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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937

BY

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1937.

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Taunton Joint Isolation Hospital and Somerset County Council
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton:*

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1937.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1937 ...	16,580
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1937	4,763
Rateable Value—December 31st, 1937	£77,784
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March, 1937	£323

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	189	91	98	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 12.06
Illegitimate ...	11	5	6	
	<u>200</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>104</u>	
Still Births ...	4	3	1	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 19.6
Deaths	202	97	105	
				} Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 12.18

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	2	9.80
Total ...	<u>2</u>	<u>9.80</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Total Infant Deaths ...	11
All Infants per 1,000 live births	55.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	55.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—

The rates for the area may be compared with the rates for England and Wales in the following table; the local crude death rate has been multiplied by the factor 0.79 supplied by the Registrar-General to make this rate strictly comparable with that of England and Wales.

	England & Wales.	Taunton R.D.
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	14.9	12.06
Still birth rate „ „ „	0.6	0.24
Death rate „ „ „	12.4	9.62
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	58.0	55.0

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0.97	—
(b) Other causes	...	...	2.26	9.80
Total	...	...	3.23	9.80

Infant Mortality during 1937.

The following table gives the causes and ages at death of the infants who died under one year of age:—

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia Livida	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	1	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	4
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Volvulus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	4	—	1	2	7	3	—	1	—	11

Causes of Death during 1937.

Cause of Death						M.	F.	Total.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	97	105	202
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
G.P.I. and tabes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	11	21	32
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	21	20	41
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Other respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Disease of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other digestive disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Other puerperal disease (not sepsis)	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	9
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	12
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
Other defined disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	11	16

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres, etc., available for the inhabitants of the area were described in the Report for the year 1930. No changes have occurred since then.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

It is satisfactory to report that during the year 1937 much progress was made in supplying several Parishes with a piped water supply, and the following schemes which were under consideration in 1936 were completed:—

(1) A supply from a spring at Westleigh is pumped to a reservoir of 40,000 gallons capacity, and by gravitation reaches various parts of the Parishes of Lydeard St. Lawrence and Combe Florey. As there is ample water here, a scheme is under consideration to extend this supply to the Parishes of Ash Priors and Halse, which are at present supplied from wells (a number of which are of doubtful purity) and from streams subject to pollution.

(2) A supply is now piped, from the Taunton Corporation Waterworks, to the Parishes of Norton Fitzwarren, Creech St. Michael, Ruishton, West Monkton, Thornfalcon, Cheddon Fitzpaine, and the Mental Hospital at Cotford in the Parish of Bishops Lydeard.

A large number of samples of water were taken during the year for analysis by the County Analyst. The public supplies owned by the Council, namely, Bickenhall, Cothelestone, Bagborough and Lydeard St. Lawrence supplies, were all found to be satisfactory. In addition, 65 samples from 57 wells were analysed and it is unsatisfactory to report that 45 of the wells were more or less unfit for drinking purposes and, furthermore, that 17 wells supplying Council houses were unsatisfactorily reported upon.

The following action was taken:—24 wells were closed and public supplies laid on; 12 wells were repaired, and cleansed with chloros, the second samples giving good results; 4 wells have been similarly treated, but second samples had not been taken at the end of the year; 3 wells are in an area where a piped supply is being considered; 2 wells were closed as being surplus to needs.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A scheme to sewer the village portion of Ccmbe Florey and to erect a disposal plant has matured, and works were to commence in 1938. The resewering of the village of Bishops Lydeard and the construction of disposal works will be the subject of an Inquiry by the Minister of Health early in 1938. In the Parish of Bishops Hull, the large extensions to the sewers and reconstruction of the sewage disposal works were completed during the year.

The continued increase in the number of Parishes supplied with piped water will inevitably lead to modern demands for flush water closets and baths in these areas, and, as a result, further schemes for sewerage and disposal works will have to be considered. Ruishton and Creech St. Michael are two Parishes which should be considered for this purpose.

Public Cleansing.

During the year, the Council have formulated a Scheme for the Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse from the following Parishes: Corfe, Pitminster, Ruishton, Creech St. Michael, Bagborough, Kingston, Bishops Lydeard, Ash Priors and Halse. The scheme was to commence in 1938. Four Parishes, namely Bishops Hull, Trull, Norton Fitzwarren and Kingston, dispose of their refuse by voluntary schemes.

Sanitary Inspection of the area.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors under Article 27 (18) Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	618
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	391
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	31
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	306
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	23
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	60
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	54

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	127
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	—

Result of service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	...	...	127
Notices standing over at end of 1937	...	—	

Shops.

Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to Ventilation and Temperature of Shops and to Sanitary Conveniences, 110 visits have been made to the 73 shops in the area. Two Notices were served for the repair, etc., of sanitary conveniences, and these were complied with.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been found necessary to be taken under Sec. 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the area, public or private. Their supervision is now possible under Secs. 92, 259 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of Schools in the area are satisfactory. The Medical Officer of Health visits the Schools and inspects the scholars on the occurrence of such diseases as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. He is notified by the School Teachers of all cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in their Schools, and thus there is complete co-operation for preventing the spread of these diseases. The recent proposal of Education Authorities to centralise Schools in Urban areas will not be in the interest of children living in Rural areas, in so far as it is probable that there will be a tendency to introduce more infectious diseases into the Rural Districts.

Legislation in Force.

A list of Acts, etc., adopted by the Council was fully set out in the Report for 1933. Proposals to make new building bye-laws under Sec. 69 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are under consideration.

HOUSING.

The particulars given below are in the form required annually by the Minister of Health:—

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	419
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	618
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	244
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	244
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	244

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their Officers	146
--	-----

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By local Authority in default of Owners	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By local Authority in default of Owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

IV. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ...	22
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	22
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	145

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	—
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	18
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	130
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	—

Number of new houses erected during the Year:—

(1) By Local Authority—

With State Assistance—

(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	4
(b) Overcrowding	—
(c) Other	—

Without State Assistance —

(2) By other bodies or persons—

(a) With State Assistance	—
(b) Without State Assistance	60

The position with regard to the number of dwelling-houses built or in course of erection by the Council up to December 31st, 1937, is as follows:—

Built under 1919 Act	...	...	58
„ „ 1924 „	...	...	146
„ „ 1936 „	...	...	4
Total	...	208	

and in course of erection under the 1936 Act 80

Full particulars of the Council's activities with regard to Slum Clearance were given on pages 9, 10 and 11 of the Annual Report for 1936. The Housing Act, 1936, came into force on the 1st January, 1937; it consolidates the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1935. The section dealing with Slum Clearance is No. 25, and that dealing with individual Demolition Orders is No. 11.

By the end of the year, the Parishes in which new houses under the Housing Act, 1936, were being built were as follows:—Norton Fitzwarren 20, Creech St. Michael 16, North Curry 18, Ruishton 12, Stoke St. Gregory 4, West Monkton 14.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1935.

Under the above Acts applications in respect of 39 houses (compared with 61 during 1936) were received and considered during the year. The results are as follows:—Two houses have been completed; nine applications are having plans prepared; nine houses are being re-conditioned without the aid of the grant; fifteen applications are in abeyance; four applications have been refused on account of the income of the owners being over the stipulated amount.

Of the 18 applications reported in 1936 as materialising, nine houses have been completed, seven are still in abeyance, and two houses have been sold for demolition because the sites were required for purposes other than housing.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The usual routine work with regard to safeguarding the milk supply has been carried out. This includes the inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

No legal action was necessary during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The Registers which have to be kept under this Order show as follows:—

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	333
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—			
(a) Distributors only	...	...	12
(b) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	26

The above figures show a large difference from last year; this is due to a careful revision of the Register, and in consequence a number of names of producers were removed because they had left the district or given up milk production. For the purposes of the Veterinary Inspection of Cattle, lists of retail and wholesale producers have been sent to the County Medical Officer of Health. During the year 306 inspections were made to milk premises, and the following summary shows the work done:—

No. of Registered Premises	...	...	...	333
No. of Inspections to these	...	...	...	306
No. of new sheds and floors obtained	...	...	...	39
No. of new sterilising and cooling plants obtained	...	...	...	5
No. of samples of milk taken	...	...	...	134

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

A brief explanation of this Order was given in the Report for 1936.

The following Licences issued by the County Council are in force in the District:—

Tuberculin Tested producers	...	...	...	9
Accredited producers	...	...	...	14

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District but which is not produced therein.

The analysis of the 134 samples of milk taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist is as follows:—

Designation.	No. of Samples taken	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested ...	54	42	12
Accredited ...	47	32	15
Examined for tubercle bacilli ...	33	32	1
	134	106	28

The one sample in the above table reported on as containing tubercle bacilli was not from Tuberculin Tested or Accredited Herds.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Nine cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order, and one of the nine slaughtered was the result of milk sampling.

Meat and other Foods.

The usual routine inspections of meat and of slaughterhouses were carried out under the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924-1935.

No legal action was necessary to be taken during the year. There are 33 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, to which the Sanitary Inspectors made 391 visits. No proceedings were taken under Sect. 117, Public Health Act, 1875. Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the Humane Killer is in use in the District (Sect. 1) and slaughtermen are licensed by the Local Authority (Sect. 3).

A great deal of the meat inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors is destined for the London markets, and their care and vigilance has prevented the return of carcasses as unfit for human consumption, with the usual legal proceedings.

The following Table shows the results of meat inspections for the year:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	224	112	286	782	769
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	2	9	32
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	16	—	8	142
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	4.9	14.3	0.7	2.04	22.6
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	2	—	—	31
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8	20	—	—	130
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.5	19.6	—	—	20.9

Bakehouses.

There are 21 bakehouses in the District; 31 inspections were made to them. Seventeen bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains, compared with eleven in 1936; four are supplied from wells and springs, the water from which on analysis has been found to be satisfactory.

The Chemical and Bacteriological examination of food under suspicion can be carried out at the County Laboratory. It was not found necessary to send any samples for analysis.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	—	0
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	72	4	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	20	5	0
TOTAL	96	9	0

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	0	0
Want of ventilation ...	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances ...	1	1	0	0
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient, unsuitable, defective, not separate for sexes	3	3	0	0
Offences under the Factory & Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S. 101)	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	7	0	0

No action was necessary to be taken with regard to smoke abatement and there are no offensive trades.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

Six cases of glove-making in unwholesome premises were found during the year, and they were as follows:—

Overcrowded house	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses dealt with under Sect. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses dealt with under Sect. 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	4

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases, not including Tuberculosis, was 46. The Table below specifies the diseases, age distribution, and number of cases admitted to Hospital:—

Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.									No. adm. to Hospl.
	At Ages—Years.									
	At all Ages.	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up		
Scarlet Fever	9	—	2	4	1	2	—	—	5	
Diphtheria	7	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	7	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	14	—	—	—	—	5	7	2	—	
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Pneumonia	9	—	—	1	—	2	4	2	—	
TOTAL	46	2	2	10	5	12	11	4	14	

As the District is one of the constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board, a summary of the cases treated therein and the Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent, are attached to the end of this Report. From this it will be noted that, owing to building operations at the Hospital, accommodation was limited, and a certain number of cases were, in consequence, treated in the Isolation Hospital at Shepton Mallet. Those from the Taunton Rural District were:—Scarlet Fever 3, Diphtheria 2, Diphtheria Carrier 1, and Enteric Fever 1.

Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the District 90 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 49 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Nine new cases of pulmonary and 3 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. The age and sex distribution of these cases and the number of deaths occurring during the year are set out in the following Table, as required by the Ministry of Health:—

Ages in Years.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—10	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
35—45	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	...	...	...	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				5	4	2	1	3	2	1	1

Prevention of Blindness.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own, under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are promptly notified to the applicable department of the County Council, and thereby obtain early treatment, if necessary in the Isolation Hospital. Two cases of the disease were notified during the year, one of whom required Hospital treatment owing to its severity; this infant was cured without any corneal opacities and no loss of vision.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent for 1937.

A detailed summary of the cases treated at the Isolation Hospital during 1937 is appended. This does not represent the Board's total responsibility, for owing to building operations during the year, a number of patients had to be evacuated and by special arrangement a number admitted from the Board's area to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital. The transfer of 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 4 cases of Diphtheria took place on April 22nd, and from that date to November 15th the number of admissions to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital from the Board's area was 31, the cases being: Scarlet Fever 15, Diphtheria 14, Enteric Fever 1, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1, making a total of 38 cases treated there and representing 1,595 patient days. In addition, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, representing 63 patient days, also from the Board's area, were admitted to Axbridge Isolation Hospital owing to lack of accommodation at Shepton Mallet. The Board's arrangements worked very smoothly with the Hospital Authorities concerned and it was fortunate that the Board's new motor ambulance made the transport of patients comfortable and without incident over such a large mileage to the Hospitals and, on discharge, back to the patients' homes. The Board were able to loan some of the nurses for duty at Shepton Mallet.

The extensions to the Hospital and administration block had not been completed by the end of the year. The scheme when complete will provide for an extension to No. 1 Pavilion for eight beds, a cubicle block of 10 cubicles and, conterminous with it, a block of 3 beds for Puerperal Pyrexia cases at the North end, and an operating theatre with sterilising room at the South end. Another block of new buildings consists of an up-to-date Laundry, Boiler house, Steam Disinfector, Mortuary and Garage. A Porter's Lodge has been built and large extensions made to the Administration Block, consisting of 17 single bedrooms, 4 bath rooms, nurses' dining room and sitting room, common room for the domestic staff and new domestic offices. The old domestic offices have been converted into an administration office and Dispensary. A large amount of work is also being done to renovate the old portions of the Hospital and in making good roads and paths.

It is satisfactory to report that out of the 91 admissions, *i.e.*, 57 to Taunton Isolation Hospital, 31 to Shepton Mallet and 3 to Axbridge Isolation Hospitals, there were no deaths.

The Matron and her Staff have, as usual, carried out their duties most efficiently and it was entirely due to the organising ability of the Matron, through whom admissions to other Hospitals had to be arranged, that this work was done with the least amount of trouble to all concerned.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

SUMMARY of CASES treated in the Isolation Hospital during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1937.

Constituent and other Authorities.	In Hos- pital 1st Jan., 1937.	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	Total treated.	Total Patient Days.	Remain- ing in Hospital 31st Dec., 1937.	Analysis of Diseases admitted.			
								Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Tonsillitis Negative Diphtheria	Enteric Fever.
Taunton M.B. ...	3	37	24	—	40	1,372	16	17	15	5	—
Taunton R.D. ...	1	7	6	—	8	126	2	1	3	2	1
Wellington U.D.	—	7	4	—	7	225	3	7	—	—	—
Wellington R.D.	—	3	1	—	3	131	2	2	1	—	—
Dulverton R.D....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgwater ... (South) R.D.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Authorities	—	3	2	—	3	242	1	—	3	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	57	37	—	61	2,096	24	27	22	7	1







