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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938

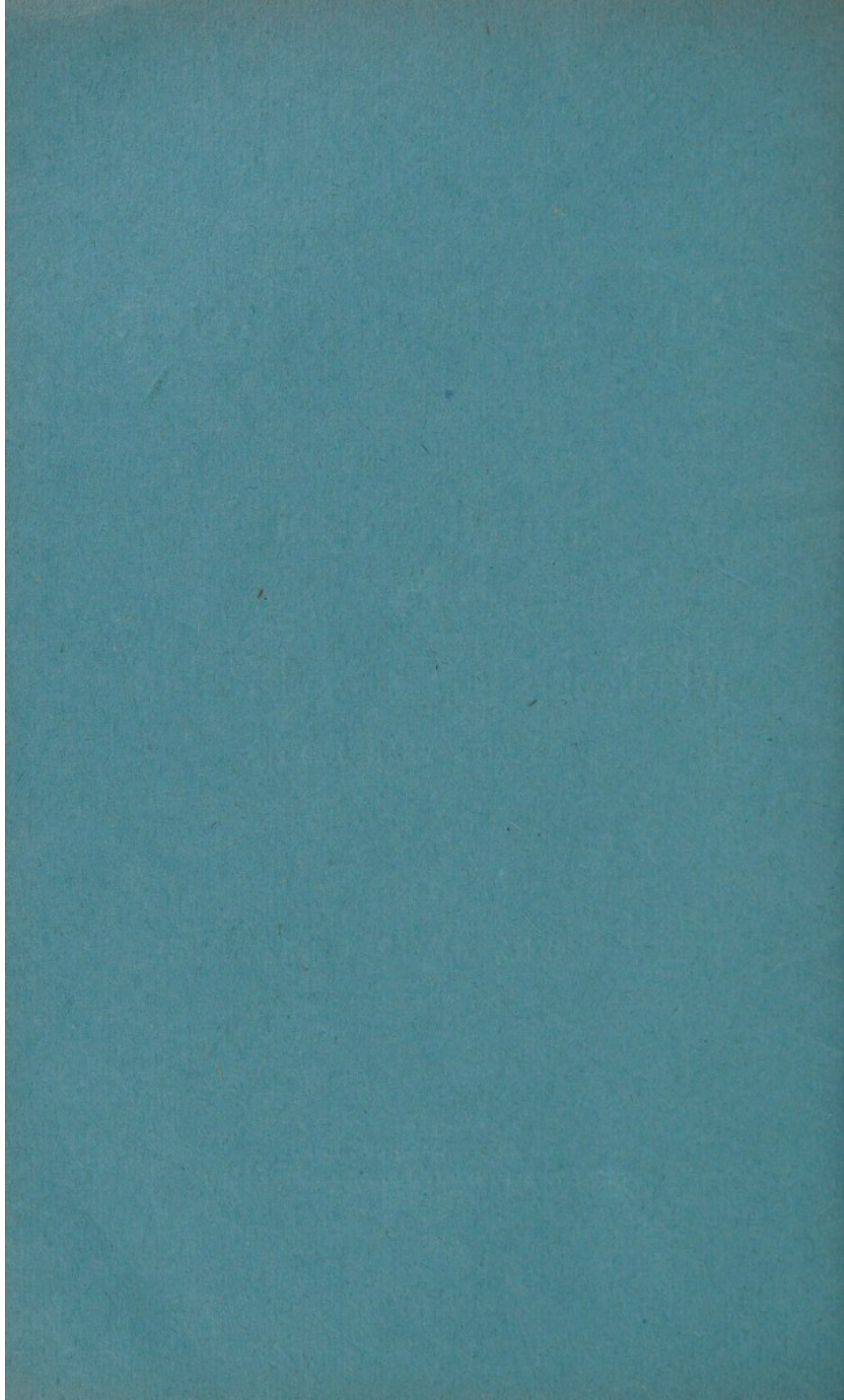
BY

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1938.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1938.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1938 ...	16,640
Census Population, 1931	17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1938	4,814
Rateable Value—December 31st, 1938	£80,456
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March, 1938	£345

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ...	14.48
Legitimate ...	230	114	116		
Illegitimate ...	11	7	4		
	<u>241</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>120</u>		

Still Births ...	11	6	5	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	43.65
------------------	----	---	---	--	-------

Deaths	201	102	99	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ...	12.07
---------------	-----	-----	----	--	-------

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	1	3.96
Total ...	<u>1</u>	<u>3.96</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Total Infant Deaths ...	11
All Infants per 1,000 live births	45.64
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	47.82
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (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 ...	15.1	14.48
Still birth rate „ „ „ ...	0.60	0.66
Death rate „ „ „ ...	11.6	9.43
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	53.0	45.64

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	—
(b) Other causes	2.19	3.96
Total ...	3.08	3.96

Infant Mortality during 1938.

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.
Prematurity	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformation..	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Injury at Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Maternal Eclampsia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	2	—	1	8	1	—	—	2	11

Causes of Death during 1938

as supplied by the Registrar-General.

Cause of Death						M.	F.	Total
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	102	99	201
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	9	13	22
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10	7	17
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	32	33	65
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other liver disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Other digestive disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Other Puerperal disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Congenital debility, Prematurity, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other defined disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	12	20

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The Rural District of Taunton is one of the contributory authorities. Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are received by the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to receive cases from May, 1938.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Council scheme for treatment. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopædic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-pox.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The inhabitants go to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital for out-patient and in-patient treatment, and to Bristol where there are the same facilities.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated in the Borough of Taunton, or, if full, to the Institution in the Urban District of Wellington.

Mental Sick.—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Cotford, in the Parish of Bishops Lydeard.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—A Clinic is held once a week in the Borough of Taunton, at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer

are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Clinic and treatment centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising in the area. A consulting obstetrician is also supplied by the County Council. There is no Maternity Home in the district, but a few cases are confined at the Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and maternal death is investigated by a Medical Officer of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, etc., etc. This service is also available without charge to medical men practising in the district. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies, sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—There are two ambulances to serve Taunton and district. It is a 24-hours service and two drivers are on the telephone night and day. It is under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, which finds a certain amount of the purchase money of the new ambulances. The local detachment of the British Red Cross Society is responsible for manning the ambulances and for executing running repairs. A voluntary committee, of which the Mayor of Taunton is always the Chairman, makes itself responsible for all cash transactions. Persons belonging to the Hospital Week Scheme are entitled to the use of the ambulance if a doctor certifies the necessity, or in the case of accidents any person is carried immediately. Those not belonging to the Scheme may, if the doctor certifies the necessity, have the use of the ambulance by payment of 4/- in the Borough or 4/- plus 1/- per mile in the Rural District. Where a person is not in a position to pay, the Secretary of the Ambulance Committee applies to the Relieving Officer for payment. The service is highly efficient, and the ambulances are so constructed that decontamination or disinfection can be quickly and efficiently carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The following are particulars regarding the water supply of the District:—

Parish.	Source of Supply.	Name of Undertakers where piped supply afforded.
Ash Priors ...	Piped supply from reservoir at Lydeard St. Lawrence is in hand.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Bickenhall ...	Piped supply from reservoir owned by Lord Portman in the Parish; and private wells.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Bishops Hull ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills.	Taunton Corporation.
Bishops Lydeard	Piped supply from springs on Quantock Hills.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Cheddon ... Fitzpaine.	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills; and private wells.	Taunton Corporation.
Churchstanton ..	Wells and springs privately owned.	
Combe Florey ...	Piped supply from reservoir at Lydeard St. Lawrence; and private wells.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Corfe ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills.	Taunton Corporation.
Cothelstone ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	
Creech St. ... Michael.	Piped supply for the lower parts of the Parish from reservoir on Blackdown Hills; private wells and a parish pump at Adsborough.	Taunton Corporation.
Curland ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	
Durston ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	

Parish.	Source of Supply.	Name of Undertakers where piped supply afforded.
Halse ...	Piped supply from reservoir at Lydeard St. Lawrence is in hand.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Hatch ... Beauchamp.	Piped supply from reservoir owned by Lord Portman at Bickenhall.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Kingston ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	...
Lydeard St. ... Lawrence.	Piped supply from reservoir in Parish from springs at Westleigh.	Taunton Rural District Council.
North Curry ...	Piped supply from reservoir in the Parish of Bickenhall owned by Lord Portman.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Norton ... Fitzwarren.	Piped supply from reservoir in the Blackdown Hills; a few privately owned wells.	Taunton Corporation.
Orchard ... Portman.	Piped supply from reservoir owned by Lord Portman in the Parish of Bickenhall; and private wells.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Otterford ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	...
Pitminster ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills.	Taunton Corporation.
Ruishton ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills; and some privately owned wells.	Taunton Corporation.
Staple Fitzpaine	Piped supply from reservoir owned by Lord Portman in the Parish of Bickenhall; and private wells.	Taunton Rural District Council.

Parish.	Source of Supply.	Name of Undertakers where piped supply afforded.
Staplegrove ...	Piped supply limited to part of the parish; and wells privately owned.	Taunton Corporation.
Stoke St. Gregory.	Piped supply from reservoir owned by Lord Portman in the parish of Bickenhall.	Taunton Rural District Council.
Stoke St. Mary	Piped supply limited to part of the parish; and wells privately owned.	Taunton Corporation.
Thornfalcon ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills; and some privately owned wells.	Taunton Corporation.
Tolland ...	Wells and springs privately owned.	
Trull ...	Piped supply from reservoir on Blackdown Hills.	Taunton Corporation.
West Bagborough.	Piped supply from springs on Quantock Hills.	Taunton Rural District Council.
West Hatch ...	Piped supply limited to part of the Parish; and private wells.	Taunton Rural District Council.
West Monkton..	Piped supply limited to part of the Parish; and private wells.	Taunton Corporation.

A large number of samples of water were taken during the year for analysis by the County Analyst. Seventy-one samples were taken from 47 domestic supplies. Thirty-five sources were sampled once, of which 26 were satisfactory. Six wells have been closed and a piped supply laid on in 5 instances, and one new well dug which gave satisfactory water.

The piped supplies are all examined by the County Analyst once every three months. Practically all of the samples have been satisfactory, and when a sample has not been satisfactory, a follow-up sample has given a good result.

A large number of Council houses have a piped supply. Four wells supplying these have had attention and are now giving good results on analysis.

Drainage and Sewerage.—A report was made to the Council during the year on the condition of certain sewage works and sewage outfalls in the district. The Council have the report under consideration. New works or improvements to existing works will need to be undertaken in the Parishes of Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Ruishton, Norton Fitzwarren, Trull, Pitminster and West Bagborough. The sewerage of the village portion of Combe Florey with a small disposal plant was completed during the year. The scheme for re-sewerage of the village portion of Bishops Lydeard and the construction of new sewage disposal works were put in hand during the year.

Rivers and Streams.—Owing to the increased number of parishes being supplied with piped water and, in consequence, the extended use of water closets instead of earth closets, and the addition of baths and wash-up sinks to the houses, there is likely to be an increase in the pollution of streams. The Sanitary Inspectors are doing much in giving advice as to the proper construction of septic tanks with filter beds, and, wherever possible, a Humus tank as well, but even these will fail in their purpose if owners are careless in looking after them.

The pollution of the Kingston stream from several houses in the parish has received special attention during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—There are inadequate records to show how many earth closets and water closets there are in the district. Whenever possible the occupiers of houses with earth closets are being instructed how to dispose of night soil in the correct way, by systematic trenching at the correct depth instead of the customary haphazard methods.

Public Cleansing.—During the year the scheme previously under consideration for the collection and disposal of unburnable household refuse was put into operation, and a monthly collection of 141½ lorry loads of refuse for the year was undertaken from the following parishes:—Ash Priors, Bishops Lydeard, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Halse, Kingston, Pitminster, Ruishton and West Bagborough. This scheme is to be extended to include the following parishes during 1939:—Bishops Hull, Combe Florey, Norton Fitzwarren,

Thornfalcon, Staplegrove, Stoke St. Mary and West Monkton; so that there will be a monthly collection from 16 of the 32 parishes in the District.

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	...	...	...	...	826
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	315
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	45
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	351
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	20
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	41

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	215
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	—

Result of service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	168
Notices standing over at the end of 1938	...	...	...	...	47

Shops and Offices.—Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops, 16 visits have been made. One notice was served for the repair of a sanitary convenience and complied with. No special work of inspection of offices has been undertaken during the year. The Minister of Health considers it of great importance to national health that conditions in offices should not be such as to be prejudicial to the health of the employees. Local Authorities have now enlarged powers and duties in respect of offices consequent on the wide definition of "work-place" in Section 343 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The new definition embraces all places of clerical employment and removes the doubt which previously existed as to the extent to which Local Authorities had control over

the conditions of offices; right of entry to such places is given under Section 287 of the same Act, whilst Section 92 (1) (a) and (e) give power to treat as a statutory nuisance premises which are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and to prevent insufficient ventilation or uncleanness or obnoxious effluvia or overcrowding in offices.

Camping Sites.—There are several sites advertised for camping in the district, but the local authority have not found it necessary to issue any licences in respect of them. Owing to the district being an inland rural area, campers seldom stay for more than one night for rest. It would appear that the sites not occupied continually for the 42 consecutive days, or more than 60 days in any twelve consecutive months as specified in Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.—No legal action has been found necessary to be taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, though the owner of a brick kiln in the district has had his attention drawn to the escape of "soot, ash, grit and gritty particles" from a chimney stack in his works, sufficient to cause annoyance to the occupiers of the neighbouring houses.

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

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—No Council or other houses have been found to be infected with bed-bugs. The method of disinfection which would be employed for minor verminous conditions would be spraying with "Zaldecide" or "Killgercide".

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the area are satisfactory. On being notified of cases of the dangerous infectious diseases the Medical Officer of Health visits the school concerned, inspects the scholars and excludes certain of them if this is found to be necessary. The co-operation of the school teachers is always valuable and much useful information is obtained from them when endeavouring to trace the origin of an outbreak.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

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)	297
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	410
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	97
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	97
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(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	97

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	34
--	----

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 | ... | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | 11 |

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 | ... | — |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | — |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | — |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | — |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | — |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | — |

- (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	180
(b) Overcrowding	—
(c) Other	—

Without State Assistance —

(2) By other bodies or persons—

(a) With State Assistance	—
(b) Without State Assistance	67

The position with regard to the number of dwelling-houses built or in course of erection by the Council up to December 31st, 1938, is as follows:—

Built under 1919 Act	...	...	...	58
„ „ 1924 „	...	...	...	146
„ „ 1936 „	...	...	...	184
Total				388

The 180 houses built by the Council under the Housing Act, 1936, during 1938, were distributed as follows:—

Cheddon Fitzpaine	...	4	North Curry	...	26
Churchstanton	...	8	Norton Fitzwarren	...	16
Creech St. Michael	...	16	Pitminster	...	6
Curland	...	2	Thornfalcon	...	4
Bishops Hull	...	28	Ruishton	...	12
Bishops Lydeard	...	10	Stoke St. Gregory	...	14
Bagborough	...	6	Stoke St. Mary	...	4
Kingston	...	10	West Monkton	...	14

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—Under this Act the varying Exchequer and rate contributions payable for the different purposes of the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1935 will be replaced as from the beginning of the year 1939 by uniform rates of contribution applicable alike to all those purposes, whether in connection with the re-housing of persons displaced in pursuance of demolition orders, closing orders, and clearance and improvement operations, or with a view to overcrowding. But an important part of the Act is that the contribution is in favour of houses built for the needs of the agricultural population, so that the rents charged will be within the capacity of the agricultural workers' wages. The Exchequer grant for this purpose will be £10 a year for 40 years, increased to £12 a year in exceptional circumstances. The grant for other purposes will be £5 10s. 0d. per house per annum for 40 years, increased to £6 10s. 0d. where the level of working class rents is substantially below the average for the particular district and the financial resources of the district are small in relation to the housing work to be done. A large number of claims were sent in by Parish Councils during the year, for houses for their agricultural population, but many of the claims could not be approved as the claimants did not come within the meaning of agricultural workers. The Council have decided to build 28 houses in the following Parishes:—

Bishops Hull	...	8	North Curry	...	3
Bishops Lydeard	...	5	Stoke St. Gregory	...	4
Combe Florey	...	1	Thornfalcon	...	2
Pitminster	..	2	Trull	...	3

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926-1935.—These Acts have been further amended by the Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938, which extends the provisions of the Acts until 30th September, 1942. Grants up to two-thirds of the cost of the works, with a maximum of £100 per dwelling, are still available for the renovation of suitable dwellings. Applications are made to the Somerset County Council. Grants of lump sums under the Acts may now be paid by instalments as the reconditioning progresses. Under the above Acts, applications in respect of 21 houses (compared with 61 in 1936 and 39 during 1937) were received and considered during the year. The results of the applications are as follows:—Six houses have been completed; 8 houses are being reconditioned without the aid of the grant; 5 applications are in abeyance, and two houses have works in progress.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The usual routine work connected with safeguarding the milk supply has been carried out. This includes the inspection of farms and dairies, the examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. 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	...	...	347
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only	...	...	12
-----------------------	-----	-----	----

(b) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	27
---	-----	-----	----

For the purposes of the veterinary inspection of cattle, lists of retail and wholesale producers are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health. During the year, 351 inspections were made to milk producing premises, and the following summary shows the work done:—

No. of Registered Premises (333 in 1937)	...	...	347
--	-----	-----	-----

No. of Inspections to these	...	...	351
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----

No. of new sheds and floors, etc., obtained	...	...	15
---	-----	-----	----

No. of new sterilising and cooling plants obtained	...	...	3
--	-----	-----	---

No. of samples of milk taken	...	...	120
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Owing to the existence of Foot-and-Mouth Disease amongst cattle, fewer samples of milk were taken during the year compared with 1937.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order, the following licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin Tested producers	...	...	11
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	----

Accredited producers	...	...	15
----------------------	-----	-----	----

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 analytical results of the 120 samples of milk taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist are as follows:—

Designation.	No. of Samples taken.	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.	Percentage unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	51	37	14	27.45
Accredited	51	28	23	45.09
Examined for tubercle bacilli	18	17	1	5.55
	120	82	38	31.66

These results are far from good.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—Six cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order, and one of the six was the result of milk sampling.

Meat and other Foods.—The usual inspections of meat and of slaughterhouses were carried out under the Public Health (Meat Regulations) Orders, 1924-1935. No legal action was necessary to be taken during the year under Section 117, Public Health Act, 1875.

There are 32 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, and the Sanitary Inspectors made 315 visits to them.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the Humane Killer is in use in the District (Section 1) and slaughtermen are licensed by the Local Authority (Section 3).

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in force in the District under Part III. of the Regulations of 1924.

The following table summarises the results of meat inspections during the year:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	229	118	397	816	786
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	1	4	21
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	8	9	—	21	149
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.49	8.47	0.25	3.06	21.62
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	3	5	—	—	23
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	4	17	—	—	132
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.05	18.64	—	—	19.72

No condemnations of other foods were made during the year.

Bakehouses.—There are 21 Bakehouses in the District and 35 inspections were made to them. Seventeen bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of milk, no other foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors:—

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	6	0	0
Factories without mechanical power ...	39	5	0
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	27	1	0
TOTAL ...	72	6	0

† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

2.—Defects Found.

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)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	0	0
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation ... (S. 4)	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient ...	3	3	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	0	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
* Other offences ...	3	2		
TOTAL ...	9	9	0	0

* Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.—No action was found necessary to be taken during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases, not including tuberculosis, was 48. 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	—	—	6	—	3	—	—	7	
Diphtheria	14	—	—	11	3	—	—	—	14	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	
Pneumonia	16	—	1	1	1	6	7	—	—	
TOTAL	48	—	1	18	4	13	9	3	23	

Of the 14 cases of notified Diphtheria, 12 of them occurred in one Institution, and the 13th case was a milk roundsman to the Institution; he was a contact and was not the originator of the outbreak; the remaining case was not connected with the outbreak.

As the District is one of the constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Hospital Board, a summary of the cases treated therein and the Annual Report are attached to the end of this Report.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.—The County Council initiated a scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria during October, 1938. Broadly speaking, the scheme is to provide immunisation for two categories of children, namely (a) the pre-school child, i.e., for children under the age of 5 years, and (b) the school child.

(a) The scheme provides for the pre-school child being immunised by the private Medical Practitioner of the area; the immunising material to be used is Alum precipitated Toxoid—abbreviated by the letters A.P.T.—obtainable free on application to the County Council. The dosage of the A.P.T. is 0.1 c.c. for the first dose, to be followed by a second dose of 0.5 c.c. after an interval of 4 weeks. Medical practitioners have to keep a record of each case immunised on a record card supplied by the County Council, which they return to that Authority after completion and signature. A small fee of 5/- is paid by the County Council for each case immunised by the two doses. Immunisation is recommended from the ninth month onwards. No particulars are available as to the number of pre-school children immunised under this part of the scheme during the three months of its existence.

(b) This part of the scheme provides for the immunisation of children of school age by the medical staff of the County Council. The immunisation is with the same material, A.P.T., the same dosage and interval between the doses, but the cost of the material is borne by the Local Authority in whose area the school children belong, an expense sanctioned by the Minister of Health under Section 177 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936. This part of the County Council's scheme must necessarily proceed by stages. No figures are available as to the number immunised.

Measles Serum.—The Local Authority have not been advised to take any action in regard to the use of Measles Serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. The extending use of the new drug known as M. & B. 693 has done a very great deal in reducing and mitigating the more common complications of measles.

Prevention of Blindness.

No arrangements have been made by the local Authority with respect to the prevention of Blindness under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment, when necessary, under the County Council Scheme—no cases occurred in the district during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Particulars of those occurring in the area are tabled in the form 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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	7	—	2	3	1	1	—

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the District 87 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 42 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 Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Comments, etc., on the Summary of Cases treated in the Isolation Hospital.

The admissions have been allocated to the various Sanitary Districts from which the cases were derived, but they were not in all cases chargeable to those Districts. For convenience, an abstract of these cases is shown in the following Tables:—

District.	Diphtheria and Diphtheria Carriers.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Nursing Mothers and Infants.	Total cases chargeable to Somerset County Council.	Patient Days.
Taunton R.D. ...	23	1	2	—	—	26	1,209
Wellington R.D...	—	—	1	1	—	2	34
Bridgwater R.D...	—	—	1	1	—	2	42
Dulverton R.D....	—	—	1	1	1	3	38
Chard R.D. ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	28
Langport R.D. ...	—	—	2	—	—	2	46
Bridgwater U.D...	—	—	5	2	3	10	191
	23	1	13	5	4	46	1,588

Deaths.—Two deaths occurred during the year, one from Whooping Cough and Pneumonia admitted in a moribund condition and dying four hours after admission, and the other from Enteric Fever three days after admission from Cerebral Toxæmia.

Operations.—Two were performed by the Board's Surgeon for the enucleation of Tonsils and Adenoids from two patients who were persistent Diphtheria carriers.

Puerperal Sepsis.—In May the Hospital was open to receive these cases. Since then fifteen cases were admitted, and discharged completely cured. Their average days of residence for each case was 24.05.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.
SUMMARY of CASES TREATED, etc., and ANALYSIS of ADMISSIONS to the Isolation Hospital
during the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1938.

Cases from the six Constituent Authorities.	In Hospital 1st. Jan. 1938.	No. admitted.	No. discharged.	Died.	Total treated.	Total patient days.	Remaining in Hospital 31/12/38.	Scarlet Fever.	Scarlet Fever with Diphtheria.	Diphtheria.	Diphtheria Carrier.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles with Pneumonia.	Whooping Cough with Pneumonia.	Mumps with complications.	Nursing Mother with Ophthalmia Infant.	Infants accompanying Puerperal Pyrexia Mothers.	Septic Tonsillitis.	Septic Dermatitis.	TOTAL ADMISSIONS.
Taunton M.B. ..	16	44	56	2	60	1835	2	21	1	12	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	44
Taunton R.D. ..	3	35	18	—	38	1729	20	7	—	13	10	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	35
Wellington U.D. ..	3	9	12	—	12	364	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Wellington R.D. ..	2	5	7	—	7	174	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dulverton R.D. ..	—	7	7	—	7	491	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
Bridgwater (South) R.D. ..	—	6	3	—	6	143	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
TOTALS: Constituent Authorities ..	24	106	103	2	130	4736	25	41	1	30	10	7	3	2	1	3	1	4	—	—	1	—	1	106
Cases from other Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yeovil R.D. ..	—	6	6	—	6	396	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chard M.B. ..	—	3	3	—	3	74	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Chard R.D. ..	—	7	7	—	7	278	—	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Crewkerne U.D. ..	—	5	5	—	5	172	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Bridgwater U.D. ..	—	10	10	—	10	191	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	10
Bridgwater (N) R.D. ..	—	1	1	—	1	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Langport R.D. ..	—	3	3	—	3	68	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Military Depot—Taunton ..	—	1	1	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS: Other Authorities ..	—	36	36	—	36	1224	—	16	—	5	1	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	36
GRAND TOTALS: All Authorities ..	24	142	139	2	166	5960	25	57	1	35	11	15	3	2	1	5	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	142

Hospital Staff.—One Probationer Nurse contracted Scarlet Fever during the year, otherwise the general health of the nursing and domestic staffs has been excellent. The work of the Nurses has been very much increased since the admission of Puerperal Pyrexia cases. These cases require a great deal more nursing attention than the average type of case usually received into an Isolation Hospital, so that the Matron's ingenuity for the proper distribution of her staff is frequently taxed to cope with sudden increases of work.

R. DE V. KING,

Medical Superintendent.

27th February, 1939.

