	
Taunton	15.6
England and Wales	16.3
Percentage illegitimate of total live births	9.0

(b) Still births

Total	5
Rate per 1,000 live and still births:—	
Taunton	9.0
England and Wales	13.0
Total live and still births	579

2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	499	
Death rate per 1,000 population		13.3
Standardised Death Rate :—		
Taunton		12.9
England and Wales		11.9
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—		
Total	5	
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—		
Taunton		9.0
England and Wales		18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		8.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		20.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)		5.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)		3.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)		12.0

Causes of Infant Deaths

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Congenital anomalies	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	—	2
Accidents	—	1	1
Totals	3	2	5

(c) Maternal Mortality
Total Maternal Deaths Nil

(d) Deaths from Cancer

Cancer of the lung	Males	14
	Females	3
	Total	17
Cancer in all other situations	Males	37
	Females	35
	Total	72

Number of deaths from cancer of lung—England and Wales—

1965	..	26,399
1966	..	27,025
1967	..	28,250
1968	..	28,826
1969	..	29,768

Comment on Vital Statistics

The birth rate for Taunton was rather lower than that of England and Wales as a whole and the death rate was somewhat higher. The infant mortality rate at 9 per 1,000 births was only half that of the whole country. This is gratifying, but it has to be remembered that a statistical variation of this kind can occur when dealing with a fairly small population without having great significance. In the previous year the Taunton infant mortality rate was slightly higher than that of the country as a whole. The rate of illegitimate births was 9 per cent, a figure which, in conformity with other areas of the country, is tending to rise year by year.

The most frequent cause of death, as is always the case, was disease of heart and blood vessels. I am repeating some notes on this which were inserted in last year's report. As the expectation of life of the population gradually increases these diseases are bound to become more prominent.

Chronic rheumatic heart disease: this is damage inflicted on the heart by one or more attacks of acute rheumatism, usually occurring in childhood or early adult life. The structures often affected are the heart valves which may be deformed and rendered incapable of carrying out their function. This throws a constant strain on the heart in the effort demanded from it to compensate for the valve deficiency. Ultimately the heart is liable to become enlarged and to fail.

Hypertensive disease: is the condition associated with high blood pressure. Again a long-standing strain is put upon the heart in overcoming increased resistance to its action.

Ischaemic heart disease: nearly always means coronary thrombosis, in which one of the arteries supplying the heart muscle becomes blocked by a clot of blood, and as a result the portion of the heart depending on the affected artery is deprived of its blood supply. There are various degrees of severity with this condition and many cases make a good recovery, but when a massive blockage takes place the heart becomes incapable of performing its function and death ensues.

Other forms of heart disease: a number of widely varying conditions come under this heading, such as inflammation of the membranes within or around the heart, disorders of heart rhythm and so on.

Cerebrovascular disease: usually means the condition referred to in common terms as a stroke.

Other diseases of the circulatory system: includes such things as arteriosclerosis, commonly called hardening of the arteries, aneurysm or dilation of an artery, and embolism or blockage of an artery, usually by a clot of blood.

There were 3 fewer deaths from cancer of the lung than in 1968, but the figure is still high at 17, 14 of these being males. A table of deaths from this cause in England and Wales over the past five years is given and tells its own tale. A noteworthy increase occurred in the numbers dying from bronchitis and emphysema, from 18 in 1968 to 29 in 1969. While the fallacy of reading too much into this when dealing with a relatively small population is to be avoided, it is worth mentioning that these chest diseases also are now believed to have a close connection with excessive smoking.

The figure of 7 deaths from motor accidents in 1968 was commented upon as causing concern, but this has now increased to 10 for 1969 and this really highlights the price we have to pay for the benefits of motor transport. One cannot be complacent about death on this scale as an everyday hazard of life.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	—	1
Measles	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. ..	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	5	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	9	12	21
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	3	17
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	—	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms	17	6	23

Diabetes Mellitus	4	1	5
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	—	1
Anaemias	2	1	3
Mental Disorders	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	4	7	11
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2	3
Hypertensive Disease	9	7	16
Ischaemic Heart Disease	66	56	122
Other Forms of Heart Disease	10	11	21
Cerebrovascular Disease	16	48	64
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	13	19	32
Influenza	3	4	7
Pneumonia	15	27	42
Bronchitis and Emphysema	23	6	29
Other Disease of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	2	5
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	4	5
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1	2
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	—	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	4	10
All Other Accidents	3	—	3
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	3	5
All Other External Causes	—	1	1

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors continued to give educational talks to various groups throughout the year. The Medical Officer of Health endeavoured to put over a message on such subjects as drug-taking, the medical aspects of child minding and venereal disease. As regards the last mentioned of these, there has been a very marked increase in the prevalence of certain kinds of venereal disease in this as in other communities throughout the country. It is often said that if only people, and especially young people and school children, were given more information on these diseases, the problem could be brought under control. In fact, the main item of information which needs to be considered is that the increase in venereal disease is due to the increase in promiscuity.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis)

Measles provided the only substantial number of cases of notifiable disease during the year, and the epidemic involved far fewer cases than occurred in 1968. Immunisation against measles may have had some credit for this, but this procedure has not yet had a fair chance to demonstrate its usefulness.

Towards the end of 1969 a severe epidemic of influenza built up in this country, and Taunton had many cases. The epidemic lasted on into the early weeks of 1970. It was due to a variant of influenza virus A. According to the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security the epidemic was as bad as any in the last 20 years and there was probably as high a sickness rate and mortality as in any comparable period since the 1930s. The impression was formed in this area that after-effects in the form of cough and other respiratory symptoms were more troublesome and prolonged than one usually expects to find with influenza. In accordance with national policy immunisation was made available in the autumn for doctors, health visitors, nurses and others whose work involved the likelihood of close contact with sufferers from the disease, and also for patients on family doctors' lists who were deemed to run special risks if they contracted influenza: but in spite of a certain amount of public pressure no general offer of vaccination was made, because the effectiveness of the procedure has not yet reached a stage where it can be depended upon to have a worthwhile effect in controlling the spread of the disease.

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Infective jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Acute meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

TUBERCULOSIS

Only five new cases of this disease were notified during 1969, which was half the number for the previous year. This may give the impression that tuberculosis is rapidly disappearing, but this is by no means so. Although Taunton was fortunate in this particular year, there are still more deaths from tuberculosis in this country than from any other notifiable infectious disease. The treatment and follow-up service is good in this area, and again the figures of forty years ago are given together with those of 1969 as a demonstration of the remarkable way in which the prevalence has

lessened. In studying these figures it should be remembered that the population of Taunton in 1929 was about 25,000 and at the present time it is over 37,000 which makes the contrast even more striking.

		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
1969	Cases on Borough Register on 31.12.69	50	6
	New cases notified during 1969	5	—
	Deaths during 1969	2	1
1929	Cases on Borough Register on 31.12.29	381	55
	New cases notified in 1929	36	10
	Deaths during 1929	17	4

IMMUNISATION

This form of protection against infectious disease is now carried out almost entirely by family doctors, the mechanism of summoning children for injection at the appropriate time being handled by computer. As was stated in last year's report the percentage of children immunised in Taunton cannot now be given, but it is certainly high. In the Chief Medical Officer's Report Somerset was one of four areas mentioned as having an immunisation rate of 90–95 per cent of children, this being the highest for the whole of the country.

An up-to-date schedule of the immunisation programme recommended for all children is appended, together with brief notes on the diseases against which the procedure is aimed.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
4 months ..	First diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
6 months ..	Second diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
12 months ..	Third diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
18 months ..	Smallpox vaccination.
13 months—2 years	Measles vaccination.
4½ years	Diphtheria/tetanus (no whooping cough) and oral polio vaccine. Smallpox re-vaccination 4 weeks or more after this booster.
Over 11 years ..	B.C.G.
14½ years	Oral polio vaccine. Tetanus toxoid. Smallpox re-vaccination four weeks later.

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.

Measles

This has always been a very common infection among children, with far from negligible risks to those in the younger age groups especially. Immunisation is now being carried out against this disease and it is hoped that widespread outbreaks will, in time, become a thing of the past.

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 after the age of 11 years 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. 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 8 Health Visitors engaged on work in the Borough during 1969, 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	.. .. .	602
Children aged one to five years	.. .. .	1,439

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 Visitors in the Mental Health field has increased considerably since the coming into operation of the Mental Health Act, 1959.

Child Welfare Centres

Numbers of individual children who attended were as follows:
486 attended Tower Lane on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
197 attended All Saints' Church Hall, Halcon on Wednesday afternoons.

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

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

Total attendances of children under 5 years of age were 6,250 which was a decrease of 785 from 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. This is a development which is to be welcomed, and it is likely to increase as the years go on.

Liaison with Family Doctors

The scheme of Health Visitor and District Nurse attachment to general practises 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 1969, 189 women attended and the total number of attendances was 1,028.

In addition, 36 women attended doctors' surgeries for the same purpose, and made a total of 124 attendances.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing

35,085 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 the premature babies 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 1969, 35 premature infants were born in hospital of whom 1 died; 2 were born at home.

Home Help Service

During 1969, 378 Taunton residents received help from the Home Help Service as against 306 in 1968.

Help was sent for the following reasons:

Maternity	..	..	..	10
Post and Pre-Natal	..	..	..	6
Old Age	..	..	..	282
General illness	..	..	..	7
Chronic illness	..	..	..	52
Post Operation	..	..	..	11
Child Care	..	..	..	5
Mental illness	..	..	..	3
Accidents	..	..	..	2

Of these 242 remained on the books at 31st December, 1969, against 208 in December, 1968. Of the 242 on the books, 168 could be regarded as long term commitments.

The apparent increase in the popularity of Taunton as a retirement area increases the strain on this already hard-pressed service. A welcome increase in the number of Home Helps employed was still not sufficient to meet the needs of the larger number of those needing help which included 51 more householders aged 65 and 19 more sufferers from chronic illness.

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.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1969 was as follows:

Number Inspected	Number requiring Treatment	Number treated	Extractions		Fillings		Other Treatment (Dentures, Crowns, Orthodontics, X-rays, etc.)
			Decid.	Perm.	Decid.	Perm.	
5,165	2,792	2 489	1,668	575	2,290	3,471	428

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

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-school children</i>
1. Number of cases inspected	10	144
2. Number found to require treatment	10	88
3. Number of cases treated	13	132
4. Number of attendances	63	316
5. Dentures provided	9	—

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

Day Nursery

The Day Nursery in Holway Road continued to provide valuable facilities for the day care of pre-school children. There was a waiting list of applicants for admission throughout the year and a system of priorities had to be operated to deal with this. Nearly all of the children in the nursery were there for social or medical reasons. Plans were in hand to extend the nursery by ten more places in order to meet the demand for accommodation, and it was expected that these would materialise in 1970.

There were many applications for registration under the Child Minders Regulations and there are now numerous play groups throughout the town providing care for toddlers with benefit to the mothers and children concerned. Nearly all of these groups operate in the mornings only, whereas the Day Nursery provides all-day care.

MEALS ON WHEELS

This immensely valuable service continued to be provided by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. An average of 100 old people received two meals per week during 1969, and the total of meals served during the year was 9,726. Continued efforts are being made to extend the service so that three meals per week may be made available instead of two as at present, but so far this has not proved possible.

Gratitude should be expressed to the kitchen staff of Musgrove Park Hospital and to the ladies who distribute the meals. Without their help there would be no service.

WELFARE SERVICES BY VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS

The British Red Cross Society maintain a Loan Department in the Borough which does most useful work in the distribution of aids to home nursing, which are hired out to patients who can benefit from this help. The Society would welcome volunteers to assist with this work.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade run car outings for disabled persons throughout the summer months which enable patients who may seldom leave the confines of their own homes to spend pleasant and sociable afternoons in various beauty spots in the country side surrounding Taunton. Volunteer car drivers would also be welcome to help with this activity.

The recently constituted Council of Social Services is proving to be a most valuable asset in dealing with numerous problems arising in connection with health and welfare in the town. I should like particularly to thank Miss Duncan, the Secretary, for her co-operation and enthusiastic help with a number of matters.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The fortnightly service was operated throughout the year, first at Wood Street Car Park, and later at Belvedere Road Car Park.

The reports on examinations were as follows:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number examined	502	642	1,144
Abnormalities detected—			
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	1	4	5
Bronchial carcinoma	1	—	1
Lymphadenopathies	1	1	2
Acquired Cardiac lesion	1	1	2
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	2	—	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
Abnormality of the Diaphragm	2	—	2
	12	7	19
General Practitioner cases included			194
Other Sites Visited:—			
East Reach Hospital			
Total number examined	36	144	180
Abnormalities detected—			
Healed Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2

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. It was not necessary to invoke this procedure during 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, 1969 the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:

Vehicles—7 Ambulances
7 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car
Staff— 6 Sub-officers
26 Ambulancemen

All vehicles are equipped with two-way radio communication.

	<i>Patients carried</i>	<i>Mileage run during 1969</i>
Ambulances	12,291	128,432
Sitting-case ambulances	24,356	206,876
Cars	1,965	38,294

SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE 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.

During 1969 pipework duplication for the sewage disposal works at Ham was completed at a cost of £18,000. Work was in hand to provide a new sludge digestion plant at the works at a cost of £60,000. Planning was going ahead for the re-sewering of the Borough, a large-scale project which will be spread over some years and is likely to cost something of the order of one and a half million pounds.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Approximately 2,300 cubic metres of refuse are collected weekly by the Engineer's cleansing department. Road sweepings alone account for about 23 cubic metres 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 by stages to cover the whole area of the Borough. The rapidly dwindling capacity of the

present refuse tip was causing concern and preliminary talks with neighbouring authorities took place with a view to the tackling of this problem.

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

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	Unsatisfactory
205	6

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

The Council considered the question of flouridation of the water supply, but after a lengthy debate a proposal to request that this be done was defeated by one vote.

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 1969, the number of houses erected by the Borough, acting as Local Authority, was 3,220 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 1,367.

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-bedroomed flats and two-bedroomed temporary bungalows had also been erected. During the year 38 temporary prefabricated houses, constructed just after the last war, were demolished.

9 houses and flats were completed for the Council during 1969 and 60 were in course of erection. In the same period 111 houses were built by private enterprise. 25 old peoples' dwellings were completed during the period and 24 were in course of erection.

No Clearance Areas were declared, but a number of houses were dealt with individually. Details of these are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses at the end of the year was 442, and the number of applications for Old Peoples' Dwellings was 126.

Concrete Houses at Lambrook Estate

Modernisation and improvement had been carried out over a period of years on some of the concrete houses on the Lambrook Estate. There had been numerous complaints of dampness in these houses, particularly in those in which modernisation had not been carried out. An investigation was made at the Council's request by an independent firm of building consultants, and their report indicated that, although dampness was in the main due to condensation, there was some dampness due to other causes, and that the construction of the houses was not up to modern standards. It was decided to demolish the unmodernised houses over a period of time and to offer re-housing to the occupants, and where necessary to carry out some further improvement works in those houses which had already been modernised.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A new scale of Improvement Grants was introduced in August under the Housing Act 1969 to improve the amounts payable to owners.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during year:
Up to Aug., 1969 After Aug., 1969

	Received		Approved		Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings
1. Improvement Grants	43	43	15	15	13	13	12	12
2. Standard Grants	29	29	10	10	10	10	12	12
3. Special Grants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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:

<i>Department</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Architect	4	—	4
Engineer	35	2	37
Housing	1	1	2
Library	1	1	2
Town Clerk	—	1	1
Treasurer	1	—	1
Health	1	1	2
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	43	6	49

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1969

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my report for 1969. During the year there were several staff changes. In March our Technical Assistant—Mrs. I. M. Bush—retired for personal reasons and was succeeded by Miss B. Cullimore. Mr. J. Andrews, one of the Public Health Inspectors, left in April to take up an appointment with the Eton R.D.C., and he was replaced by Mr. P. Yates, who had just completed a spell with the Government of Zambia. Mr. H. Chapman came as a pupil Public Health Inspector in June.

As in previous years much of the time has been spent in the routine inspection of all those premises which are the concern of a Health Department. In all nearly 10,000 inspections and visits were made, and these included over 2,000 housing visits, 3,000 to food premises, and over 600 to offices and shops. The amount of overtime, which has always been continuous and persistent over the years has not decreased at all and over 700 hours were spent in this way.

The large scale housing survey involving over a thousand houses and begun in 1968 was completed. As a result of this it was decided not to declare any Improvement Areas at the present time. Full details of this survey are given in the body of this report.

There would appear to be an increasing awareness amongst the general public concerning the standard of fitness they should expect of food sold in retail shops, and during the year there were 179 various complaints concerning unsound food. Most of these were dealt with informally, but in ten instances legal proceedings were instituted and all resulted in fines being imposed. Most of the cases concerned mouldy food, or food in a state of putrefaction. Unfortunately many of these prosecutions were not reported in the press, so that the deterrent value of such publicity was lost on the less progressive members of the food trade.

1969 with its 35.73 inches of rain was the wettest year since 1937 when over 38 inches fell. This big increase which is nearly six inches above average is due mainly to two very heavy rainfalls of 3.91 inches (27th July) and 2.55 inches (18th September).

On the other hand the hours of recorded sunshine were higher than any year since 1961 and totalled 1,659.5 hours—April and June being especially fine with nearly a total of 500 hours.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare 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	225
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts	1,051
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act	67
Re-inspections under the above Acts	1,225
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	219
Miscellaneous housing inspections	30
Smoke observations, etc.	45
Moveable dwellings	25
Dealers in old metal	1
Infectious diseases and disinfections	52
Drainage, in connection with	663
Factories	880
Hairdressers	9
Infested or Verminous premises	76
Interviews	722
Meteorological Readings	365
Noise, in connection with	58
Offensive trades	17

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections	143
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits	681
Outworkers	0
Pet Shops	10
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment	12
Refuse collection and disposal	28
Rag Flock premises	0
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)	61
Schools	16
Shops (Shops Acts)	38
Swimming Baths	44
Water Sampling	211
Miscellaneous visits	465
Total	7,439

Complaints

During the year 834 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters:

Housing conditions	53
Drainage	183
Rats or mice	219
Unsound food	179
Miscellaneous	87
Insect Pests	113

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs

During the year the following work was carried out:

Drains cleared	45
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired	22
New drains provided	51
Sewers cleared	54
Cesspools emptied	—
Inspection chambers built	28
Inspection chambers repaired	4
Inspection chambers—new covers provided	6
New gullies provided	7
Yard surfaces renewed	4
Eaves gutters renewed	11
Eaves gutters repaired	10
Rainwater pipes renewed	7
Waterclosets provided	72
W.C. pans renewed	13
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	20
Flush pipes repaired	2
W.C.'s—new seats provided	3
Roofs renewed	12

Roofs repaired	50
Chimney stacks rebuilt	4
Chimney stacks repaired	6
Chimneys—flashings renewed	1
Walls rebuilt	3
External walls repaired	11
Ceilings renewed or repaired	33
Floors renewed	23
Floors repaired	14
Skirting boards renewed	8
Waste pipe renewed	1
Sub-floor ventilation improved	3
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	50
Dampness abated	58
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	15
Doors renewed or repaired	13
New windows provided	32
Windows repaired	23
Window sills renewed	16
Windows—sash cords provided	29
Artificial lighting improved	2
Natural lighting improved	1
Ventilation improved	1
Water service pipes renewed	—
Water heating systems installed	74
Bath provided	69
Wash-hand basins provided	72
Kitchen sinks provided	46
Draining Boards provided	4
Staircases repaired	5
Hand rails repaired or renewed	1
Ventilated food cupboards provided	37
Electric services repaired	—
Gas services repaired	1
Redecoration	1
Boundary fences renewed	—
Total	<u>1,078</u>

The work of repair has for the most part been dealt with either formally or informally under powers conferred by Section 92 of the Public Health Act 1936, and rarely have routine repairs been enforced under Housing Act powers.

With the ever increasing number of owner-occupiers there has been a slight decrease in complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions. However, during the current year 53 complaints were received concerning housing defects, and a further 183 concerning choked or defective drains. In connection with the

works of repair, etc. the Public Health Inspectors carried out 225 inspections and about a thousand other visits. In the foregoing schedule which gives details of 1,078 items of repair, etc. are included some of the amenities which have been provided in houses following discussions with the Inspectors. It is becoming almost standard practice these days for new owner-occupiers of the older pre-war terrace type of house to provide the necessary amenities where they are lacking with the help of an Improvement Grant, and as a consequence many areas where there was a heavy preponderance of sub-standard houses have received a new lease of life and saved themselves from being included in a Clearance Area.

HOUSING ACTS

During the year the Tancred Street No. 6 Clearance Area comprising six houses was confirmed. Both these houses and six others in Tancred Street No. 5 Clearance Area which was confirmed last year are awaiting demolition. No new Clearance Areas were declared during the year.

Details of other action under the Housing Acts are as follows:

Houses closed under Section 17	5
Parts of houses closed under Section 18	2
Closing Orders determined (Parts of houses)	1

In addition 67 visits were made to various premises in connection with the Taunton Corporation Act, which deals with matters relating to light and air which may be reduced in existing buildings by proposed adjacent constructions of various types. In most instances informal meetings on sites with owners, builders and architects enabled the problems to be reduced to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Thirteen more houses involving 32 separate lettings were the subject of detailed initial inspections during the year. Wherever necessary the premises were brought up to standard by means of informal notices—in no instance was it necessary to resort to statutory action.

There are now 199 known houses in multiple occupation in the borough, and these involve 650 separate lettings. Wherever possible each letting is inspected once a year, and any necessary repair or maintenance put in hand.

During the year 219 visits were made in connection with the enforcement of notices requiring the provision of amenities or the carrying out of repairs etc.

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External—

Chimney stacks repaired	1
Roofs repaired	11
Roofs renewed	—
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	1
Walls repaired	6
Choked drains cleared	2
Yard paving repaired or renewed	2
Extra dustbins provided	—
Water closets repaired or renewed	5
Drainage repaired or renewed	5

Internal—

Walls repaired or renewed	14
Ceilings repaired or renewed	7
Floors repaired	9
Doors repaired or renewed	2
Windows repaired or renewed	25
Staircases repaired	2
Rooms redecorated	1
Staircases redecorated	—
Dampness abated	31
Lighting and/or ventilation improved	3
Ladders repaired or renewed	2
New ventilated ladders provided	6
Refrigerators provided	—
Electric fittings repaired or provided	1
Heating installations provided/repaired	9
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	5
Hot water supply provided	2
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	1
Wash-hand basin renewed/repaired	3
Sink and/or draining board renewed	1
Cooking facilities provided or improved	—
Additional W.C.'s provided	4
Additional bathrooms provided	3
Baths renewed or repaired	2

Other Items—

Units of accommodation closed as unfit for habitation ..	2
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-occupation	—
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	—
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Total	170
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HOUSING SURVEY

A very thorough and comprehensive survey involving more than 2,000 inspections has been carried out of two separate areas of the borough, and comprising for the most part houses built at least 50 years ago. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the following details:

1. Whether the houses were owner-occupied or tenanted.
2. The general state of repair.
3. The provision or lack of standard amenities.
4. The general interest of owners or tenants in Improvement Grants: and the main reasons where applicable for not wishing to avail themselves of such grants.
5. The feasibility of declaring an Improvement Area.

The two areas comprised 595 houses principally in Alfred Street, East Reach, Eastbourne Road, Laburnum Street, Stephen Street and Winchester Street; and 469 in Cheddon Road, George Street, Cherry Grove, Kingston Road, Portman Street, and Vera Street, etc.

The total number of houses which were owner-occupied was 438 (74%) in the first area, and 323 (69%) in the second. These percentages show little variation from a similar survey carried out on a smaller scale four years ago.

As expected the general state of repair was of a much higher standard among the 759 owner-occupied houses where 658 were classed as satisfactory, 69 fair and 4 poor. Of the 263 tenanted houses, 194 were satisfactory, 50 fair and 19 poor. Wherever necessary the appropriate action has been taken to remedy any disrepair; and in six instances where the defects have been incapable of repair at reasonable expense Closing Orders have been made.

157 of the owner-occupied houses lacked all or most of the standard amenities, but in 61 cases the owners were seriously considering having an Improvement Grant. In the remaining 96 cases of those not wishing to improve the premises, 67 were for financial reasons. In the tenanted properties 87 lacked all or most of the standard amenities, and in 34 instances tenants expressed a wish for the amenities to be provided and six formal applications have so far been received by the Council. This desire for amenities has in some instances been tempered with a reluctance to pay any substantial increase in the rent; and in others the size of the tenant's family, the internal arrangements of a particular house, or the external limitations have precluded the formation of a bathroom or indoor toilet. As a rough guide it has been estimated

that the increase in the weekly rent would be in the region of 15s. 0d. where an extension is necessary to provide a bathroom, but would be much less where a spare room was utilised for a bathroom.

Bearing in mind that the average rent of the houses inspected during this particular survey was 36s. 0d. this would represent a 40% increase in some instances. However this would probably be an under-estimate of any increase in view of the provisions of the new Housing Act in respect of fair rents.

It was found that nearly all those who were not interested in Improvement Grants were elderly persons who could either not afford the expense, or who did not relish the physical disturbance of having the builders in the house.

Of those premises possessing all the amenities 180 of them had received Improvement Grants, and this usually occurs when a house is sold to a new owner-occupier.

Bearing in mind the number of owner-occupiers and tenants who have expressed a definite desire for the amenities to be provided, and the natural rate of improvement when premises are sold, it is not at this juncture recommended that an Improvement Area be declared.

The full details of the survey are set out in the schedules appended to this report.

OWNER OCCUPIER

	Total No. of all Houses	Houses Vacant	OWNER OCCUPIER												Premises Lacking all or most amenities			
			Total Number	State of Repair			Amenities Provided							I.G. Received	Total	O/O Interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to	
				Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	W.C.	Food Store				Finance	Other
Alfred Street	60	-	49	43	6	-	40	36	39	34	41	40	42	11	9	8	-	1
The Bridge	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canon Street	12	3	5	4	1	-	3	3	3	3	5	3	4	3	2	1	1	-
Coal Orchard	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Eastbourne Gate	26	-	17	17	-	-	16	15	16	15	16	15	16	4	2	-	1	1
Eastbourne Road	42	-	31	27	4	-	25	24	24	24	26	26	27	8	6	1	5	-
Eastbourne Terrace	16	-	14	12	2	-	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	4	2	-	2	-
East Reach	47	4	22	19	3	-	21	20	21	19	21	21	21	2	1	-	-	1
East Terrace	3	-	3	3	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucester Street	16	-	11	11	-	-	11	11	11	11	11	10	11	6	-	-	-	-
Gyffarde Street	14	-	13	12	1	-	11	10	10	10	11	12	12	1	3	1	2	-
Haydon Road	17	-	16	13	2	1	12	10	12	10	12	10	12	6	6	2	2	2
Laburnum Street	47	-	43	40	3	-	35	31	34	31	39	29	32	15	14	3	5	6
Priory Avenue	17	2	12	12	-	-	12	11	12	11	12	12	12	9	-	-	-	-
St. Augustine Street	86	4	73	70	3	-	61	56	61	54	65	56	48	11	15	8	5	2
St. James Close	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. James Street	12	2	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-
Somerset Place	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stephen Street	34	-	29	24	5	-	23	23	23	22	23	24	25	8	9	3	5	1
Union Gate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilfred Road	17	-	17	15	2	-	14	13	13	13	14	14	15	10	3	-	1	2
Winchester Street	99	4	80	75	4	1	66	65	65	64	70	66	70	15	16	5	10	1
TOTALS	595	29	438	397	39	2	365	342	358	335	383	354	363	113	91	33	41	17

TENANTED

Total	Houses in Multi-Occupation			State of Repair		Amenities Provided							Premises Lacking all or most amenities		Tenant's Formal Application			
				Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	W.C.	Food Store	I.G. Received			Total	Tenant interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to
	Finance	Other																
11	—	7	3	1	6	3	6	3	6	5	5	—	6	1	3	2	—	Alfred Street
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	The Bridge
4	—	4	—	—	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	Canon Street
2	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	Coal Orchard
9	—	6	3	—	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	—	3	2	—	1	—	Eastbourne Gate
11	—	8	3	—	6	5	6	4	7	6	7	—	4	1	3	1	1	Eastbourne Road
2	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	Eastbourne Terrace
21	4	17	4	—	20	18	20	17	20	19	20	—	1	—	1	—	—	East Reach
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	East Terrace
5	—	2	3	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	—	5	4	1	—	2	Gloucester Street
1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	Gyffarde Street
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	Haydon Road
4	—	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	—	3	—	3	—	—	Laburnum Street
3	—	2	—	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	Priory Avenue
9	—	3	6	—	4	2	4	2	3	2	1	—	7	2	3	2	—	St. Augustine Street
10	—	10	—	—	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	St. James Close
8	—	8	—	—	8	7	7	7	7	8	8	—	1	—	—	1	—	St. James Street
5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	4	4	—	5	—	—	5	—	Somerset Place
5	1	4	1	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	—	2	1	1	—	—	Stephen Street
1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	Union Gate
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Wilfred Road
15	2	14	1	—	8	8	8	6	9	8	13	—	7	2	1	4	—	Winchester Street
128	7	91	26	11	88	73	85	68	88	85	92	10	49	13	16	21	3	TOTALS

OWNER OCCUPIER

	Total No. of all Houses		OWNER OCCUPIER													Premises Lacking all or most amenities		
	Total Number	Houses Vacant	State of Repair			Amenities Provided							I.G. Received	Total	Lack of Interest due to			
			Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	W.C.	Food Store			O/O Interested in I.G.	Finance	Other	
Belgrave Place	24	—	19	10	9	—	8	8	8	8	11	6	14	3	13	9	4	—
Cheddon Road	125	1	73	71	2	—	57	57	55	55	62	56	42	17	17	4	8	5
Cherry Grove	32	2	20	16	4	—	11	10	8	9	13	9	11	2	9	7	1	1
Denmark Terrace	10	3	7	4	2	1	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	—	2	—	—	2
Ethpark Grove	12	—	11	11	—	—	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	4	—	—	—	—
George Street	43	1	31	30	1	—	27	26	26	25	26	23	20	7	6	2	2	2
Glenthorne Road	6	—	4	4	—	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
Kilkenny Avenue	3	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Kilkenny Villas	4	—	3	3	—	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston Road	26	1	18	14	4	—	16	15	16	15	18	16	14	15	2	1	1	—
Malvern Terrace	27	—	22	22	—	—	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	—	—	—	—	—
Peter Street	18	—	14	14	—	—	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	3	—	—	—	—
Plais Street	10	—	8	6	2	—	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	2	2	—	2	—
Portman Street	52	2	40	34	5	1	26	24	26	24	29	21	20	16	14	5	8	1
Priorswood Road	24	—	17	17	—	—	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	4	—	—	—	—
St. Andrew's Road	14	1	8	8	—	—	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	—	—	—	—
Vera Street	29	—	18	17	1	—	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	2	1	—	—	1
Wellesley Street	10	—	8	8	—	—	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	469	11	323	291	30	2	262	257	256	253	277	249	240	76	66	28	26	12

TENANTED

Total	Houses in Multi-Occupation			State of Repair		Amenities Provided							I.G. Received		Premises Lacking all or most amenities			Tenant's Formal Application	
	Total	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	W.C.	Food Store	I.G. Received	Total	Tenant interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to				
															Finance	Other			
5	—	1	4	—	2	1	1	1	4	1	4	—	4	2	2	—	1	Belgrave Place	
51	14	42	8	1	43	43	42	40	47	42	43	—	7	4	2	1	—	Cheddon Road	
10	—	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	—	9	7	1	1	1	Cherry Grove	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Denmark Terrace	
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ethpark Grove	
11	—	6	1	4	7	3	6	3	8	2	1	—	8	3	3	2	—	George Street	
2	—	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Glenthorne Road	
1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Kilkenny Avenue	
1	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Kilkenny Villas	
7	—	7	—	—	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	Kingston Road	
5	3	5	—	—	5	5	4	4	4	5	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	Malvern Terrace	
4	—	4	—	—	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	Peter Street	
2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	Plais Street	
10	1	10	—	—	3	4	3	4	7	4	3	1	7	4	3	—	1	Portman Street	
7	4	5	2	—	7	7	7	6	6	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	Priorswood Road	
5	1	1	4	—	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	St. Andrew's Road	
11	—	11	—	—	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	Vera Street	
2	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Wellesley Street	
135	27	103	24	8	103	99	99	93	114	95	94	1	38	21	13	4	3	TOTALS	

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.
Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24

During the year 54 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 7 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.

NOISE

During the year four complaints were received concerning alleged noise nuisances, and these involved such things as high-pitched wood-working saws, working of heavy machinery at an engineering works on Sundays, and beat groups playing late at night. All these were thoroughly investigated and fifty-eight visits were made—most of these being outside normal working hours on Sundays or after 11 p.m. It is pleasing to be able to report that all were resolved without having to invoke statutory powers.

The public generally are becoming more than ever aware of the need and desirability for a quieter environment: and this is being reflected in the time and trouble that is now being devoted to reducing the noise levels of all types of engines and mechanical appliances both industrial and domestic. One of the latest and most significant advances has been with pneumatic drills—a French company has produced a drill which by using high pressure oil instead of compressed air, a silent pump, sound-proofing of the unit, and a device for cutting the impact noise by 80% produces only one tenth of the number of decibels of a normal pneumatic drill. Such machines will be especially appreciated in the vicinity of schools, hospitals and other places where quietness is essential.

RODENT CONTROL

Our rodent operator—Mr. L. Wood—has again carried out the work of control in a most thorough and conscientious manner. The total number of visits to all types of premises shows little variation from previous years. The regular treatment of the sewers has continued, and nearly 400 points were treated. The main infestations are still in the central areas; and until new sewers are laid, it is almost impossible to achieve a very high degree of eradication.

The number of wasps' nests destroyed was 89 compared with 40 in the previous year. The number of other insect pests dealt with rose from 36 to 55, and included treatments against bugs, fleas, ants, carpet beetles, cluster flies and various larvae.

The following work was carried out during the year:

Treatments at private dwellings	264
Visits involved	661
Treatments at business premises	219
Visits involved	522
Treatments at Council premises	72
Visits involved	199
Survey visits	41
Wasps' nests destroyed	89
Other vermin etc.	55
Treatment of sewers	396
Visits involved	1,076
Drain tests	22

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out in 4 premises.

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.

At the beginning of the year there were two residential sites with a total of 33 vans on them: but during the year the one at Union Gate was being "run down" in connection with commercial development in the area and only a few caravans remained at the end of the year.

During the year 25 inspections were made, including some with the County Fire Prevention Officer who besides advising on fire prevention measures and fire fighting equipment, also arranged for the occupiers on both sites to receive instruction in basic fire fighting drill.

Both sites and the three individual vans have been conducted in a satisfactory manner during the year.

The Rag, Flock and Other Materials Act, 1951

Registered premises 3

Periodically samples are sent to one of the approved laboratories for analysis.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

This Act replaced the relevant sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1861, and was designed to give some control over the trading in scrap metals. Local Authorities are required to register all persons who deal in scrap metal, and this registration must be renewed every three years. Dealers are required to keep records of all their transactions; and both the authorised officers of the Local Authority and the police are empowered to carry out such inspections and checks as may be necessary. The Local Authority keep the Police up to date on all new registrations, etc.

During the current year, there have been five new registrations, whilst other dealers have withdrawn from any trading activities.

Number of dealers registered under the Act 22

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 107(3)

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

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops 6

All the businesses were conducted in a satisfactory manner during the year, and visits were made to such premises.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1961

The Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960

The Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962

These Acts and Regulations came about as the direct result of many serious and often fatal accidents which were directly attributable to defective oil burners. In the last year before the Regulations came into effect there were in the United Kingdom 4,780 fires caused by oil heaters and 61 of these had fatal results.

The Regulations prescribed standards of construction, design, and performance for all unflued domestic heaters, and the Public Health Inspectors are empowered to carry out any necessary inspections or tests of such appliances. The manufacturers were quick to appreciate the vital need for all round safety, and virtually all new heaters are of the required standard.

However the loop-hole in the Regulations is that they do not apply to old and second-hand heaters, which often change hands for a few shillings, and find their way into houses in multi-occupation where they present a very real fire hazard. Needless to say, the Public Health Inspectors are very determined to discourage the use of any unsafe and obsolete heaters which may be found during the routine inspection of such premises. Fortunately there have been no serious fires or fatalities in Taunton due to oil heaters; but with a problem as serious as this can be there has been no complacency in dealing with the situation.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

These premises are subject to Bye-law control which was introduced in 1964; and in most instances where staff are employed to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

There are 36 establishments for ladies and 18 for men in the borough and all these were brought up to standard as the result of a very detailed inspection in 1968. During the current year most of the premises were revisited, and as the result of two informal notices five contraventions were abated.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 204 samples of the water at the St. James Street Swimming Baths from the inlet and outlet points of the senior and junior pools were tested for residual and total chlorine and Ph values. All the readings were satisfactory, and it is pleasing to note the enhanced Ph readings which are no doubt due to the break-point chlorination which replaced the marginal method which was somewhat restricted in its effectiveness under variable conditions.

FOOD INSPECTION

Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises: and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination:

Bakers and Confectioners	91
Butchers and Fishmongers	156
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	37
Food Preparation Premises	95
Grocers and Greengrocers	306
Licensed Premises	108
Market Stalls and Mobile Shops etc.	50
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	262
Sampling for various foodstuffs	339
Slaughterhouses	1,033
Wholesale Meat Depots	136
Total	2,613

The control and supervision of food hygiene in all its varied aspects brooks of no relaxation at any time, and awareness of this in Taunton is reflected in the fact that 2,613 inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises during the year.

The work of the food inspector is by no means simple and straightforward, for besides carrying out the routine inspection of premises and educating those engaged in the various branches of the trade in the essentials of hygienic practice: he has to keep himself fully informed of all the latest food preparations and processing techniques which are constantly becoming more and more sophisticated.

It is established practice here in Taunton for consultations to take place with architects, builders and representatives of the various food trades before any new premises are erected or existing ones subjected to any considerable reconstruction. In this way compliance with the Regulations is achieved with the minimum of delay and benefit to all concerned. During the year 18 premises were dealt with in this manner.

From the summary which follows it will be seen that 748 items received attention, and of these more than half concerned catering and licensed premises. Most of the items were for such things as redecoration and cleaning of premises, provision of first-aid materials and hygiene notices, etc.—whereas the provision of W.C.'s, wash hand basins and sinks, etc. has greatly diminished, and is now only shown for new businesses or replacements in existing ones.

Full details are as follows:

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1969

	Butchers and Fishmongers	Bakers and Dairies etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction	2	1	7	6	2	18
Food Rooms						
Walls renewed or repaired ..	12	5	2	22	5	46
Walls redecorated	40	26	9	43	31	149
Ceilings renewed or repaired ..	11	4	4	3	9	31
Ceilings redecorated	15	4	6	13	14	52
Floors repaired or renewed ..	8	2	5	13	11	39
Improvement of lighting	7	—	—	5	—	12
Improvement of ventilation ..	1	1	2	4	6	14
Renewed or repaired drainage ..	4	—	1	6	5	16
Doors, windows etc. repaired ..	3	2	1	4	—	10
Premises cleansed	3	—	2	—	—	5
Equipment, etc.						
New sinks provided	1	1	2	5	—	9
Hot water supply provided ..	2	—	3	1	1	7
New drainage boards provided ..	—	2	—	2	—	4
Preparation tables etc. retopped	9	4	—	7	3	23
New equipment etc. provided ..	9	—	—	6	1	16
Dustbins provided	4	—	—	12	1	17
Means of protection for food provided	—	—	7	1	1	9
Refrigerators provided	1	—	—	—	—	1
Equipment cleansed	3	1	—	5	—	9
Sanitary Accommodation						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ..	2	—	2	—	—	4
New flushing cisterns provided ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation repaired	4	4	3	6	5	22
Sanitary accommodation redecorated	9	1	—	6	5	21
Sanitary Notices fixed	2	2	9	112*	—	125
Toilet Accommodation						
Wash-hand Basins provided ..	7	—	4	2	2	15
Hot water supply provided ..	1	—	5	3	2	11
Toilet requisites provided	5	1	8	11	—	25
Provision of lockers	1	—	1	6	1	9
Miscellaneous						
Protective clothing provided ..	6	—	—	1	—	7
Treatment of infestations	—	5	—	3	—	8
Provision of first-aid materials ..	9	1	12	9	1	32
Totals ..	179	66	88	311	104	748

*Includes 100 notices supplied to one catering concern.

SPECIAL TYPES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION

Milk Supply

There are 8 registered Dairies and 44 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 6 new registrations under the Food and Drugs Act, and the total number of registrations is as follows:

Manufacture and Sale	.. .. .	3
Storage and Sale	.. .. .	122

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 has been one new registration, bringing the total of such premises to 55.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

This practice of taking samples of a wide variety of foodstuffs forms a very useful adjunct to the routine inspection of food premises, as it quite often gives a clear indication as to the manner in which certain foods are produced and handled before reaching the customer.

The results over the year have been most encouraging, but any relaxation of the sampling might well result in a "dropping-off" of the hygienic methods practised in the majority of food premises.

Details of the various samples are as follows:

Cream

Both dairy and artificial creams are sampled at either the places of production or from retail shops. Branded goods are included in the sampling from time to time. During the year 98 artificial and 18 dairy cream samples were examined and all gave satisfactory results.

Ice Cream

During the year 55 samples were examined, 42 being of the hot-mix from the national manufacturers, 10 from a local producer using the cold mix and 3 from soft ice-cream vendors. There were 42 Grade 1 results, 10 Grade 2 and 3 Grade 3. These last which

cannot be considered entirely satisfactory were investigated and follow-up samples gave improved results. As in previous years it has not been possible to sample the soft ice-cream with the desired frequency—this is due to their erratic and unpredictable programme of hawking and their propensity for selling their goods at the week-end when the laboratory facilities are not usually available.

Details are as follows:—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Hot Mix	32	8	2
Cold Mix	9	1	—
Soft Ice Cream	1	1	1

Liquid Egg

During the year a total of 69 samples were taken, and of these 2 were pasteurised, 46 raw whole egg and 21 raw albumen. The results of the pasteurised and albumen samples were satisfactory, but with the raw liquid egg five were affected by Salmonella of the following types: Fischerkietz, phage type 1 (3) and phage type U165. It is interesting to note that the last is one common to wild birds particularly sparrows. In all instances the batches giving the positive results were traced and subjected to pasteurisation which rendered them innocuous.

Dessicated coconut

The sampling of this product for the presence of salmonella has continued on a somewhat restricted scale; and 14 samples of either loose or packaged coconut gave negative results, which clearly indicates the improved methods of preparation and handling at all stages.

Meat Products etc.

During the year a total of 142 samples were taken, and all were found to be satisfactory. This is only the second time that there has been a 100% result, and it would seem to indicate the increased sense of awareness amongst the food manufacturers, handlers and shop assistants with regard to the need of a very high standard of hygiene in the food trade. However such results are no grounds for complacency, as experience has shown time and again that many members of the food trade—and this includes old and allegedly knowledgeable members as well as new entrants—are often woefully ignorant of even the most rudimentary principles of food hygiene such as the basic need for the washing of hands.

Details of the samples are as follows :

Bacon—chopped	1	Bacon—green	1
Beefburger	1	Beef—corned	4
Beef—minced	15	Beef—roast	2
Bierwurst	1	Brawn	4
Chicken	1	Cervalet—German	1
Faggots	11	Gammon	2
Ham—boiled	17	Ham—sweet cured	1
Hog's pudding	1	Luncheon meat	3
Ox tongue	3	Pasty	4
Pate de Foi Truffle	1	Pie—meat and potato	1
Pie—pork	4	Pie—steak and kidney	4
Pie—veal, ham and egg	2	Polony	2
Pork luncheon meat	3	Pork—chopped	2
Pork—roast	6	Pork—stuffed roll	2
Porkettes	1	Salami—Belgian	1
Saveloy	1	Sausage—beef	13
Sausage—smoked liver	1	Sausage—garlic	2
Sausage—liver	2	Sausage—pork	10
Sausage—tongue	1	Sausage—Tyrol	1
Sausage roll	1	Steak and Kidney	1
Steakettes	1	Scotch egg	3
Tripe	3		

Water

As in other years the routine sampling of main tap water has continued and each week spot checks are carried out at different addresses in the borough. Samples are checked for residual chlorine before being sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

A total of 211 samples were examined and these included 25 of raw water from the works and 8 from a private borehole. There were six unsatisfactory samples, and the circumstances of each were thoroughly investigated. The most common case was found to be defective tap fittings, and after these were replaced satisfactory results were obtained.

AGAR SAUSAGE SAMPLING

For many years the only method for the bacteriological surface examination of utensils and equipment used in the various food trades and processes was by means of a cotton wool swab, which

after use was immersed in Ringer's Solution, then transplanted to the laboratory where it was transferred to agar plates. After incubation at 37°C for 24 hours the colonies were counted, and generally an excess of 100 colonies per item was considered unsatisfactory. This method had many disadvantages—the chief ones being:

1. The uncertain time of immersion of the swab in the solution and varying external temperatures considerably affected the final bacterial count.

2. The whole procedure is long and tedious.

3. Swabbing gives no indication as to the exact location of any contamination.

4. The eventual results are difficult for the average food handler to properly appreciate.

However the advent of agar sausage has brought about an entirely new and simplified method of bacteriological examination, which can be used by the Public Health Inspectors without having to invoke the services of a laboratory. Briefly the process involves the use of an agar filled plastic casing about 7 inches long with a diameter of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The end of the agar and casing is cut off with a sterilized knife, and the exposed surface is used to take an impression of the surface requiring examination. The slice is then placed in a sterile Petri dish and subsequently incubated for the required period. It should be possible to obtain 30 to 40 samples from each sausage. This method enables the results to be very clearly demonstrated to the food handlers, and makes it easier for them to understand the shortcomings or otherwise of their preparation, handling and cleaning techniques.

There are various media—each designed for a specific purpose. The standard plate count gives a wide picture of non-pathogenic bacterial contamination and will indicate deficiencies in cleaning methods. MacConkey is used to detect the presence of intestinal bacteria such as *E. coli*—and the services of the Public Health Laboratory are needed for specific identification of the colonies. Manital Salt agar can be used where staphylococci are suspected: and Sabouraud Maltese for yeasts and moulds.

The total number of samples taken was 289, and of these 66 gave negative results, 115 slight, 59 medium and 49 heavy contamination. All types of food premises are inspected and the schedule attached to this report gives full details of the items which were tested. The results give no cause for complacency; but the subsequent response from those with poor results has shown a genuine desire to improve their techniques: and it is hoped that this process of education will in the long run result in an all round advance in the hygienic standard of food premises.

Results

<i>Item</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Heavy</i>
Bowls—various	2	2	1	1
Beakers	1	—	—	1
Chopping blocks	—	—	2	1
Cookers and ovens	—	—	4	1
Cooking pots etc... .. .	1	1	—	—
Uncooked chicken—surface	—	—	—	1
Counter tops	1	1	2	4
Cutting boards	—	5	3	1
Cups	4	4	2	2
Chip scoop	—	1	—	—
Food display cabinet	—	1	—	—
Draining boards	—	—	2	1
Drink dispensers	1	1	1	—
Equipment—various	1	5	2	1
Fingers of staff	—	3	—	4
Forks	4	9	—	1
Glasses—various	13	6	1	1
Ham (cooked)—surface	—	1	—	—
Hand towels	—	3	1	—
Ice cream containers	—	2	—	1
Ice cream servers	1	—	—	1
Jugs.. .. .	—	2	—	—
Knives—preparation	1	4	1	2
Knives—table	5	4	2	—
Ladles and scoops	2	2	1	1
Machinery—various	2	7	6	2
Meat slicers	1	6	2	4
Mixing machines	—	1	—	1
Piping bag and interior	1	—	—	—
Piping bag—nozzle	—	—	—	1
Plates—table	8	13	3	2
Pudding basin	—	—	—	—
Receptacles—various	1	4	1	2
Saucers	—	3	1	—
Saucepans	1	2	—	—
Scales—pans	1	3	3	2
Scales—weights	1	—	—	—
Saws	—	2	—	—
Steels	—	—	—	1
Shelves	—	—	—	1
Spoons—various	1	5	5	1
Table tops	2	1	2	2
Tea cloths	1	3	—	2
Trays	4	1	6	—
Walls	2	3	—	—
Work benches	3	3	5	3
Total	66	115	59	49

Food Inspection

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

TINNED GOODS		FLOOD DAMAGED FOOD	
Fruit	1,512 tins	Fruit	529 tins
Fruit juice	160 "	Fruit juice	326 "
Meat	219 "	Corned beef	48 "
Vegetables	597 "	Biscuits	304 pkts.
Soup	45 "	Cereals	140 "
Fish	141 "	OTHER FOODS	
Spaghetti	17 "	Cooked meat	166 lbs.
Cream, milk	42 "	Sausages	140 "
Rice, etc.	84 "	Rabbit	25 "
Jam, syrup, etc. ..	64 "	Chicken	2,138 "
Miscellaneous	13 "	Fish	182 "
FROZEN FOODS		Butter	124 "
Fruit	11 pkts.	Lard	35 "
Fruit juice	435 "	Margarine	24 "
Meat	2,326 "	Cheese	373 "
Vegetables	3,064 "	Rice	54 "
Fish	4,387 "	Sugar	37 "
Fish products	658 "	Flour	191 "
Chips	432 "	Salt	165 "
Pies	686 "	Dried fruit	99 "
Cakes, sponges	215 "	Dried peas, etc. ..	39 "
Pastry	261 "	Apples	100 "
Ice cream	992 "	Tea	24 "
Miscellaneous	1,020 "	Biscuits	32 pkts.
Frozen eggs	56 lbs.	Cereals	167 "
Frozen spring greens	285 "	Miscellaneous	94 "
		Sweets	6,389 "
		Beverages	218 botts.
		Cooking oil	24 "
		Pickles	150 jars
		Pies, pasties	664

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

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

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
1. Sale of mouldy chocolate cake	£15 fine imposed
2. Sale of malodorous steak and kidney pie .	£8 fine imposed
3. Wire in packet of potato crisps	£25 fine imposed

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
4. Maggots in chocolate confectionery ..	£10 fine imposed
5. Sale of mouldy cake	£10 fine imposed
6. Sale of unsound meat pies (two counts) ..	£5 fine imposed on each count
7. Mould on pineapple dessert	£20 fine imposed
8. Mould in sliced loaf of bread	£15 fine imposed
9. Mould in crumpets	£15 fine imposed
10. Sale of unsound steak and kidney pie ..	£15 fine imposed

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out in two private slaughterhouses and a large bacon factory. Since 1960 the total annual "kill" has risen from 20,000 to 53,000 animals. It will be readily appreciated that the work involved in inspecting such a large number is both extremely demanding and time consuming, and as a consequence less time can be devoted to important duties such as the inspection of houses, food premises and other premises for which the Department is responsible. There is no indication that the increased "kill" which has been sustained for the last ten years is likely to decrease; in fact the new management of the bacon factory are preparing to enter the export market and this will undoubtedly mean a very significant increase in the annual "through-put". In consequence it will result in so much time being spent on meat inspection by the Public Health Inspectors, that their other work is bound to suffer. The answer to the problem would appear to be the appointment of a full time Meat Inspector who would be permanently employed at the bacon factory, and would mean that only one instead of two Public Health Inspectors would be required for meat inspection there at any one time.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Beasts	228
Cows	26
Sheep and Lambs	1,280
Calves	14
Pigs	52,363
Total	53,911

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	228	26	14	1,280	52,363
Number inspected	228	26	14	1,280	52,363
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	73
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	57	—	—	34	14,505
Percentage of number inspected af- fected with disease other than T.B.	25%	—	—	2.65%	27.87%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	860
Percentage of number inspected af- fected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	1.64%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	351 lbs.
Lamb	2 "
Bacon	733 "
Pork	— "
Offal	288 "

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1969

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Maximum Reading	Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain Fell	Days of .04" or more	Max. Reading
JANUARY	29.77	30.59	28.64	43.92	55	25	44.00	6.25	13	3.82	19	14	.71
FEBRUARY	29.82	30.52	29.11	36.05	49	20	85.00	8.25	8	3.55	16	11	1.05
MARCH	29.88	30.41	29.00	41.40	58	21	70.00	9.00	16	2.77	12	9	.65
APRIL	29.99	30.47	28.99	47.45	68	25	214.25	11.25	-	1.32	11	4	.56
MAY	29.81	30.21	29.53	53.36	70	35	169.00	11.50	1	3.94	21	18	.55
JUNE	29.99	30.35	29.51	58.40	80	38	278.25	15.00	-	.98	9	8	.48
JULY	30.18	30.52	29.90	62.37	83	45	248.00	15.50	2	4.36	4	3	3.91
AUGUST	30.01	30.29	29.73	62.00	81	43	197.25	12.00	4	3.07	11	7	1.35
SEPTEMBER	30.00	30.33	29.55	57.10	71	32	114.00	9.25	8	3.89	9	7	2.55
OCTOBER	30.16	30.63	29.73	55.26	74	34	120.00	7.75	6	.75	5	3	.29
NOVEMBER	29.75	30.51	28.76	43.27	62	20	83.75	6.25	6	4.66	19	14	1.51
DECEMBER	29.94	30.42	29.38	39.36	54	24	35.75	5.75	19	2.62	18	12	.63
TOTAL OR AVERAGE	29.94	-	-	49.99	-	-	1,659.25	-	83	35.73	154	110	-

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of full regular meteorological record keeping, though records go back as far as 1895 as far as rainfall is concerned and 1899 for sunshine. It is interesting to note that there has been no appreciable variation in the average type of weather during these years. There have of course been several outstanding readings of one sort or another. As far as rainfall is concerned the highest reading on any single day was 4.33 inches in June, 1917, though this was almost equalled by 3.96 inches in July, 1968 and 3.91 inches in July 1969: and it is significant to note that in both instances the river improvements works had been so effective as to restrict flooding to very small areas. This was a welcome change from the widespread flooding of October, 1960 when 6.3 inches fell in a period of about eight days causing large areas of inundation. In that month 10.66 inches of rain fell, and this figure for any one month has never been exceeded.

The average annual rainfall for Taunton is 29.07 inches. Notable years of heavy rainfall were 35.21 in 1903, 42.89 in 1910, 39.23 in 1912, 39.97 in 1914, 38.14 in 1938. The average number of wet days (i.e. falls of .01 inches or more) is 177, but it is pointed out that this bears no direct relationship to the total rainfall—in 1969 4.36 inches of rain fell on 4 days in July whereas an almost identical fall covered 19 days in November. The driest year was 1921 with 15.55 inches of rain, followed by 20.02 in 1953 and 21.45 in 1965.

As a matter of interest I give some of the records of Taunton weather which are worth mentioning. The highest sunshine figure for any year was 1911 with 1,930 hours—nearly 400 above average. Other high totals were 1,830 in 1899, 1,780 in 1906, 1,815 in 1949 and 1,831 in 1959. The lowest total was 1,305 hours in 1920, followed by 1,324.75 in 1958.

The highest number of hours of sunshine was 395 in July, 1911. This exceeds the July average of 203 hours by almost 100%. On only three other occasions has the figure of 300 hours been exceeded, that is 356 in June, 1925, 301 in June, 1957 and 312.25 in June, 1962.

Sunless days in the year average 66, but 103 were recorded in 1902.

The maximum shade temperature was 92°F in July, 1911 when the month's average was 64.7°F. Other high readings were 90°F in 1923, and 86°F in 1955.

The lowest temperature was in 1945 and 1963 when 34 degrees of frost were recorded, other low temperatures were in 1908—20 degrees, 1917—31 degrees and 1947—28 degrees.

During the current year we recorded 1,659.5 hours of sunshine which was 100 hours above the average. June and July were the sunniest months with 278.25, and 248.0 hours respectively—both above average. There were 83 sunless days—about 20 more than usual. The rainfall total of 35.75 inches was over 6 inches above the annual average. This excess was due to several heavy individual falls—1.05 inches which fell as snow on 19th February, 3.91 inches on 27th July, 2.55 inches on 18th September and 1.51 inches on 6th November, making a total of over 9 inches for four days! The highest recorded temperature was 83°F in July, and lowest 20°F in February and November. The July and August temperatures were above average, whereas the March and November ones were below.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1969 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
1969	29.94	49.99	1,659.50	83	35.73	154	110
1968	29.94	49.90	1,404.00	84	31.25	168	136
Average	29.93	49.78	1,550.81	65	28.88	178	125

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1969

BAROMETER				TEMPERATURE			
Annual Average	..	..	29.93	Annual Average	..	..	<i>degs. F.</i> 49.62
June	..	..	30.00	July	..	..	61.55
July	..	..	29.98	August	..	..	60.72
February	..	..	29.96	June	..	..	58.22
September	..	..	29.94	September	..	..	56.89
August	..	..	29.94	May	..	..	52.53
March	..	..	29.94	October	..	..	50.72
October	..	..	29.93	April	..	..	47.39
May	..	..	29.91	November	..	..	44.26
April	..	..	29.91	March	..	..	43.35
December	..	..	29.91	December	..	..	40.89
January	..	..	29.88	January	..	..	40.22
November	..	..	29.87	February	..	..	40.09

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1969

RAINFALL			NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL		
		<i>inches</i>			<i>days</i>
Annual Average	..	29.07	Annual Average	..	177.75
November	..	3.36	December	..	18.41
December	..	3.14	January	..	17.39
January	..	2.99	November	..	17.35
October	..	2.93	October	..	16.14
September	..	2.48	August	..	14.47
May	..	2.38	September	..	14.27
August	..	2.30	February	..	13.80
February	..	2.13	April	..	13.77
April	..	2.03	May	..	13.71
July	..	2.18	July	..	13.31
March	..	1.92	March	..	13.08
June	..	1.62	June	..	11.22

DAYS OF RAINFALL OF .04 INCHES OR MORE

		<i>days</i>
Annual Average	..	125.11
December	..	13.02
November	..	12.57
January	..	12.17
October	..	11.47
May	..	10.19
September	..	10.06
August	..	9.98
February	..	9.68
April	..	9.66
July	..	8.94
March	..	8.87
June	..	7.96

SUNSHINE IN HOURS

Hours of Sunshine		
Annual Average	..	1550.92
June	..	219.26
May	..	204.71
July	..	203.59
August	..	188.07
April	..	152.14
September	..	130.35
March	..	117.36
October	..	101.66
February	..	74.58
November	..	60.33
January	..	46.36
December	..	39.85

Number of Sunless Days

Annual Average	..	66.10
July	..	1.38
August	..	1.52
June	..	1.58
May	..	1.98
April	..	3.00
September	..	3.10
October	..	4.44
March	..	5.29
February	..	8.10
November	..	9.67
January	..	13.41
December	..	13.98

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year 123 detailed initial inspections were made under the above Act, in addition to 1,017 other visits. 67 informal notices were served and 61 were complied with completely.

Lack of cleanliness, together with defective floors, passages and staircases were the main cause for concern, whilst the standard of lighting and ventilation was greatly improved.

10 accidents, none of them fatal, were officially reported, and in each case were thoroughly investigated. In no instance was machinery found to be at fault. A 16 year old employee cut his thumb whilst cleaning a Hobart E1512 Electric Slicer. The machine was switched on at the time without the guard being in place. As this person was under age and not authorised by the employers to use the machine, the matter was reported to the Health Committee, who decided to take no formal action in this instance.

Details of the work carried out is as follows :

(The following table is extremely faint and largely illegible. It appears to be a summary of work carried out under the Act, possibly detailing the number of inspections, notices served, and compliance rates across various categories.)

Category	Number of Inspections	Number of Notices Served	Number of Notices Complied With
General	123	67	61
Offices
Shops
Railway Premises
...

TABLE A		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS		Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
	Offices .. .. .	.. .. .	16	183	35
	Retail shops .. .. .	.. .. .	23	294	59
	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .. .. .	.. .. .	2	30	8
	Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens .. .. .	.. .. .	4	37	19
	Fuel storage Depots .. .. .	.. .. .	—	4	2
	TOTALS .. .. .	.. .. .	45	548	123
TABLE B		Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises			
		1017			
TABLE C		(1) Class of Workplace	(2) Number of Persons employed		
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE		Offices	2,057		
	Retail Shops .. .. .	.. .. .	2,596		
	Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .. .. .	.. .. .	264		
	Catering Establishments open to the public .. .. .	.. .. .	509		
	Canteens .. .. .	.. .. .	16		
	Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	.. .. .	35		
	TOTAL .. .. .	.. .. .	5,477		
	TOTAL MALES .. .. .	.. .. .	2,349		
	TOTAL FEMALES .. .. .	.. .. .	3,128		

During the year informal notices were served in respect of 354 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	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Renew fittings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Renew fittings	Hot water supply	Additional Accommodation	Drinking water
Shops	1	3	15	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	4	1	6	-	1
Offices	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	3	1	-	1	-	3
Catering Premises	1	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wholesale Warehouses	4	8	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	1	-	1
TOTAL	6	11	26	8	2	-	-	2	1	5	10	10	2	8	-	5

Other Items

Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating facilities	Staircases, floors, passages	Temperatures	Ventilation	Lighting	Accommodation for clothing	Machinery	First Aid	Safety	Abstract of Act	Waste Bins	Registration	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Noise	
36	-	1	39	10	3	8	3	2	5	24	3	1	1	3	2	187
17	-	4	14	5	4	9	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	2	76
10	-	1	4	2	1	5	-	1	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	41
2	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	2	9	4	-	-	-	-	50
65	-	6	57	21	8	24	3	3	14	40	8	1	1	3	4	354

Number of cases in which defect was found	Number of cases in which defect was found		Total	Percentage	Remarks
	By M. I. Inspector	By M. I. Inspector			
36	36	0	36	100%	Overcrowding
17	17	0	17	100%	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use
10	10	0	10	100%	Registration
2	2	0	2	100%	Abstract of Act
65	65	0	65	100%	Waste Bins
	130	0	130	100%	TOTAL

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	18	12	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	241	868	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	18	5	—
TOTAL	271	898	8	—

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	4	4	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	8	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	13	—	2	—

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	180	—	—	—	—

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