TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1947

BY

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

TAUNTON:
H. G. MOUNTER AND CO., LTD.,
PRINTERS.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Taunton Joint Isolation Hospital and Somerset County Council Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton.

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(appt. August, 1946).

Sanitary Inspector:

R. H. GARDNER, C.R.S.I. (appt. March, 1911)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. G. PAYNE, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936)

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium:

Miss M. E. MOSSMAN, S.R.N. (appt. March, 1943)
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To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1947. The Report follows the lines of those of previous years. Points to which attention may be drawn are the severe epidemic of measles which affected the District in the summer months, the fortunate fact that no cases of poliomyelitis occurred in spite of the widespread prevalence of the disease throughout the country, and the anxiety which must be felt about the low rate of diphtheria immunisation in pre-school children. It should be emphasized that the time for immunising a child is before it reaches the age of one year.

I wish to thank the Clerk of the Council, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1947.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1947 ...	17,880
Census population, 1931	17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books, on 31st December, 1947	5,026
Rateable value 31st December, 1947	£105,048
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1947	£433

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

Taunton Rural District surrounds the Borough of Taunton and is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater, on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard, on the south by the County of Devon, and on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington. Those parts of the district which lie to the north-west and to the south are very hilly, while towards the north-east the ground is flat and liable to flooding. The north-west portion extends to the Quantock and Brendon Hills, and the south portion to the Blackdown Hills.

The district in the north is chiefly on the old and new red sandstone, and in the south on the lower lias and upper greensand. The part lying in the valley is on new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The country consists for the most part of rich arable and pasture land, and through the district run the main line of the Great Western Railway and four of its branches.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture, with withy-growing and basket-making in the north-east. There is a paper mill at the village of Creech St. Michael. A number of women work in the collar factories in Taunton.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.		
Legitimate ...	311	170	141	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	17.89
Illegitimate ...	9	7	2		
	320	177	143		

Still Births—Total 7.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.41
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 0.39

Deaths—Total 235.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.14

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total 1.

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
From other Maternal Causes ...	1	3.05

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 16.

Legitimate 16
Illegitimate 0
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births 48.93
,, legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 50.00
,, illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 27
,, Measles (all ages) ... ... —
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) 3
,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age) ... ... —

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live births per 1,000 civilian population 20.5
Still births ,, ,, ,, ... 0.5
Deaths, all causes ,, ,, ,, ... 12.0
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births 1.17
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births 41.0

Causes of Death during 1947.

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total
All Causes—Total	131	104	235
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	2	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	1	4
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—
Acute infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, œsophagus, uterus	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	6
Cancer of breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	9	6	15
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	17	18	35
Heart disease	42	25	67
Other disease of the circulatory system ...	7	1	8
Bronchitis	2	8	10
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Other respiratory disease	6	1	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	1	1	2
Nephritis	4	3	7
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature birth	3	5	8
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	—	1
Suicide	3	1	4
Road traffic accidents	4	1	5
Other violent causes	3	5	8
All other causes	11	13	24

Infant Mortality during 1947.

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.
Asphyxia (Insufflation of stomach contents) ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	5	2	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Collapse of Lungs ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	7	2	—	—	9	3	3	1	—	16

GENERAL PROVISION 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. Taunton Rural District is one of the contributory Authorities. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but they are maintained there by the Somerset County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are similarly admitted to the Isolation Hospital and maintained by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County scheme for treatment. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted to the Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopædic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands 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 District is served by the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and the various Hospitals in Bristol, at all of which there are in-patient and out-patient facilities.

Chronic Sick. These are received into the Public Assistance Institutions in the County and principally those in Taunton, Wellington and Williton.

Mental Sick. Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis. Clinics for this disease are held in the Borough of Taunton, as part of the County Tuberculosis Scheme, and are attended by a County Tuberculosis Officer. In conjunction with the Clinics there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Disease. A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and this caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. The follow-up of contacts and defaulters is carried out by the Health Visiting Staff of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and the Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. And, in addition, as a war-time measure, there is a Maternity Home at Tetton House, in the Parish of Kingston, which is administered by the County Council. An Obstetric Consultant is also employed by the County Council, to whom medical practitioners can refer their difficult cases. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities. The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the general bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District, without charge. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effuents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities. Two ambulances, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, serve Taunton and the Rural District. The service is well organised and adequate. There are two permanent paid duty men, otherwise the whole duty is voluntary. Persons who belong to the Hospital Week Scheme are entitled to the use of the ambulances if a Doctor certifies the necessity, or of course in emergent accidents. Those not belonging to the Hospital Scheme may, on the Doctor's certificate, have the use of the ambulance by payment at moderate charges.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, places at the disposal of the Minister of Health a sum of £15,000,000 to assist schemes executed after the war for the provision or improvement of water supply and of sewerage facilities in Rural Districts, regard being taken, amongst other things, to the needs of industry and agriculture. The Council have under consideration a post-war scheme for the extension of a piped water supply to parishes requiring it. The provision of such a supply is most urgently needed in the following cases:—Cheddon Fitzpaine, Churchstanton (Churchinford and possibly Stapley), Creech St. Michael (Adsborough), Durston (the village), Kingston (the village, Greenway, Parsonage Lane, Fulford and Dodhill), Otterford (Bishopswood), Stoke St. Mary (the village), Tolland (the village), West Hatch (the village and higher portion of the parish), West Monkton (the village, Cherry Grove and Gotton).

Some of the parishes mentioned are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking, and any supply required in them must be obtained by application to the Corporation. The following parishes are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation:—Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Kingston, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staplegrove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton.

Three water undertakings are owned by the Taunton Rural District Council. One is at Westleigh in the parish of Lydeard St. Lawrence, and the other in the parishes of West Bagborough and Cothelstone. Another water undertaking is that of the Crown Lands Estate, known as the Portman Supply, from which the Council buys water.

The "Portman Supply" is chlorinated before delivery to the consumers and quarterly bacteriological analyses of the 4 supplies show the waters to be entirely satisfactory.

The following return required by the Ministry of Health during 1946 presents in tabular form the position as to the distribution of piped water supplies in the District:—

PARISH.	Area of Parish. Acres.	No. of houses in Parish.	No. of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or on to the house (including those with a tap outside only).	Of the houses not included in 3 (1), the number having their curtilage within 100 yards of a water main available for a supply.	Of the houses not in 3 (1) & (2) the number that are in villages, hamlets or groups consisting of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle ¼ mile in diameter.	Of the houses not connected to a public sewer the number in villages, hamlets or groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle ¼ mile in diameter.
	1	2	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)	4
Ash Priors	641	33	19	11	—	—
Bickenhall	1143	47	36	—	—	—
Bishops Hull	1283	390	329	25	—	—
Bishops Lydeard ...	4832	401	318	42	—	20
Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	1883	115	28	19	—	23
Churchstanton ...	5435	146	—	—	38	38
Combe Florey	1382	66	55	4	—	—
Corfe	1165	77	77	—	—	22
Cothelstone	1455	37	16	—	—	—
Creech St. Michael ...	2298	289	145	97	—	172
Curland	648	39	20	—	—	—
Durston	1013	49	—	—	—	43
Halse	1320	81	39	19	—	58
Hatch Beauchamp ...	1408	110	105	5	—	—
Kingston	2584	212	29	—	79	123
Lydeard St. Lawrence	2748	108	71	5	—	39
North Curry	5822	377	327	30	—	—
Norton Fitzwarren ...	2054	223	152	71	—	—
Orchard Portman ...	1665	50	17	—	—	—
Otterford	2446	89	—	—	34	34
Pitminster	5780	353	168	88	—	33 (Pitminster) 64 (Blagdon) 49 (Staplehay)
Ruishton	1027	138	107	31	—	114
Staple Fitzpaine ...	3029	56	42	—	—	—
Staplegrove	1027	84	42	42	—	37
Stoke St. Gregory ...	4135	348	339	3	—	25
Stoke St. Mary ..	2019	145	61	9	—	—
Thornfalcon	822	39	37	—	—	—
Tolland	842	24	2	—	—	—
Trull	2172	225	188	36	—	140
West Bagborough ...	2006	107	98	—	—	57
West Hatch	1619	84	9	—	—	—
West Monkton	2972	353	167	101	20	110 (Bathpool) 101 (M. Heath.) 39 (Village)

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Council had, at the end of the year, under consideration with the expert assistance of their Engineers a post-war Scheme for the Sewerage of those parts of the District which were not sewered. Proper Sewage disposal is not only an amenity but it is a necessity and is inevitable whenever a piped water supply has been provided. Pail closets and privy middens are most undesirable because they are more often than not badly attended to owing to the unpleasant work connected with them. A multiplication of privately owned cesspools and septic tanks is also undesirable and these have been increasing in number because of the addition of water closets and baths to houses having a piped water supply.

Only 6 parishes out of 32 in the District have Sewage Disposal works of their own and they are the parishes of:—

Bishops Hull—though some 30 houses or so are not connected with the main sewer. *Bishops Lydeard.*—Some of the Council Houses in this parish are not connected with the sewer. *Combe Florey.*—The disposal works here serves its purpose for the time being but is not large enough to deal with sewage from any more houses. *Hatch Beauchamp.*—These works are very old and entirely unsatisfactory. *North Curry.*—These works are in the nature of a sewage farm; it is doubtful whether it is not already working to over capacity and suffering from "Sewage sickness." *Norton Fitzwarren.*—Recent disposal works have been constructed here and should prove ample and satisfactory for a further increase in population.

On the whole, therefore, it may be said that the amount of sewerage in the District is negligible and to create new Disposal Works will be an expensive matter. This being the case, the Council have decided that the schemes submitted by their Engineers should be classified in the following order of priority so that the necessary works may be carried out in stages:—

1*st Priority.*

Bishops Hull.—Shutewater Hill.
Hatch Beauchamp Parish.
Staplegrove Parish.—Village only.
Pitminster Parish.
Trull Parish, including Comeytrowe but omitting Dipford area.
Corfe Parish.
West Monkton Parish.

Norton Fitzwarren.—Station Road and Southern part of parish.
Ruishton.—Village only.
Creech St. Michael.—Village as far as Police Station, excluding higher part of parish and Ham.

2nd Priority.

Lydeard St. Lawrence.—Village.
West Bagborough.—Village.
Combe Florey.—Village.
(The possibility of these three parishes being drained to the existing works at Bishops Lydeard to be considered.)
Halse Parish.
Ash Priors Parish.
Kingston Parish and the North and West part of Staplegrove including Langford.
Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish, including Lyngford.
Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion South of railway.
North Curry.—Oxen Lane and Greenway and extension North-east of parish.
Stoke St. Mary Parish.
Ruishton.—Henlade and Lower Henlade.
Shoreditch.

3rd Priority.

Creech St. Michael.—Ham and Northern part of parish including Adsborough.
Durston Parish.
Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion North of railway.
North Curry.—Knapp, Lillesden, Wrantage and Newport.
Thornfalcon Parish.
Staple Fitzpaine Parish.
Curland Parish.
Churchstanton Parish (Stapley and Churchinford).
Otterford Parish (Bishopswood).
Bishops Hull.—Rumwell, Titherleigh, Roughmoor, Barr and Upcott.
Pitminster.—Howleigh and Angersleigh.
Trull.—Dipford area.

The drainage from the areas adjoining the Borough of Taunton mentioned in the 1st Priority list could be received into the Borough's sewers if permission to do so is obtained, and the acqui-

sition of the sewage disposal works recently constructed for military use at Sandhill Park in the parish of Bishops Lydeard and also the works at Silk Mill Crossing, in the Parish of Norton Fitzwarren, would be of great help in the general scheme.

During the course of the previous year a scheme for the construction of a small sewage disposal works to deal with the sewage from Corfe village was prepared. The scheme was approved at a Ministry of Health Inquiry, and work has been going ahead on this project.

Refuse Collection. The collection and disposal of unburnable household refuse now operates in all the parishes of the District. The average amount of collection per month is about 55 three-ton lorry loads. The loads are tipped into clay pits in the parish of Creech St. Michael and controlled. The tips are constantly sprayed with proprietary insecticides to meet the fly menace and the rats are successfully kept under by the application of poisoned bait containing zinc phosphide and arsenic after pre-baiting with damp sausage rusks.

Salvage. This war-time measure continued to be carried out by the Public Health Staff and is still successful. The position for the year 1946 of Taunton Rural District in the Rural District table of sixteen was as follows:—Paper collection, 8th place; Bone collection, 1st place; Rag collection, 1st place; Cash Sales value, 7th place. The Ministry of Supply discontinued the collection of flattened tins and salvaged rubber during 1944. Salvage of the following materials was made during the year:—

Paper	53½	tons.
Iron	14	tons.
Non-ferrous metals	11	cwts.
Bones	15½	tons.
Rags	4½	tons.
Bottles	8	tons.

Cash value of above:—£529.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—

Dwelling houses	519
No. of Dwelling houses repaired	16
,, ,, in hand	7
Voluntarily closed	—
Slaughter houses	302
Bakehouses	51
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	89
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	413
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	7
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	17
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	51
Miscellaneous	176

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	33
Statutory Notices	1

Result of service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	32
Notices standing over at the end of 1947 ...	1

In addition, 21 samples of water were taken for examination by the County Bacteriologist. 3 of these (from wells) were unsatisfactory. 2 wells were closed and main water laid on, and others after repair, pumping out and heavy chlorination eventually produced potable waters. Main water was laid on to 16 houses during the year.

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, 31 visits were made.

Camping Sites. The Local Authority have issued 8 licences in respect of these in accordance with Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. There has been no necessity to take action under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are not any in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No cases occurred during the year.

Schools. The sanitary condition and water supplies of the Schools in the area are fairly satisfactory. The Schools and medical examination of the scholars are under the control of the Education Committee of the County Council.

Offensive Trades. There are 2 Offensive Trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1946. One is that of Tripe Boiling, and the other a Knacker's Yard for the provision of dog and cat food. The premises are well maintained and in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses. There are 21 Bakehouses in the District. 42 inspections were made to them. They are on the whole satisfactory. Nineteen of them now draw their water supply from public mains.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. No foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

Milk Supply. There are 406 milk producing premises in the District. Owing to the large number, it was only possible to inspect each one once during the year. Owing to shortage of labour, methods of production are not on the whole satisfactory and much greater care is required in general cleanliness. As a result of the inspections the following works have been carried out:—

New cowsheds	8
New dairies	8
Yards concreted	4
Existing cowsheds remodelled	2
Existing dairies remodelled	2
Water from mains installed	8

The sampling of Designated Milks by the Staff of this Department was discontinued in July, 1946, when the County Council Staff took over this work.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—Under this Order, 5 cows had to be slaughtered 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	406
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—	
(*a*) Distributors only	5
(*b*) Distributors who are also Producers ...	40

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

Licences: Tuberculin Tested milk producers ...	42
Accredited milk producers	25

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Taunton Rural District Council for the sale of Pasteurised milk in their area but which is not Pasteurised therein.

Meat Supply. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter houses, and the meat after inspection is distributed over a very large area within and without the district. The inspection of meat under these conditions takes up a large portion of the time of the two Sanitary Inspectors. The following table shows the number of carcases inspected and the number of parts thereof condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	0	0	19,275	623	4
Number inspected ...	0	0	19,275	623	4
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	18	5	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	329	142	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0	0	1.8	23.6	0
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	1	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	0	.0005	0	25.0

The following were also condemned as being unfit for food :—

Eggs	480	Tinned Foods...	3,851 tins.
Dried Fruit ...	56 lbs.	Margarine ...	13 lbs.
Beef	464 lbs.		

In the year 1939, there were 32 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the District, and 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).

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work. It is to be noted that the term Factories as used in this connection now includes Workshops, which accounts for the large number on the Register in this Rural District.

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

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	118	132	4	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies: (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	5	8	1	0
(b) Others	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	0	0	0
Total ...	123	140	5	0

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 (S.1)	4	4	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	5	5	0	0	0

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel: Making, &c. ...	42	0	0	0	0	0
Cleaning and Washing ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	42	0	0	0	0	0

HOUSING.

There have been no cases of overcrowding during the year. There are 644 fewer evacuees in the district than in 1945, leaving only 5 children.

Five houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney, North Curry, Creech St. Michael, Stoke St. Gregory and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers and covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them in such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary wartime measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of a house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (*a*) to replace unfit dwellings; (*b*) to abate overcrowding; (*c*) for other reasons.

A survey is still being carried out throughout the District, and 502 houses were inspected and classified.

The Council's building programme was as follows:—

Parish.	Number completed during year 1947.	Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1947.
Bishops Hull	8	2
Bishops Lydeard	2	—
Combe Florey	—	4
Creech St. Michael	—	10
Lydeard St. Lawrence	—	4
Stoke St. Gregory	—	6
Thornfalcon	4	—
Trull	—	4
West Bagborough	—	4
West Monkton	—	12

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts:—

Parish.	Address.	Number of Houses.	
Bishops Hull ...	1/46 Smithy Cottages ...	46	
do. ...	20/35 Mountway Cottages ...	16	
		—	62
Bishops Lydeard ...	1/8 Gore Cottages ...	8	
do. ...	1/10 Pound Lane ...	10	
do. ...	1/12 Mill Lane Cottages ...	12	
do. ...	1/30 Halfyard Cottages ...	30	
		—	60
Cheddon Fitzpaine ...	1/8 School Cottages ...		8
Churchstanton ...	1/4 Stapley Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/4 Church Road Cottages ...	4	
		—	8
Creech St. Michael ...	1/8 Ryes Terrace ...	8	
do. ...	1/6 Charlton Lane Cottages ...	6	
do. ...	1/4 Cheads Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/16 Rocketts Cottages ...	16	
		—	34
Curland ...	1/4 Castle View ...		4
Hatch Beauchamp ...	1/4 Palmers Green Cottages ...		4
Kingston ...	1/6 Parks Cottages ...	6	
do. ...	1 and 2 Chaces ...	2	
do. ...	1/8 Greenway Terrace ...	8	
do. ...	1/4 Fulford Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/10 Parsonage Cottages ...	10	
		—	30
Lydeard St. Lawrence..	1/4 Nethercott Road ...		4

Parish.	Address.	Number of Houses.	
North Curry ...	1/6 Oxen Lane ...	6	
Do. ...	1/4 Backham Cottages ...	4	
Do. ...	1/10 Croft Cottages ...	10	
Do. ...	1/8 Lillesdon Terrace ...	8	
do. ...	1/8 Cricket Cottages ...	8	
		—	36
Norton Fitzwarren ...	1/4 Burnshill Terrace ...	4	
do. ...	1/24 Rectory Road Cottages ...	24	
do. ...	1/10 Station Road Cottages ...	10	
do. ...	1/4 Manleys Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/4 Court Cottages ...	4	
		—	46
Pitminster ...	1/8 Littleham Cottages ...		8
Ruishton ...	1/5 Ruishton Lane Cottages ...	5	
do. ...	1/3 Lipe Lane Cottages ...	3	
do. ...	1/4 Slades Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/12 Steart Cottages ...	12	
		—	24
Staplegrove ...	1/6 Hillhead Cottages ...		6
Stoke St. Gregory ...	1/16 Willey Road ...	16	
Do. ...	1/8 Stathe Cottages ...	8	
Do. ...	1/10 Woodhill Terrace ...	10	
		—	34
Stoke St. Mary ...	1/4 Homefield Cottages ...		4
Thornfalcon ...	1/8 Glebe Cottages ...		8
Trull ...	1 and 2 Horts Cottages ...		2
West Bagborough ...	1/10 Vale View Cottages ...	10	
do. ...	1/4 Hill View Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/4 South View Cottages ...	4	
		—	18
West Monkton ...	1/4 Titley Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/4 Brittons Ash Cottages ...	4	
do. ...	1/6 Hyde Lane Cottages ...	6	
do. ...	1/14 School Road Cottages ...	14	
		—	28
	TOTAL ...		428

Of the above total of 428 houses, 204 were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years, under the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1936.

War Department Camps. During the course of the previous year a number of families unofficially took up occupation of vacant huts at various camps in the district. The same process of "squatting" occurred in many areas throughout the country. After a time the position was officially recognised, and in September, 1946, the Taunton Rural District Council took over the administration of camps at Pyrland, Courtlands and Sandhill Park on behalf of the Ministry of Health. The accommodation consists of Nissen huts, some of which have been modified to make them more suitable for family occupation. They are far from ideal from the housing point of view, and can only be looked upon as a temporary expedient, but at least they provide some relief in the present desperate housing shortage. In 1947 a similar occupaton of a disused camp at Culmhead took place. The number of occupiers in each of the four camps at the end of 1947 was as follows:—

Pyrland Hall	...	...	11
Courtlands	...	...	12
Sandhill Park	...	...	76
Culmhead	...	...	13

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

At December 31st, 1947, the following individuals were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompanied Children	...	...	4
Accompanied Children	...	..	0
Mothers, Helpers, Teachers	...	...	0
TOTAL	..	...	4

This is 645 fewer than in 1944.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis), their age groups and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales, and the number admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	AGE GROUPS.							No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	5
Whooping Cough...	64	6	11	10	30	2	—	5	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	249	5	35	45	125	24	9	6	5
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia..	22	1	2	1	1	—	8	9	1
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia..	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Oph. Neonatorum..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notification rates for Taunton Rural District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	Rates for	
		Taunton R.D.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	5	.28	1.37
Whooping Cough ...	64	3.58	2.22
Measles	249	13.93	9.41
Diphtheria	—	—	0.13
Acute Pneumonia ...	22	1.23	0.79
Dysentery	1	0.06	—
Enteric or Typhoid ...	—	—	0.01
Paratyphoid	—	—	0.01
Erysipelas	1	0.06	0.19
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	9.17	7.16
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	0.06	0.05

The District is one of the constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board. The annual report of the work done at Taunton Isolation Hospital during 1947 will be found at the end of this report.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1947 and mortality from the disease:—

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

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	—
10 — 15	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	3	—	1	1	1	—	1	1
20 — 25	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 — 35	4	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45 — 55	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 80 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 18 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.

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 notified by the Doctors to the Public Health Department of the County Council and when necessary are admitted to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, where they are maintained by the County Council.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continues to be carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by the Medical Practitioners in the District. The County Council's Immunisation Scheme, which was begun in Taunton Rural District during 1941, continues to make progress, but the number of children immunised below the age of five is still far too low. The children in this age group in the District would be in serious danger should an epidemic occur. The following figures show the condition of the child population as regards immunisation at the end of 1947:—

Pre-School Children: aged 0—4 years.

Number Immunised.	% Immunised of Total Children in this Age Group.
538	36.5

School Children: aged 5—14 years.

Number Immunised.	% Immunised of Total Children in this Age Group.
2,108	92.3

In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45), issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary

inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance. After six years of mass immunisation of the children of this country, approximately 55 per cent. have been immunised. The aim is to immunise at least 75 per cent. The Circulars point out that there are some 600,000 children being added to the country's susceptible population every year, and it is suggested that it is to the age groups one and two that much greater attention should be directed. It is estimated that the rate of dying from Diphtheria is approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Report of the Medical Superintendent for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I append a tabulated statement of the work of the Hospital during the year 1947, showing the number of admissions, discharges and deaths and the various conditions coming under treatment.

The number of admissions was higher than in 1946 (217 as compared with 172). A severe epidemic of measles in the district necessitated the admission of 19 children, some of them because of gravity of the illness and others because of poor home conditions. The outbreak of poliomyelitis which took place in the late summer and autumn in most areas of the British Isles produced eleven cases of the disease in the area served by the Hospital, and nine others were admitted for observation but in these the diagnosis of poliomyelitis was not confirmed.

Credit is due to the Matron and her Staff, both whole-time and part-time, for the very efficient way in which the work of the Hospital has been carried out.

Three operations were performed in the theatre, namely:—Drainage of Frontal Sinus, Circumcision and Supra-pusic Cystostomy.

There were eight deaths, the causes being:—Tuberculous Meningitis, 4 cases; Streptococcal Meningitis, 1 case; Broncho-pneumonia in 2 cases of Measles and in 1 case of Whooping Cough.

There were 42 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium; 20 were discharged and 20 died. The total number of patient days for these cases was 7,051, as against 7,021 for 1946. In connection with the Tuberculosis work 540 artificial pneumothoraces were carried out.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON,
Medical Superintendent

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Tabulated Statement of Cases, etc., for Year 1947.

DISTRICT.	ADMITTED.	Brought forward.	Remaining Dec., 1947.	DISCHARGED.	DEATHS.	PATIENT DAYS.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Tonsillitis (Vincent's, Angina)	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	T.B. Meningitis	Pneumococcal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Observation—Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Skin Rashes.	Laryngitis.	Suspected Meningitis.	Polioencephalitis.	Erysipelas.	Encephalo-myelitis.	Chicken Pox.	Poliomyelitis.	Suspected Poliomyelitis.	Paratyphoid B.	Typhoid Fever.	Pemphigus.	Nursing Mothers.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Enteritis.	Dermatitis.	Cow Pox.	Glandular Fever.	Tetanus.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Contact Infants.	Abortion.
Taunton Borough ...	70	6	5	67	4	2048	32	3	3	2	0	0	6	0	10	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington Urban ...	4	0	0	4	0	121	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taunton Rural ...	28	0	0	25	3	646	5	0	5	1	3	0	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wellington Rural ...	13	0	1	12	0	258	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgwater Rural ...	8	1	0	8	1	230	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dulverton Rural ...	2	0	0	2	0	30	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Authorities ...	35	1	3	33	0	888	13	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternity & Child Welfare.																																						
Somerset C.C. ...	37	2	2	37	0	562	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	14	1
Taunton Borough ...	19	0	0	19	0	303	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9	0
Yeovil Borough ...	1	0	0	1	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS ...	217	10	11	208	8	5104	59	6	10	5	4	2	10	1	19	4	1	3	1	2	1	1	11	9	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	28	23	1