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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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

AND

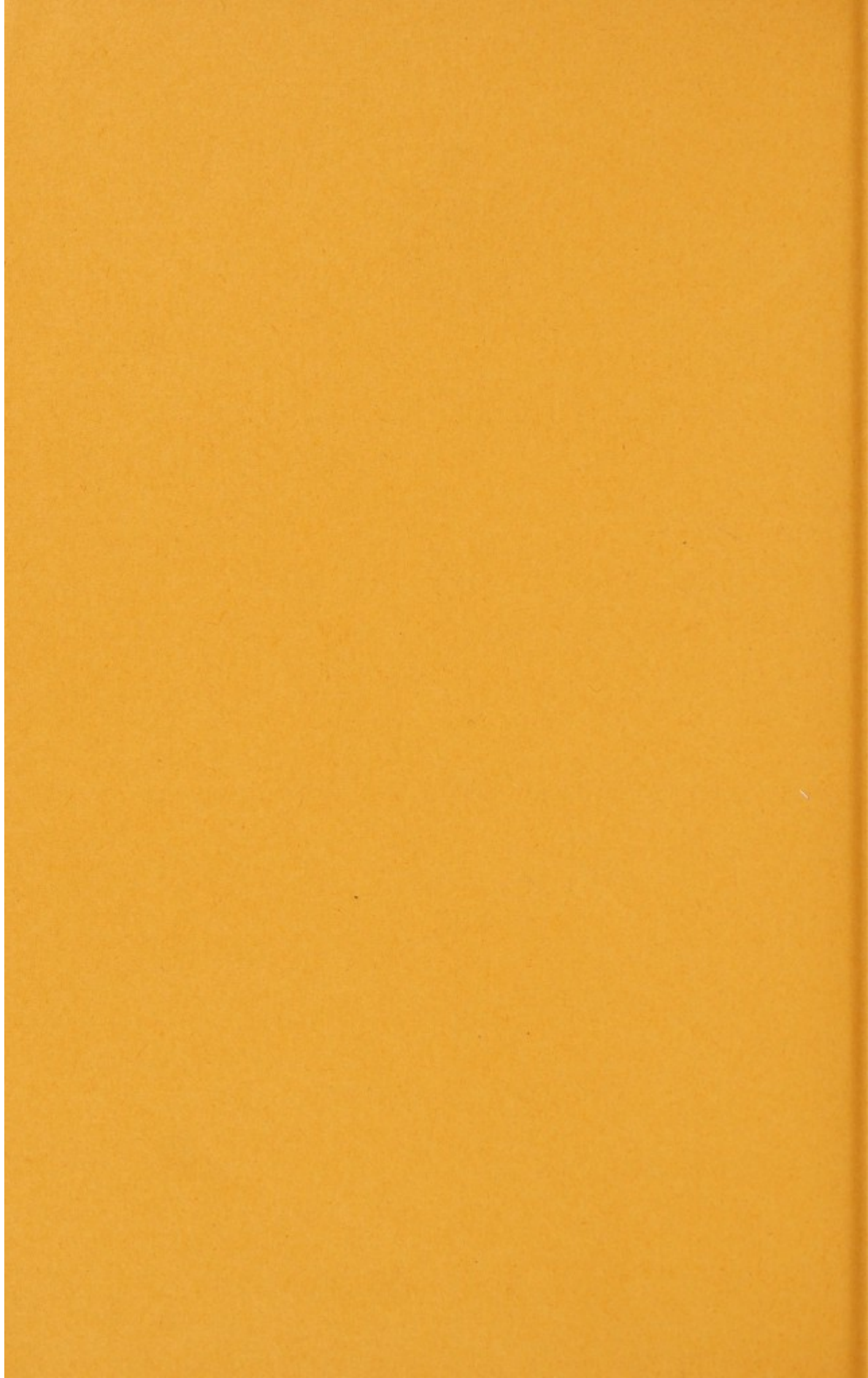
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.**

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

OF THE

**BOROUGH OF TAUNTON**

**FOR THE YEAR 1971**





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OF THE

**BOROUGH OF TAUNTON**

**FOR THE YEAR 1971**

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 1971 which is drawn up in accordance with Ministry instructions. It follows the lines of previous reports so that comparisons with conditions of former years can 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 matters.

The health of the Borough was good during the year and there were no serious epidemics to give rise to anxiety.

Some of the work formerly done by Medical Officers, notably that in connection with the Day Nursery, playgroups and child-minders, has passed to the Staff of the Social Services Department. One may regret this from a personal point of view but there are logical arguments in favour of the change, and this is only a part of the redistribution of functions following the report of the Seebom Committee.

Fortunately liaison with the new Department is good in this district. A Social and Health Workers Group Meeting, attended also by representatives of voluntary associations, is held each month in Clinic premises in the town and these meetings are valuable in bringing about co-operation, discussion and friendly exchanges.

It is not yet clear how the new unified Health Service, due to come into being in 1974, at the time of local government re-organisation, will dovetail with the Health functions of the new local authorities, but it is certain that Environmental Health in the broad sense will continue to be a subject of prime importance.

Mr. Pawson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, gives an account of the work which is going on steadily in Taunton in this field. If I had to pick out one of the various matters which he comments upon as deserving of particular attention I should choose the section on noise and its control. Excessive noise is one of the threats to health and well-being which is becoming more menacing each year. To his list of noise sources which can and often do cause trouble I would add the appalling din made by the engines of some heavy, and often not so heavy, vehicles as they rampage through the streets of our towns. I think it is absurd that we should have to put up with it when it is obviously possible for this excessive noise to be considerably reduced.

I wish again 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, 1971

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough .. .. .	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year) ..	38,640
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed)	12,300
Rateable value at the end of 1971 .. .. .	£1,761,952
Product of a 1p. rate for 1971/72 .. .. .	£17,045

#### 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

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	262	241	503
Illegitimate .. .. .	20	22	42
Total .. .. .	282	263	545

Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	14.1
Standardised Birth Rate:—	
Taunton .. .. .	14.4
England and Wales .. .. .	16.0
Percentage illegitimate of total live births .. .. .	8.0

##### (b) Still births

Total .. .. .	4
Rate per 1,000 live and still births:—	
Taunton .. .. .	7.0
England and Wales .. .. .	12.0
Total live and still births .. .. .	549

## 2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths .. .. .	445
Death rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	11.5
Standardised Death Rate:—	
Taunton .. .. .	10.7
England and Wales .. .. .	11.6
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):—	
Total .. .. .	11
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births:—	
Taunton .. .. .	20.0
England and Wales .. .. .	18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	22.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	11.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) .. .. .	7.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) .. .. .	15.0

### Causes of Infant Deaths

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Pneumonia .. .. .	—	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1	1
Diseases of digestive system .. .. .	1	—	1
Congenital anomalies .. .. .	2	1	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ..	2	—	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—	1
Ill-defined symptoms and conditions	—	2	2
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>

(c) Maternal Mortality	
Total Maternal Deaths .. .. .	Nil
(d) Deaths from Cancer	
Cancer of the lung .. .. .	
Males .. .. .	19
Females .. .. .	5
Total .. .. .	24
Cancer in all other situations .. .. .	
Males .. .. .	26
Females .. .. .	41
Total .. .. .	67



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

1967	..	28,250
1968	..	28,826
1969	..	29,768
1970	..	30,281
1971	..	30,746

### Comment on Vital Statistics

The estimated population of the Borough showed a substantial increase of 1,230 to a figure of 38,640. This is an increase which has probably been brought to light largely by the recent census exercise.

Once again the birth and death rates were rather lower than the corresponding figures for England and Wales as a whole. The Infant Mortality Rate, at 20 per 1,000 live births, was slightly higher than the figure of 18 for England and Wales, but the difference is not significant since a relatively small population is concerned. The illegitimacy rate fell from 11.0 to 8.0 per cent and it is hoped that this downward trend may continue.

The highest number of deaths was, as usual, attributable to diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Many of these deaths involved elderly persons who had reached a good age, but it is disturbing that coronary disease which often strikes at those in the prime of life shows no sign of decreasing in incidence. The number of deaths from cancer of the lung was the highest yet recorded for the Borough and the national figures of deaths from this condition continue to rise. Three people were killed by motor accidents: the same number as in the previous year.

### REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	.. ..	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	.. ..	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	.. ..	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.. ..	5	6	11
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	.. ..	5	9	14
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	.. ..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. ..	19	5	24
Malignant neoplasm, breast	.. ..	—	12	12
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.. ..	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	.. ..	2	—	2
Leukaemia	.. ..	1	—	1

Other malignant neoplasms .. .. .	10	6	16
Benign and unspecified neoplasms .. .. .	1	—	1
Diabetes mellitus .. .. .	2	—	2
Avitaminosis, etc. .. .. .	1	1	2
Other endocrine etc., diseases .. .. .	—	1	1
Mental disorders .. .. .	1	—	1
Meningitis .. .. .	1	—	1
Multiple sclerosis .. .. .	—	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system .. .. .	2	2	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease .. .. .	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease .. .. .	6	6	12
Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .	61	45	106
Other forms of heart disease .. .. .	4	9	13
Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .	18	48	66
Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. .	15	27	42
Pneumonia .. .. .	21	15	36
Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .	13	5	18
Asthma .. .. .	—	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	3	2	5
Peptic ulcer .. .. .	3	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia .. .. .	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of liver .. .. .	1	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	—	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. .	1	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .	1	—	1
Congenital anomalies .. .. .	2	1	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. .. .. .	2	—	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality .. .. .	1	—	1
Illdefined symptoms and conditions .. .. .	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	3	—	3
All other accidents .. .. .	2	3	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries .. .. .	1	2	3
All other external causes .. .. .	—	1	1

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Medical staff gave talks to various groups on drugs and sex problems. The Public Health Inspectors continued with their education in food hygiene and handling for caterers and people employed in the food trade. Health Visitors held regular classes, each of several sessions, on mothercraft throughout the year.

Some teaching on health and hygiene is done in the schools by the Health Visitors and probably by the teaching staff but it is felt that some more regular and systematic organisation of instruction would be of benefit. The problem of fitting this subject in with an already over-crowded curriculum is no doubt a difficulty. Probably in the future Health Education will become a field for personnel specifically trained to carry it out, because there are

special skills and aptitudes required to put the message over in the most effective way, and not everyone possesses these even if they may be well up in the subject themselves.

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

There is good general practitioner cover for the area and treatment is of a high standard. The tendency is for more and more practices to be run on a group basis. No health centres are yet available in the town, but it may not be long before something on these lines appears.

The standard of treatment and care is high also for those requiring admission to hospital but the services are working under the handicap of having to use out-of-date and widely dispersed premises. These premises have been modified and improved over the years and many new treatment facilities have been made available, but the whole picture of hospital provision for the area will alter for the better when the new District General Hospital comes into operation.

A scheme for the carrying out of short-stay surgery at Bridgwater Hospital was inaugurated during 1971. This enables non-urgent cases of a relatively straight-forward kind to be admitted, operated upon and discharged home to the care of the family doctor and district nurse all within the space of twenty-four hours. The scheme is operating with success and is having a valuable effect in reducing the waiting time for hospital treatment.

The greatest pressure on hospital services at the present time is probably produced by the increasing number of the elderly who are surviving to a greater age, and this is putting a heavy strain on the geriatric services.

The treatment of patients suffering from mental illness or mental handicap is being orientated to an even greater extent, in this as in other areas, towards the objective of care in the community rather than in hospital.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis)**

A lower incidence of measles prevailed during 1971. There were again scattered cases of dysentery of a mild type, mostly among children. A few cases of scarlet fever are still being notified.

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Acute meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases fell to 6, 5 of these being pulmonary. As in the previous year, pulmonary tuberculosis was responsible for 1 death. Cancer of the lung has usurped the place of tuberculosis among the conditions requiring attention from the Chest Physicians, but infection with the tubercle bacillus still takes place from time to time and vigilance remains necessary in this direction. Figures of forty years ago in Taunton are again tabulated to demonstrate the changed picture presented by this infection. In studying these figures it should be remembered that the population of Taunton in 1931 was just over 25,000 and at the present time it is over 38,000 which makes the contrast even more striking.

		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
1971	New cases notified during 1971 .. .. .	5	1
	Deaths during 1971 .. .. .	1	-
1931	New cases notified in 1931 .. .. .	33	10
	Deaths during 1931 .. .. .	17	5

## VENEREAL DISEASE

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

Gonorrhoea, one of the Venereal Diseases, is now the second most common infectious disease in the country, measles being the commonest, and when measles is brought under control by immunisation, gonorrhoea is likely to take pride of place.

## IMMUNISATION

It is considered that this form of protection against infectious disease is one of the most important activities in the field of preventive medicine, and for this reason an up-to-date account of the procedures recommended and their timing is given in the table below. Notes on the various diseases against which the procedure is aimed were set out in the Annual Report for 1970 and it is thought unnecessary to repeat them on this occasion. Arrangements for carrying out immunisation of children and young people are channelled through the County Council Computer which ensures that each individual is summoned at the appropriate time. Nearly

all the actual immunising is done at sessions run by the family doctors in their surgeries. The percentage of children immunised in this area is now very high, but of course, this being a free country, it is still open to parents to neglect to have this matter seen to or to refuse to have anything to do with it. This happens relatively seldom, but we are anxious that it should not happen at all because it is most important, for the individual and for the community at large, that the percentage of people immunised against these diseases, which formerly were responsible for so much misery and death, should be maintained at the highest possible level.

### **Recommended procedures**

<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.
13 months — 2 years	Measles vaccination.
4½ years	Diphtheria/tetanus (no whooping cough) and oral polio vaccine.
Over 11 years	B.C.G.
11 — 13 years	German measles immunisation (girls only).
14½ years	Oral polio vaccine. Tetanus toxoid.

## **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 1971, 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	.. .. .	646
Children aged one to five years	.. .. .	1,300

#### **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**

Child Welfare Clinics at which mothers of young children can have the benefit of advice on health and medical matters are still being carried on in the traditional way in clinic premises, but the direction of development here is that an increasing number of

family doctors are undertaking this work for patients of their own practices in their surgeries or in health centres as these become available. This trend has been made possible by the attachment of Health Visitors to individual practices. An increasing amount of attention is being given to the study of normal and abnormal development of the child during the years of infancy and early childhood.

Numbers of individual children who attended were as follows:

532 attended Tower Lane on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

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

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

354 attended Trident Hall, Galmington on Monday afternoons.

Total attendances of children under 5 years of age were 9303 which was an increase of 1849 on the previous year.

### **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 1971, 105 women attended and the total number of attendances was 643.

In addition, 141 women attended doctors' surgeries for the same purpose, and made a total of 827 attendances.

### **Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing**

36,176 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 1971, 33 premature infants were born in hospital of whom 2 died. Two 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.

### **Dental Clinic, Tower Lane**

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1971 was as follows:

Number Inspected	Number requiring Treatment	Number treated	Extractions		Fillings		Other Treatment (Dentures, Crowns, Orthodontics, X-rays, etc.)
			Decid.	Perm.	Decid.	Perm.	
7,232	4,196	2,973	1,602	628	1,966	4,656	835



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 .. .. .	13	138
2. Number found to require treatment .. .. .	9	89
3. Number of cases treated .. .. .	11	114
4. Number of attendances .. .. .	26	257
5. Dentures provided .. .. .	1	-

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

### **Home Help Service**

This service has now been transferred to the Department of Social Services, and detailed figures of the number of cases helped and the reason for help in individual cases are not available for 1971. The very valuable work continues though the method of administration has changed.

### **Day Nursery**

This is another service which, together with the supervision of playgroups and child minders, has passed to the Social Services Department. There is good liaison with the new department so that matters of health and hygiene are kept to the fore.

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service continue to organise and provide these meals for patients in the Borough. During 1971, 115 people received two meals each per week and the total number of meals delivered during the year was 10,324. More voluntary helpers and drivers to transport the meals would be required to increase the frequency to three times a week as would be most desirable.

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 Council of Social Services is proving itself to be a valuable asset to the town, and I should like again to thank Miss Duncan, the energetic Secretary, for help with a number of matters.

### MASS RADIOGRAPHY

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

The reports on examinations were as follows:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number examined .. .. .	549	731	1,280
<b>Abnormalities detected</b> .. .. .			
Active pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. .	1	1	2
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. .	1	—	1
Goitre .. .. .	1	—	1
Acquired cardiac lesion .. .. .	2	1	3
Bronchiectasis .. .. .	1	—	1
Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs .. .. .	3	1	4
Abnormality of the diaphragm .. .. .	—	1	1
Dorsal scoliosis .. .. .	—	3	3
Pleural thickening .. .. .	4	2	6

### 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, 1971 the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:

Vehicles—8 Ambulances		
9 Sitting-case Ambulances		
Staff— 6 Sub-officers		
4 Leading Ambulance men		
23 Ambulancemen		
	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage run</i>
	<i>carried</i>	<i>during 1971</i>
Ambulances .. .. .	12,816	124,270
Sitting-case ambulances .. .. .	21,964	146,423

## 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.

During 1971 the following works were undertaken or projected in connection with the sewerage of the Borough:

### Completed

Sewage Disposal Works — Extension to Heated Sludge Digestion Plant	£59,650
Sewage Disposal Works — Final Effluent Lagoons	£15,000

### In Progress

Priory Stormwater Treatment Station	£226,000
Eastern Relief Sewer	£355,000

### Future Proposals

Central Relief Sewer	£670,000
Extensions to Sewage Disposal Works	£500,000
Resewering of the Borough — Various Radials	£527,000

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Due to the delay in commencing work on the new Priorswood tip, it was not anticipated that it would be ready for tipping until about January, 1973.

The paper sack scheme had not been extended since the previous year and, therefore, remained the same. The quantity of refuse however appears to have increased and it is estimated that the quantity collected by the Cleansing Department was approximately 2,650 cubic metres.

## 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 West Somerset Water Board in addition to supplying the Borough provides supplies for the Rural District of Taunton and the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington.

Most of the water comes from 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 samples taken independently by the Borough Health Department.

Satisfactory  
209

Unsatisfactory  
0

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

The water is not fluoridated.

## 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 1971, the number of houses erected by the Borough, acting as Local Authority, was 3,304 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 1,540.

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.

31 houses and flats were completed for the Council during 1971 and 117 were in course of erection. In the same period 156 houses were built by private enterprise and 96 were in course of erection. 33 old peoples' dwellings were completed during the period and 29 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 423, and the number of applications for Old Peoples' Dwellings was 86.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

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

Number of applications and houses dealt with during year:

	Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
1. Improvement Grants	137	139	146	146
2. Standard Grants	40	40	41	41
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 .. .. .	2	—	2
Engineer .. .. .	18	1	19
Housing .. .. .	—	1	1
Library .. .. .	1	1	2
Town Clerk .. .. .	3	2	5
Treasurer .. .. .	3	2	5
	27	7	34

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1971

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my report for 1971. There have been no staff changes during the year, and the work of my Department has very much followed the pattern of that in previous years. Messrs. Hopes and Yates attended post-graduate courses for Public Health Inspection at Bristol and Minehead, Mr. Mathews a course on meat and poultry inspection at Blackpool, and two Public Health Inspectors one day conferences on housing, the environment and food in London.

Meat inspection has again been one of our major commitments, and more and more time has to be spent at the local bacon factory where there is a continuous programme of expansion so that the appointment of a Meat Inspector last year has been well justified. The systematic inspection of the older artisan type of terraced house which was reorganised 4 years ago on a more realistic and proper basis so as to assess the feasibility of improving the houses by means of Improvement Grants has continued; and the time and work expended by all the Public Health Inspectors in this very important field has been amply rewarded by the number of owners who have been persuaded as to the great benefits to be gained in the enhanced value and extended life of their premises through the system of Improvement Grants.

Food hygiene in all its varied aspects has again been high in our list of priorities; but other equally important subjects in the field of environmental hygiene such as smoke control, noise surveys, drainage work, inspection of offices and shops, and pest control have all received their share of attention.

During the year there have been no new major Acts of Parliament affecting the Public Health Department, and very few Statutory Instruments; but the Report on "The Reform of Local Government in England" will have far reaching effects on the constitution of Local Government itself and on the duties and responsibilities of staff at all levels. There is every indication at the moment that the field of environmental hygiene will for the most part be a district function, and this is to be welcomed as such work can generally be best performed by those with an intimate knowledge of the locality and the people living and working therein.

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 unflinching 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 .. .. .	581
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act .. .. .	37
Re-inspections under the above Acts .. .. .	1,347
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited .. .. .	270
Miscellaneous housing inspections .. .. .	45
Smoke observations, etc. .. .. .	71
Moveable dwellings .. .. .	7
Dealers in old metal .. .. .	0
Infectious diseases and disinfections .. .. .	122
Drainage, in connection with .. .. .	688
Factories .. .. .	586
Hairdressers .. .. .	25
Infested or Verminous premises .. .. .	143
Interviews .. .. .	810
Meteorological Readings .. .. .	365
Noise, in connection with .. .. .	143
Offensive trades .. .. .	54
Animal nuisances .. .. .	10
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections .. .. .	316
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits .. .. .	938
Outworkers .. .. .	3
Pet Shops .. .. .	16
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment .. .. .	18
Refuse collection and disposal .. .. .	13
Rag Flock premises .. .. .	1
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator) .. .. .	42
Schools .. .. .	21
Shops (Shops Acts) .. .. .	61
Swimming Baths .. .. .	48
Water Sampling .. .. .	210
Water Supply .. .. .	50
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	314
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>7,574</b>

## Complaints

During the year 1,004 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters:

Housing conditions	..	..	..	..	46
Drainage	..	..	..	..	124
Rats or mice	..	..	..	..	260
Unsound food	..	..	..	..	192
Insect Pests	..	..	..	..	261
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	121

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

## Housing Repairs

The number of complaints relating to housing defects reported by tenants has gradually decreased over the years. This is undoubtedly due to the increasing percentage of premises which are becoming owner-occupied, and to the fact that where houses receive Improvement Grants any disrepair is made good at the same time. In those cases where repairs have been found to be necessary, they have been achieved in almost every instance by informal action under the Public Health Acts, and only in rare cases have the powers of the Housing Acts been invoked in this connection.

During the year 46 complaints were received, but numerous defects were found during the course of the annual Housing and Improvement Survey; and the total number of individual items which received attention was 1,143 which showed an increase of about 58% over the previous year's figures. Altogether about 1,500 inspections and visits were made in connection with this particular phase of our work.

Details of the work carried out is as follows:—

Drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
New drains provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Sewers cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Cesspools emptied	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Inspection chambers built	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Inspection chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Inspection chambers—new covers provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
New gullies provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Yard surfaces renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Eaves gutters renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Eaves gutters repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Rainwater pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12



Waterclosets provided .. .. .	65
W.C. pans renewed .. .. .	9
W.C. flushing cisterns provided .. .. .	67
Flush pipes repaired .. .. .	6
W.C's—new seats provided .. .. .	36
Roofs renewed .. .. .	3
Roofs repaired .. .. .	33
Chimney stacks rebuilt .. .. .	2
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	11
Chimneys—flashings renewed .. .. .	6
Walls rebuilt .. .. .	3
External walls repaired .. .. .	30
Ceilings renewed or repaired .. .. .	23
Floors renewed .. .. .	21
Floors repaired .. .. .	13
Skirting boards renewed .. .. .	11
Waste pipe renewed .. .. .	6
Sub-floor ventilation improved .. .. .	1
Wall rendering renewed or repaired .. .. .	38
Dampness abated .. .. .	72
Fireplaces renewed or repaired .. .. .	5
Doors renewed or repaired .. .. .	11
New windows provided .. .. .	19
Windows repaired .. .. .	23
Window sills renewed .. .. .	13
Windows—sash cords provided* .. .. .	20
Artificial lighting improved .. .. .	11
Natural lighting improved .. .. .	11
Ventilation improved .. .. .	14
Water service pipes renewed .. .. .	—
Water heating systems installed .. .. .	67
Bath provided .. .. .	66
Wash-hand basins provided .. .. .	68
Kitchen sinks provided .. .. .	56
Draining Boards provided .. .. .	4
Staircases repaired .. .. .	4
Hand rails repaired or renewed .. .. .	4
Ventilated food cupboards provided .. .. .	7
Electric services repaired .. .. .	4
Gas services repaired .. .. .	3
Redecoration .. .. .	34
Boundary fences renewed .. .. .	1
<hr/>	
Total .. .. .	1,143
<hr/>	

## HOUSING ACTS

For some time now there have been very few houses which have been in an advanced state of disrepair, and consequently this is the second year in succession when no Clearance Areas have been declared. However twelve houses in the Tancred Street Nos. 5 and 6 Clearance Areas have been demolished and the sites cleared.

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

Houses closed under Section 17 .. .. .	1
Closing Orders determined .. .. .	5

In addition to the above one house which had previously been closed was demolished and six others were demolished for road widening projects or redevelopment.

## TAUNTON CORPORATION ACT 1931

Section 94 of this Act allows representation to be made to the Council if any proposed new building would affect ventilation or conduce to make other buildings in its proximity unfit for human habitation or dangerous or injurious to health. Nowadays with the more effective legislation contained in the Building Regulations it is only on rare occasions that this power is used. During the year 37 visits were made in connection therewith. In all cases the problems were resolved by informal discussions usually with the builder or architect at the various sites.

## HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

This type of accommodation for which there is an ever increasing demand is usually found in the older and larger houses built about fifty or more years ago. The lettings usually consist of single rooms to one or two persons; it is the duty of this Department to ensure that a proper and sufficient scale of amenities is provided and maintained and that the premises are kept in a good state of repair. In this connection all such premises receive a detailed initial inspection when the landlord is informed of the works that are considered necessary to bring the premises up to the approved standard, and thereafter all premises receive an annual inspection.

At the present time there are 202 such premises with 658 separate lettings, and during the year 270 visits were made and the following matters which were mostly of a minor character were remedied by informal action:—

## Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

### External—

Roofs repaired .. .. .	6
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed .. .. .	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	3
Choked drains cleared .. .. .	3
Yard paving repaired or renewed .. .. .	1
Extra dust bins provided .. .. .	1
Water closets repaired or renewed .. .. .	5

### Internal—

Walls repaired or renewed .. .. .	12
Ceilings repaired or renewed .. .. .	2
Floors repaired .. .. .	2
Doors repaired or renewed .. .. .	2
Windows repaired or renewed .. .. .	6
Staircases repaired or provided .. .. .	1
Rooms redecorated .. .. .	12
Staircases redecorated .. .. .	1
Dampness abated .. .. .	25
Refrigerators provided .. .. .	2
Electric fittings repaired or provided .. .. .	2
Heating installations provided/repaired .. .. .	1
Hot water supply repaired or renewed .. .. .	1
Hot water supply provided .. .. .	3
Wash-hand basin renewed/repaired .. .. .	4
Additional W.C.'s provided .. .. .	1
Baths renewed or repaired .. .. .	1

### Other Items—

Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multi-Occupation .. .. .	6
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced .. .. .	3
Total .. .. .	108

## RENT ACT, 1957

This particular piece of legislation has proved to be singularly ineffective, and as in several previous years no applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

## HOUSING ACT, 1969 — Section 45(2)

This Section which became effective about two years ago is now beginning to show some results. It empowers a Local Authority to issue Qualification Certificates whereby landlords are enabled to obtain fair rents for properties which are provided with the standard amenities and are in a good state of repair.

During the year 39 applications were received, and 19 Qualification Certificates were issued. In addition two provisional Certificates were issued.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 — Section 24**

During the year 42 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.

### **HOUSING SURVEY**

The organised programme of housing inspection which began four years ago as the result of the government's policy with regard to Improvement Areas has continued during the year; and this necessitated about 1,000 visits of which a considerable percentage were outside normal working hours as it was found that in some households all the occupants were out to work during the daytime. Again the houses selected were of artisan type terraced dwellings built in the nineteen-twenties or earlier, and totalled 256, and comprised 135 in the Northern District and 121 in the Southern District. As in previous years the object 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 houses in the Northern District were in Bindon Road, Fowler Street, and Greenway Avenue; and in the Southern District, Alma Street, Holway Avenue, Silver Street and South Road. The total number of houses which were owner/occupied was 101 (78%) in the first area and 88 (74%) in the second, which represents an overall average of 76.6% and indicates an increase of about 8% when compared to those figures in the surveys of the last two years. It is interesting to note that in the tenanted houses the average weekly rent was £2.20 in the Northern District and £2.51 in the Southern District; and this indicates a general rise in the rents of approximately 25% compared with similar figures obtained during the 1970 survey.

## ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1971

### 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	Inside W.C.	Sink				Finance	Other	
<b>NORTHERN AREA</b>																			
Bindon Road	18	—	5	5	—	—	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	3	1	—	—	1	
Fowler Street	36	2	30	29	1	—	29	29	28	27	27	27	30	3	3	3	—	—	
Greenway Avenue	81	4	66	63	3	—	66	65	66	64	65	65	66	16	1	1	—	—	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>SOUTHERN AREA</b>																			
Alma Street	78	2	59	54	3	2	52	50	52	49	54	49	59	22	11	5	3	3	
Holway Avenue	17	—	14	12	2	—	14	14	14	14	13	14	14	1	1	1	—	—	
Silver Street	14	—	5	4	1	—	5	4	4	4	5	4	5	3	1	—	1	—	
South Road	12	—	10	9	1	—	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	—	1	—	—	1	
<b>TOTAL COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	

# ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1971

TENANTED (Average Rent £2 40p. per week)

Total number	Houses in Multi-Occupation	State of Repair			Amenities Provided								I.G. Received	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	Inside W.C.	Sink	Total		Tenant interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to				
															Finance	Other			
																		<b>NORTHERN AREA</b>	
13	—	12	1	—	2	2	2	2	9	4	13	2	11	6	3	2	5	Bindon Road	
4	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	1	3	2	—	1	—	Fowler Street	
11	3	8	2	1	10	8	9	7	10	9	11	2	3	2	1	—	—	Greenway Avenue	
28	3	21	5	2	13	11	12	10	22	15	28	5	17	10	4	3	5	<b>TOTAL</b>	
																		<b>SOUTHERN AREA</b>	
17	—	12	5	—	12	9	12	7	13	7	17	2	10	4	3	3	—	Alma Street	
3	—	2	1	—	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	Holway Avenue	
9	2	4	2	2	5	5	5	5	6	5	9	1	4	—	3	1	—	Silver Street	
2	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	South Road	
31	4	20	8	2	22	19	22	16	24	17	31	5	15	4	7	4	—	<b>TOTAL</b>	
59	7	41	13	4	35	30	34	26	46	32	59	10	32	14	11	7	5	<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	

Seven houses were found to be in Multiple-Occupation and where necessary steps were taken to ensure that there was compliance with the necessary regulations relating to the provision of amenities and overcrowding etc. As regards the general state of repair this was somewhat higher in the owner/occupied premises; but even so only two houses in both groups were classified as in a poor state, and 24 as fair of which 13 were tenanted. All houses with one exception had an estimated life in excess of 15 years. Where necessary repairs have been carried out as the result of informal action either on their own account, or in conjunction with the work of an Improvement Grant.

Eighteen of the owner/occupied houses lacked all or most of the standard amenities and in nine instances the Owners were interested in having an Improvement Grant. The others for the most part were either too elderly or lacked the financial resources to take advantage of the benefits available. In the tenanted houses 32 lacked all or most of the amenities and 14 tenants expressed the wish for the amenities to be provided, and in this connection five formal applications were made to the Council. In other cases the tenants were either too elderly or did not relish any rent increase. It is encouraging to note that mainly as a result of visits and informal discussions with owners and tenants that 48 houses in these two areas have already benefitted by the provision of amenities obtained with the help of Improvement Grants. It is felt that the scope of such grants should be made even more comprehensive by the inclusion of limited sums to cover such items as external decoration and fire escapes where conversion to multiple-occupation takes place.

Taking into account the general state of repair of the houses which are in the two areas, and the fact that there are definite indications that the existing rate of improvement is likely to continue—which invariably occurs when the ownership changes—it is not recommended that an Improvement Area be declared.

## NOISE

Noise is an ever increasing and serious problem in this highly "civilised" age when all types of machinery are daily becoming larger and more powerful and often with a corresponding rise in their noise output. Such noise not only affects the physical and mental well-being of the ordinary citizen, but is a menace to society. That the general public is more aware of this intrusion which undoubtedly detracts from the quality of the environment is well demonstrated by the fact that here in Taunton two visits were made in 1964 in connection with complaints of noise whereas in the current year this rose to 198.

Besides being an annoyance in industry and commerce, noise may interfere with working efficiency, by hindering communication between workers or cause accidents by masking warning signals; but more important it may cause damage to the workers' hearing. This may take the form of temporary hearing loss due to exposure to intense noise for a short period; or more serious permanent and incurable damage due to regular exposure to certain noises over a long period.

The Noise Abatement Act 1960 was the first piece of legislation to be passed in this country for the express purpose of protecting the public from noise interference. Unfortunately it has not proved as effective as had been hoped, and as a consequence a Working Party was set up in 1970 to study the adequacy of the existing Act, and to formulate proposals for strengthening it. Their report just published entitled "Neighbourhood Noise" opens with these words "Noise is becoming increasingly recognised as an unjustifiable interference with ordinary human comfort and well-being. While noise cannot, of course, be totally eliminated, much can and should be done to reduce it. The law should be framed so as to provide practical and effective assistance to this end." Amongst their proposals are the setting up of Noise Abatement Zones with power to make Noise Abatement Orders, modification to the Nuisance Procedures, and the making of regulations to set a limit on the noise output of certain classes of machinery.

During the year twenty one complaints were received regarding noise nuisances, and much time was spent in their investigation including late night observations and surveys extending through the whole of the working day. These complaints related to such things as the electric generators on refrigerated lorries cutting "in" and "out" during the night and thereby disturbing the sleep of persons residing in the neighbourhood, and a motor repair workshop which extended its operations into an adjacent building that



was not sound-proofed in any way, and the use of high powered equipment including drills and cutting devices for repair work and panel beating—all of which made life for nearby householders intolerable during the working day. Other sources included the barking of dogs, noise from electric generators used in connection with temporary light signals for road repairs at night, unmuffled pneumatic drills and late-night dances with excessively noisy beat groups in attendance. The response to requests to reduce noise levels varies considerably—on the one hand you have the person who is quite unaware of the nuisance he is causing and readily responds by reducing noise emissions immediately, and at the the other end of the scale you have the person who is completely indifferent to the misery and discomfort of those whose peace and quiet he has disrupted, especially if this should interfere with any commercial undertaking. Often such a person takes the view that he should be exempted from any legal liability merely because he is providing employment for people in the town: and in such cases there is no alternative but to resort to legal procedures which are often complicated and take an inordinately long time to achieve the desired result.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT**

It is essential that when buildings of any type are being designed that early consideration be given to the problems associated with the proper disposal of the waste products of combustion created by heating installations or plant. It is not sufficient that the equipment is designed to operate smokelessly, but adequate chimneys or flues must be provided to disperse the invisible but potentially more harmful gaseous pollutants at a safe height.

During the year six applications were received and considered regarding boiler installations, and where necessary modifications were made to accord with the provisions of the Act.

### **RODENT AND OTHER PESTS CONTROL**

This has been an exceptionally busy year in the field of pest control, and the total of 2,796 visits shows an 11% increase over the previous year. I would once again like to express my great appreciation of our Rodent Operator, Mr. L. Wood, who carries out all his many duties in such a cheerful and painstaking manner.

The number of complaints received concerning rodent infestation increased by about 80 to 260, and it is interesting to note that of these 74 referred to mice which is a significant increase. As usual there was a further treatment of the sewers and baits were laid at 311 points and very satisfactory results were obtained. It is certain that the regular treatment of the sewers plays an appreciable role in keeping down the level of rodent population in the Borough, and this is clearly demonstrated by the fact that no reservoirs or major infestations have been found since this programme was introduced four years ago. Another factor of ensuring effective control is the system of contracts whereby businesses received regular checks of their premises together with such treatments as may be found necessary.

The number of wasps' nests destroyed was 220 and exceeds the previous record number which was in the year before by 82. As this work often involves some considerable time and trouble a nominal charge is made for the service which is greatly appreciated by the majority of householders. Other insect pests are also treated, and these include cluster flies, ants, fleas, bugs, cockroaches, silver fish, carpet beetles, and mites.

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

Treatments at private dwellings	..	..	..	..	287
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	704
Treatments at business premises	..	..	..	..	312
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	675
Treatments at Council premises	..	..	..	..	41
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	110
Survey visits	..	..	..	..	236
Wasps' nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	220
Other vermin etc.	..	..	..	..	46
Treatment of sewers	..	..	..	..	311
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	861
Drain tests	..	..	..	..	13

### **Disinfection**

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease or death was carried out on 2 occasions.

With the closing down of the steam disinfecting plant at one of the local hospitals we are now faced with the difficult problem of finding an alternative service elsewhere in the area.

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

### **Public Health Act 1936—Section 107.**

This section deals with the various offensive trades which require the consent of the Local Authority for their operation. The following table gives details of such trades carried out in the Borough.

Hide and Skin Depots .. .. .	2
Tanners .. .. .	1
Rag and Bone Merchants .. .. .	2
Fat Extractors etc. .. .. .	1

The Rag and Bone Merchants are the subject of annual consent, whilst the others are without any time limitation.

All the businesses with the exception of the last named have continued to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, but the fat extracting business has again been the subject of complaint concerning the escape of obnoxious odours which occur when the apparatus is opened up after processing. The firm have undertaken to duct the offending vapours into a chimney where they can be burnt and discharged into the atmosphere without giving rise to any nuisance.

### **The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.**

During the year one of the two residential sites in the Borough which was being run down was finally closed, and the other has continued to be run in a satisfactory manner. The owner of this site has continued to improve the size and standard of his caravans as and when the older ones have to be replaced.

There are also three individual sites and these have also been satisfactory.

During the year the Department of the Environment issued a Circular requiring Local Authorities to ensure that the provisions in the model standards for licensed caravan sites are implemented, and this has already been put into effect.

### **The Rag, Flock and Other Materials Act, 1951**

Registered premises .. .. .	3
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Periodically samples are sent to one of the approved laboratories for analysis.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.**

This Act which was passed in an effort to combat the traffic in stolen scrap metals requires scrap metal merchants to register with a Local Authority and to renew such registration every three years. Dealers must keep proper and up-to-date records of all transactions and are forbidden to acquire any metal from a person who appears to be under 16 years old. It is the practice to keep the police informed of all such registrations and any changes, so that they are in a better position to provide more effective control in the detection of stolen metals.

Number of dealers registered under the Act .. .. 11

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

This Act covers all vertebrates which are sold as pets, and imposes a duty on Local Authorities to inspect and license all premises—including stalls in markets where such animals are offered for sale. The Act provides that all such animals shall be kept under proper conditions as to room, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. All animals to receive adequate food and drink, and forbids the selling of any animal at too early an age. Other requirements relate to precautions to prevent spread of disease, fire precautions, and the ban in sales to persons under twelve years of age.

There are four licensed shops in the Borough and during the year 16 inspections or visits were made. All were conducted in a satisfactory manner.

### **The Consumer Protection Act, 1961**

### **The Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960**

### **The Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962**

These Regulations impose standards of design and construction on the manufacturers of such appliances, all of which must bear a warning in legible and durable characters in the following terms:—

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

After 1962 it was an offence for anyone to sell any heater which did not conform to the very rigid terms as regards construction laid down, and bear the proper warning notice. Unfortunately there are loopholes to the Regulations, and one of these is where the letting or hire of an appliance is incidental to the letting of premises which includes practically all Houses in Multiple Occupation. Such premises which have a high level of number of occupants pose a very real and serious problem as they are often found in the large, old Victorian type of house with numerous storeys including cramped attic rooms, where fire risk even under ideal conditions is always something which has to be considered very seriously.

Another loophole is where old heaters are offered for sale by persons who are often completely ignorant of the Regulations and the potential danger to life and property latent in such appliances. Such sales usually occur at low class auction sales, jumble sales, charity shops or through advertisements in local papers. With the best will in the world it is impossible to ensure that no such sales take place, but every effort is made to visit all such sales whenever possible. The extent and seriousness of the problem can no better be illustrated when it is known that in 1969 there were 2,468 fires in England which were directly caused by oil heaters and these resulted in 43 fatalities. I would point out that not all these were due to actual faulty heaters, but it is safe to assume that the majority fell into this category. Certainly the situation is one about which there can be no complacency, and every effort should be made to close up any loopholes in the current legislation; and to ensure that sufficient publicity is given to the hazards and dangers involved in the use of oil heaters particularly to the immigrant population and the very aged who seem to be especially prone to this danger.

### **HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS**

These premises are subject to Bye-Law control which was passed in 1964 and deals mainly with the cleanliness of premises, equipment and personnel. Where staff are employed the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 also applies, and the provisions of this Act are more detailed and comprehensive.

During the year the number of ladies' establishments increased by three to 41, and by one to 19 in respect of men's establishments. All premises were inspected or visited during the year when a total of 41 contraventions were found, and most of these were rectified by informal action.

### **Sampling of Swimming Bath Water**

With the ever increasing use of the public baths in St. James Street it is essential to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and purification at all times, and in this connection random samples are taken each week to check for any sign of contamination which might occur through overloading or some fault in the purification plant. These tests are of water passing the inlet and outlet points which is examined for the amounts of residual and total chlorine content as well as Ph values. It is very reassuring to know that all the two hundred samples taken during the year were satisfactory and reflects great credit on the staff responsible for the running of the Baths.

From time to time enquiries are received from operators of small pools, and we have been able to offer advice on the correct methods of operation and purification.

### **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 .. .. .	82
Butchers and Fishmongers .. .. .	274
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	59
Food Preparation Premises .. .. .	110
Grocers and Greengrocers .. .. .	387
Licensed Premises .. .. .	114
Market Stalls and Mobile Shops etc. .. .. .	54
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens .. .. .	302
Sampling for various foodstuffs .. .. .	154
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	1,039*
Wholesale Meat Depots .. .. .	123
Total .. .. .	<hr/> 2,698 <hr/>

\* Includes visits of Meat Inspector

Food inspection in its many and varied aspects has as always figured largely in the routine work of the department. Apart from meat inspection which receives separate consideration elsewhere in this report, over 1,500 inspections or visits have been made in this connection, and cover such matters as the routine inspection of premises, inspection of suspect food, taking of ice cream or sausage agar samples, and advice to persons intending to start new food businesses.

For the first time in ten years we did not receive the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory in the examination of meat products and artificial creams. This work was started in 1962 at the instigation of the Laboratory itself and over the years has proved a valuable adjunct in maintaining and improving the standard of hygiene in those premises handling such products. The exact reasons for the discontinuance of this worthwhile service are not known, but from our point of view it is a retrograde stage. However to offset this loss there has been an increase in the number of sausage agar samples which are taken in all types of food premises, and give a fairly accurate guide as to the hygienic methods or otherwise practised in a particular establishment. During the year 22 Moores sewer swabs were taken in the drainage systems of various food premises. Such swabs are placed in the drains where they are left for 24 hours before being sent to the laboratory to be examined for the presence of the enteric group of disease bearing bacteria, thereby giving an indication of possible disease "carriers" working in those premises. All samples gave negative results.

Nowadays it is standard practice when plans are submitted for new food premises or for major reconstruction of existing ones, for consultations to take place with all concerned so that the requirements of the various relevant Acts and Regulations are embodied in any new work with the minimum of trouble. During the year 16 premises were dealt with in this manner.

Numerous complaints were received from members of the public concerning the nature or quality of food ranging from pop rivets in bread, maggots in sausages to mouldy bread and Danish pastries. In some instances the offences were such as to warrant a warning, but in six cases legal proceedings were taken and fines totalling £90 with £14 costs were imposed.

Details of the various works and improvements carried out at all types of food premises during the year is given in the following table, and the total of 900 shows an increase of about 15% over last year's figures. At least half of the items were in respect of redecoration and repairs, and the remainder were for a variety of reasons ranging from new sinks and wash-basins to dustbins and refrigerators and from the protection of food from contamination to the provision of toilet requisites, etc.

## Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1971

	Butchers and Fishmongers	Bakers and Dairies etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Total
<b>Works of Major Reconstruction</b> .. ..	—	—	2	10	4	16
<b>Food Rooms</b>						
Walls renewed or repaired .. ..	18	4	6	14	15	57
Walls redecorated .. ..	33	21	23	65	63	205
Ceilings renewed or repaired .. ..	10	4	4	9	7	34
Ceilings redecorated .. ..	15	8	9	25	28	85
Floors repaired or renewed .. ..	7	4	1	11	8	31
Improvement of lighting .. ..	3	1	1	5	—	10
Improvement of ventilation .. ..	1	1	2	4	—	8
Renewed or repaired drainage .. ..	3	1	1	6	2	13
Doors, windows etc. repaired .. ..	3	4	1	8	3	19
Premises cleansed .. ..	10	6	2	13	1	32
<b>Equipment, etc.</b>						
New sinks provided .. ..	5	3	1	14	1	24
Hot water supply provided .. ..	4	2	1	7	—	14
New drainage boards provided .. ..	2	3	—	10	1	16
Preparation tables etc. retopped .. ..	5	4	2	14	5	30
New equipment etc. provided .. ..	10	2	1	14	—	27
Dustbins provided .. ..	7	2	2	6	1	18
Means of protection for food provided .. ..	18	5	9	11	2	45
Refrigerators provided .. ..	3	1	—	3	—	7
Equipment cleansed .. ..	9	17	1	22	4	53
<b>Sanitary Accommodation</b>						
New W.C.'s or urinals installed .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
New flushing cisterns provided .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation repaired .. ..	2	1	2	5	3	13
Sanitary accommodation redecorated .. ..	3	3	8	3	13	30
Sanitary Notices fixed .. ..	—	1	—	3	2	6
<b>Toilet Accommodation</b>						
Wash-hand Basins provided .. ..	1	2	4	8	1	16
Hot water supply provided .. ..	3	2	3	7	4	19
Toilet requisites provided .. ..	14	3	8	13	2	40
Provision of lockers .. ..	—	1	1	3	1	6
<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
Protective clothing provided .. ..	4	3	1	3	1	12
Treatment of infestations .. ..	2	3	3	3	—	11
Provision of first-aid materials .. ..	4	2	5	6	2	19
<b>Totals</b> .. ..	199	114	102	315	170	900



## SPECIAL TYPES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION

### Milk Supply

There are 8 registered Dairies and 45 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 3 new registrations under the Food and Drugs Act, and the total number of registrations is as follows:

Manufacture and Sale .. .. .	2
Storage and Sale .. .. .	119

### 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 were 3 new registrations and the total of such premises is 55.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

With the withdrawal of facilities for the examination of meat products and artificial cream by the Public Health Laboratory our sampling has been confined to ice cream and liquid egg.

### Ice Cream

During the year 43 samples were taken of which 37 were of the hot mix type from national manufacturers, 3 from a local cold mix manufacturer, and 13 of soft ice cream taken from itinerant vans. The only unsatisfactory sample was a soft ice cream and subsequent samples were satisfactory. The general all round improvement in the results is no doubt due to the time and trouble which has been spent in persuading the various vendors of the hygienic advantages of ensuring that their dispensers, scoops, soft ice cream apparatus and other equipment is kept sterile at all times. Nevertheless there can be no let up in our insistence for high standards as the staff involved in this trade are particularly prone to seasonal change.

Details are as follows:—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Hot Mix .. .. .	25	2	—
Cold Mix .. .. .	3	—	—
Soft Ice Cream .. .. .	9	3	1

### **Liquid Egg**

There is one modern factory in Taunton dealing exclusively with the production of liquid egg. During the year a total of 76 samples were taken comprising 38 raw whole egg, 35 glair, and 2 pasteurised egg. Apart from one sample of raw egg which had salmonella infection all the rest were satisfactory.

### **Water**

A total of 209 samples of water were taken at various points within the borough besides the Fulwood Works and a private borehole. These samples comprised 179 of main tap water, 22 raw water and 8 from the borehole—all of which were satisfactory.

### **River Water Survey**

In conjunction with the Public Analyst, and the Public Health Inspectors of adjacent authorities we have started a programme of sampling the water from the River Tone. The object being to ascertain the degree of pollution from organic matter originating from farms, from improperly treated sewage effluent from sewage works, from industrial discharges from adjacent factories etc. and chemical contamination from pesticides and fertilizers used on agricultural land. The programme was only initiated at the end of the year, so it is too early to give any clear indication of how the results will turn out but so far there does not appear to be any gross contamination.

## **AGAR SAUSAGE SAMPLING**

Now that we are no longer able to have meat products and artificial cream examined for bacteriological contamination, the agar sampling routine has assumed an even more important role in detecting any hygienic deficiencies in food handling techniques or cleansing routines. This system is most useful in educating all sections of the food industry in the need for the utmost care to be exercised at all times if high standards are to be achieved and maintained, because the agar shows in a most dramatic manner the effects of contamination. One of the essential requirements of the system is that follow-up visits should be made to all premises, so that good premises and management receive encouragement; and those who fall below an acceptable standard the necessary education and advice to overcome their shortcomings.

The total number of samples taken was 443 which is about a 36% increase on the 1970 figures. Of these samples 80 were negative, 169 were slight, 85 medium and 109 heavy. These figures while not entirely unsatisfactory still leave room for improvement.

## Results

<i>Item</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Heavy</i>
Bowls—various .. .. .	6	7	8	2
Beakers .. .. .	—	2	—	—
Chopping blocks .. .. .	—	2	—	10
Cleaver .. .. .	—	4	—	1
Cookers and ovens .. .. .	—	—	1	2
Counter tops .. .. .	1	—	3	3
Cutting boards .. .. .	—	4	—	4
Cups .. .. .	4	3	—	—
Chip fryer .. .. .	1	—	1	—
Food display cabinet .. .. .	3	3	—	1
Dishcloths .. .. .	2	3	2	11
Draining boards .. .. .	—	—	4	5
Drink dispensers .. .. .	4	5	—	—
Equipment—various .. .. .	3	13	8	10
Fingers of staff .. .. .	—	5	—	7
Forks .. .. .	1	5	3	2
Glasses—various .. .. .	4	7	—	—
Hand towels .. .. .	1	1	1	2
Hot cupboards .. .. .	2	—	2	—
Ice cream containers .. .. .	2	4	—	—
Knives—preparation .. .. .	3	7	9	6
Knives—table .. .. .	2	2	1	—
Machinery—various .. .. .	3	1	2	5
Meat slicers .. .. .	2	5	3	4
Mincing machines .. .. .	2	—	—	1
Mixing machines .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Piping bag—nozzle .. .. .	—	—	—	2
Plates—table .. .. .	9	11	1	—
Receptacles—various .. .. .	5	10	4	4
Refrigerator inside .. .. .	—	3	3	2
Saucers .. .. .	1	2	—	—
Saucepans .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Scales—pans .. .. .	3	4	2	6
Saws .. .. .	—	5	—	—

Shelves .. .. .	1	5	3	3
Spoons—various .. .. .	1	4	1	—
Table tops .. .. .	3	7	9	6
Tea cloths .. .. .	1	8	2	—
Tongs .. .. .	—	1	—	1
Trays .. .. .	—	3	5	2
Walls .. .. .	2	8	—	2
Wash hand basins .. .. .	2	4	1	2
Whisks .. .. .	3	4	2	—
Work benches .. .. .	1	7	4	3
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>109</b>
Total number of samples taken — 443.				

### Food Inspection

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

TINNED GOODS		FROZEN FOODS	
Soup .. .. .	274 tins	Meat products .. .. .	2090 pkts.
Baked beans .. .. .	145 "	Fish .. .. .	2965 "
Peas .. .. .	501 "	Pies .. .. .	697 "
Other vegetables .. .. .	849 "	Peas .. .. .	1193 "
Fruit .. .. .	2607 "	Other vegetables .. .. .	1399 "
Fruit juice .. .. .	222 "	Chips .. .. .	670 "
Milk pudding .. .. .	73 "	Pastry .. .. .	255 "
Ham .. .. .	51 "	Cakes .. .. .	149 "
Corned beef .. .. .	190 "	Mousse .. .. .	1073 "
Other meat .. .. .	247 "	Fruit juice .. .. .	131 "
Fish .. .. .	206 "		
Spaghetti .. .. .	32 "		
Milk, cream .. .. .	360 "		
Baby food .. .. .	76 "		
OTHER FOODS		Coffee .. .. .	40 jars
Assorted fresh fruit .. .. .	59 boxes	Sauce, pickles .. .. .	421 "
Assorted fresh vegetables	135 "	Jam etc. .. .. .	347 "
Fish .. .. .	69 lbs.		tins
Poultry .. .. .	290 "	Squashes etc. .. .. .	91 bots.
Rabbit .. .. .	44 "	Beer, wines .. .. .	60 "
Cooked meat .. .. .	268 "	Sweets, chocolate .. .. .	699 pkts.
Sausages .. .. .	81 "	Cereals .. .. .	50 "
Bacon .. .. .	281 "	Rice etc. .. .. .	28 "
Cheese .. .. .	162 "	Dried fruit .. .. .	87 "
Butter .. .. .	49 "	Dried peas etc. .. .. .	18 "
Cooking fat .. .. .	27 "	Biscuits .. .. .	149 "
Tea .. .. .	30 "	Suet .. .. .	134 "
Flour .. .. .	40 "	Nuts .. .. .	162 "
Sugar .. .. .	13 "	Eggs .. .. .	52 doz.
Salt .. .. .	359 "		pkts.,
Pies .. .. .	104 "	Miscellaneous .. .. .	135 tins

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year legal proceedings were taken for offences under Section 2 of the main Act which relates to the sale of food which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser; and for certain offences under various Regulations.

The details are as follows:—

OFFENCES	RESULT
1. Pop rivet in loaf of bread .. .. .	£10 fine
2. Failure to display name and address on delivery vehicle	£5 fine
3. Failure to wear proper head covering when carrying meat	£5 fine
4. Sale of unsound cod fillets .. .. .	£20 fine
5. Live maggot in sausage .. .. .	£10 fine
6. Dirty meat in tin of pork luncheon meat	£25 fine + £14 costs

## MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering takes place in the Borough at two small private slaughterhouses with a very limited through-put, and at a large bacon factory which operates on a line system from Monday to Friday. There has been a steady increase in the annual kill over the last twelve years and the annual total of approximately 73,500 pigs represents a 5% rise over the previous year's figures and 180% over the 1960 ones. The work is such that one Meat Inspector and one Public Health Inspector are employed full time at the factory, where recent improvements to the lay-out have brought all the stages of line inspection (with the exception of those detained for detailed examination) into one large dressing hall.

The quality of the sheep and cattle slaughtered has again been high and in no instance was a whole carcass condemned—the only items being mainly livers for fluke infestation. For the first time since examination for *cysticercus bovis* became standard practice we had a completely clear year; but numerous affected carcasses came into the local cold storage depot from outside authorities for treatment. Only one calf was slaughtered—this follows the trend of the last few years when the price of veal has increased considerably due in part no doubt to the heavy demand from continental buyers.

For the first time in very many years legal proceedings had to be taken against a slaughterman and the occupier of a slaughterhouse for infringements of certain Acts and Regulations. Details of the offences and results of proceedings against the slaughterman are as follows:—

1. Slaughter of Animals Act 1958 — Section 3.  
Slaughtering without a licence — £2 fine

2. Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 Para. 5 (2) (c)  
Failing to ensure that sheeps' plucks were made identifiable with their particular carcasses — £5 fine
3. Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958. Para. 30 (c)  
Failing to remove sheeps' stomachs and intestines from the slaughterhouse immediately after being separated from carcase £5 fine
4. Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1966  
Use of wiping cloths to dress sheep carcases £5 fine  
The occupier of the slaughterhouse was also fined £20 on each of two counts relating to the offences as detailed in items 3 and 4 above.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Beasts .. .. .	141
Cows .. .. .	30
Sheep and Lambs .. .. .	1,247
Calves .. .. .	1
Pigs .. .. .	73,514
Total .. .. .	74,933

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

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	141	30	1	1,247	73,514
Number inspected .. .. .	141	30	1	1,247	73,514
Whole carcases condemned for disease other than T.B. .. .. .	—	—	1	—	155
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	38	—	—	21	16,985
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. Tuberculosis only—	22.22%	—	100%	1.68%	23.14%
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	893
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. .. .. .	—	—	—	—	1.21%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases subjected to treatment by refrigeration .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—

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

Beef	.. .. .	540 lbs.
Lamb	.. .. .	130 "
Pork	.. .. .	139 "
Offal	.. .. .	302 "

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

**NOTICE**

Species	Number	Weight
Beef	...	...
Lamb	...	...
Pork	...	...
Offal	...	...

...

## METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

It is impossible for mere figures to adequately convey to the reader the spectrum of the weather we enjoy (or otherwise!) during the year; and it is only when we are able to draw comparisons that we can properly appreciate all the various vicissitudes to which we are subjected by our climate.

On the whole 1971 can be considered a fairly good year apart from June and Aug. which were dull and wet, having about 100 hrs. less sun than usual and 50% more rain. Good weather is generally reflected by high barometric pressures, and 1971 was no exception as the average for the year was 29.99 as against 29.91 in 1970 and 29.93 for the general average. The highest reading was ~~29.68~~ <sup>30.68</sup> which occurred both in February and December, and the lowest 28.65 in January.

The total rainfall was 26.25 inches—being three below average, and the wettest months January and June with 6.37 and 4.21 inches respectively. The driest month was September with only .07 inches! The wettest day was 9th June with 1.75 inches.

The average temperature has been slightly higher than usual especially in July and December when on both occasions it was approximately 5 degrees up. The highest temperature was on 11th July with 84 deg. F. and the coldest 4th March when we had 13 deg. of frost.

One of the weather features which seems to attract most attention is the record of hours of sunshine and the year's total of 1,678.50 was 120 above average and slightly more than in 1970. May, July, September, October and November were well above average with July having an exceptionally high total of 308.50 hours giving a daily average for that month of about 10 hours. December did very badly with only 26.25 which was 30% below average. The total of sunless days was 86 compared with the average of 66, but 37 were in January and December which means that most other months were below average.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1971 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
1971	29.99	50.56	1,678.50	86	26.25	127	93
1970	29.91	50.52	1,653.25	59	30.32	160	130
Average	29.93	49.64	1,552.98	66	29.09	178	125



## METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1971

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 ..	29.64	30.16	28.65	41.79	56	21	28.00	6.50	19	6.37	18	17	0.90
FEBRUARY ..	30.11	30.68	29.01	40.62	56	24	97.50	9.25	9	0.86	8	4	0.26
MARCH ..	29.97	30.54	28.71	41.81	56	19	100.75	8.00	8	2.46	11	7	0.84
APRIL ..	29.91	30.38	29.34	46.92	68	26	146.00	11.75	7	1.68	8	5	0.73
MAY ..	29.88	30.22	29.44	53.90	73	29	249.50	13.75	2	1.21	10	8	0.37
JUNE ..	29.89	30.20	29.54	57.33	73	38	165.50	14.25	6	4.21	12	10	1.75
JULY ..	30.08	30.46	29.56	63.52	84	41	308.50	14.50	1	0.72	9	7	0.20
AUGUST ..	29.88	30.22	29.50	61.59	75	42	139.75	10.00	4	2.34	16	12	0.53
SEPTEMBER ..	30.16	30.44	29.80	58.17	75	36	159.50	10.25	2	0.07	3	—	0.03
OCTOBER ..	30.19	30.52	29.61	53.34	72	30	146.00	9.00	5	2.06	9	6	0.56
NOVEMBER ..	30.02	30.52	29.30	42.35	62	20	111.25	7.75	5	1.99	13	9	0.47
DECEMBER ..	30.25	30.68	29.53	45.39	59	28	26.25	5.00	18	1.71	10	8	0.48
TOTAL	29.99	—	—	50.56	—	—	1,678.50	—	86	26.25	127	93	—

## Ave. Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1971

BAROMETER				TEMPERATURE				<i>degs. F.</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..		29.93	<b>Annual Average</b>	..		49.66	
June	..	..	29.99	July	..	..	61.57	
July	..	..	29.98	August	..	..	60.74	
February	..	..	29.96	June	..	..	58.26	
September	..	..	29.94	September	..	..	57.95	
August	..	..	29.94	May	..	..	52.62	
March	..	..	29.94	October	..	..	50.90	
October	..	..	29.94	April	..	..	47.35	
May	..	..	29.92	November	..	..	44.29	
April	..	..	29.92	March	..	..	43.29	
December	..	..	29.89	December	..	..	40.97	
November	..	..	29.88	January	..	..	40.25	
January	..	..	29.87	February	..	..	40.09	

Hours of Sunshine				Number of Sunless Days			
<b>Annual Average</b>	..		1555.49	<b>Annual Average</b>	..		66.36
June	..	..	219.78	July	..	..	1.35
May	..	..	206.07	August	..	..	1.62
July	..	..	204.63	June	..	..	1.65
August	..	..	186.24	May	..	..	1.96
April	..	..	151.59	September	..	..	3.04
September	..	..	130.86	April	..	..	3.06
March	..	..	117.44	October	..	..	4.50
October	..	..	102.40	March	..	..	5.32
February	..	..	75.59	February	..	..	8.06
November	..	..	61.34	November	..	..	9.56
January	..	..	45.79	January	..	..	13.51
December	..	..	39.71	December	..	..	14.02

## Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1971

<b>RAINFALL</b>			<b>NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL</b>		
	..	<i>inches</i>		..	<i>days</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	29.03	<b>Annual Average</b>	..	176.64
November	..	3.38	December	..	17.89
December	..	3.09	January	..	17.47
January	..	3.09	November	..	17.32
October	..	2.88	October	..	15.92
September	..	2.44	August	..	14.47
May	..	2.35	September	..	14.04
August	..	2.35	February	..	13.77
July	..	2.18	April	..	13.74
February	..	2.09	May	..	13.53
April	..	2.01	July	..	13.19
March	..	1.93	March	..	13.11
June	..	1.68	June	..	11.19

### DAYS OF RAINFALL OF .04 INCHES OR MORE

	..	<i>days</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	124.49
December	..	12.79
November	..	12.63
January	..	12.41
October	..	11.29
May	..	10.06
September	..	9.98
August	..	9.98
February	..	9.69
April	..	9.57
July	..	8.89
March	..	8.89
June	..	7.98

## **OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963**

Now that all premises have received their initial inspection and the rota establishing the two-yearly general inspections is continuing satisfactorily, it is intended, in the future, that this system be carried out in conjunction with premises where the Food Hygiene Regulations also apply. In these cases the premises will receive more frequent inspections.

294 general inspections were carried out in connection with the above Act during the year, together with 1270 other visits. 29 premises were newly registered bringing the total number in the Borough to 581.

Considerable attention has been given to ensuring a safer environment for employees in Offices and Shops and a 14.3% decrease in the reported accidents in these premises was noted during 1971. None of the accidents reported proved fatal and were once more mainly due to carelessness.

In 109 premises some defects were found to exist; as a result of informal action 98 premises were brought into conformity with the requirements of the Act. The defects totalled 515 and involved mainly inadequate safety measures, lack of cleanliness and insufficient lighting.

In one instance a small retailer who failed to comply with the Act was prosecuted, as he failed to respond to numerous requests and letters. Details of contraventions under relevant Sections are shown below:

- 1 offence under Section 4 (Cleanliness)—£60 fine imposed.  
(Max. fine).
- 1 offence under Section 10 (Washing facilities)—£40 fine imposed.
- 1 offence under Section 11 (Drinking water)—£10 fine imposed.
- 1 offence under Section 24 (First Aid equipment)—£10 fine imposed.
- 1 offence under Section 50 (Abstract of Act)—£10 fine imposed.

During the year informal notices were served in respect of 515 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	19	3	-	8	-	7	-	1	8	8	4	8	-	5
Offices	2	3	4	10	-	1	-	3	-	1	2	4	-	2	-	1
Catering Premises	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	-
Wholesale Warehouses	-	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>

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	
47	-	4	43	19	11	30	4	-	6	43	4	1	2	4	-	293
10	2	2	19	5	5	10	4	-	4	23	4	-	1	2	-	124
20	-	-	8	2	1	2	1	-	1	6	2	4	-	-	-	59
1	-	1	6	3	1	3	-	-	-	7	1	-	1	-	-	39
78	2	7	76	29	18	45	9	-	11	79	11	5	4	6	-	515

TABLE A		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		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
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS		Offices ..	7	201	119
		Retail shops ..	15	305	160
		Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	3	31	6
		Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ..	4	40	9
		Fuel storage Depots ..	—	4	—
		TOTALS ..	29	581	294
TABLE B		Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises ..			
		1,270			
TABLE C		(1)	(2)		
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE		Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed		
		Offices ..	3,555		
		Retail Shops ..	2,793		
		Wholesale Departments, Warehouses ..	351		
		Catering Establishments open to the public ..	533		
		Canteens ..	16		
		Fuel Storage Depots ..	35		
		TOTAL ..	7,283		
		TOTAL MALES ..	3,055		
		TOTAL FEMALES ..	4,228		

## (A) 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 .. .. .	17	12	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	227	586	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	3	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	249	601	3	—

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	6	6	—	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	115	—	—	—	—

Outworkers are employed by large factories, and work is carried out in the homes of employees. The system has many advantages both for the employer and worker, as the former does not have to provide any accommodation and the worker can pick his own time when to work. However, powers are necessary to control working conditions so as to ensure equal standards to those in the factories themselves, and to safeguard against the spread of infectious diseases.

3. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Number of cases in which defects were found	Number of cases in which defects were found		Total	Particulars
	To H.M. S.M.A. Inspector	Inspector		
—	—	—	—	View of cleanliness
—	—	—	—	Overcrowding
—	—	—	—	Unwholesome premises
—	—	—	—	Infectious ventilation
—	—	—	—	Infectious drainage of house
—	—	—	—	General Cleanliness—
—	—	—	—	(a) Infection
—	—	—	—	(b) Unwholesome or defective
—	—	—	—	(c) Not exposed for defects
—	—	—	—	Other offences against the Act not relating to
—	—	—	—	Defects relating to out-
—	—	—	—	work
—	—	—	—	TOTAL



## OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Name of Firm	No. of outworkers in August 1932	Section 133		Section 134	
		No. of outworkers by orders to employ for	No. of employees of firm to employ for outwork	Orders given	Provisions
Industry of working system	112				

Outworkers are employed by large factories, and work is carried out in the homes of employees. The system has many advantages both for the employer and worker, as the former does not have to provide any accommodation and the worker can pick his own time when to work. However, powers are necessary to control working conditions so as to ensure equal standards to those in the factories themselves, and to safeguard against the spread of infectious diseases.



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