[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Taunton R.D.C.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1964

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1964

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. PLIMMER, M.A.P.H.I.

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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 1964. The report contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. This has again been divided into two sections, the first referring to the province of the Medical Officer of Health, and the second contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector. The report, in the main, follows the same lines as that of the previous year, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections.

Some points of interest to which attention may be drawn are as follows :—

1. The estimated population of the district has increased by over a thousand since the end of 1963, but a considerable part of this increase is accounted for by the occupation of the large housing estate at Slapes Farm which adjoins the Borough of Taunton.

2. The birth rate for the district, when standardised for comparison, was slightly lower than that of England and Wales as a whole as was also the death rate. The diseases responsible for death followed the usual pattern in that the three commonest were disease of the heart, including coronary thrombosis, cerebral haemorrhage or "stroke" and cancer. The infant mortality rate was only marginally higher than that of England and Wales, which was the lowest figure ever recorded for the country.

3. Infectious diseases were a relatively minor problem during the year, the only one producing any substantial number of cases having been measles. A note is included in the Report dealing with the present position regarding immunisation against this disease.

4. An account is given of the excellent work being done by the "Meals on Wheels" service which it is hoped may be extended in due course to those parts of the district not at present receiving this benefit.

5. Some details are given of the operation of the Mass Radiography Service, together with a table showing the kind of diseases which can be revealed by this very valuable routine investigation. It will be noted that for those attending a Mass Radiography session in the ordinary way the odds against any chest trouble being revealed are extremely high. At the same time in the occasional case disease is discovered which probably has not been suspected, and often at a stage when treatment can be applied with good prospect of success.

6. The section dealing with Sewerage and Sewage Disposal has been completely revised and brought up to date, and it is believed that the account given provides an accurate assessment of the position at this time regarding sewage disposal in the various parishes of the district.

7. Public water supplies are now administered and operated by the West Somerset Water Board in this district, which forms part of a Division of the Board's area. Some interesting facts and figures are given relating to water supplies in the Division in question.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials of the other Departments, and the Staff of the Public Health Department for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Statistics of the Area for the Year 1964

Area (in acres)	70,528
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1964 ...	23,760
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book on 1st April, 1964	6,821
Rateable Value 1st April, 1964	£542,006
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, year 1964-65 ...	£2,686 7 2

Physical Features and Social Conditions

Taunton Rural District lies in the south-western region of Somerset, surrounding Taunton Borough, the County Town. It 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; on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington.

There is considerable variation in the type of country found in different parts of the district: in the north and north-west there is high ground forming portions of the Quantock and Brendon Hills; in the south the land rises to the hill parish of Churchstanton lying in the Blackdowns; between these regions lies the fertile valley of Taunton Deane, with the ground falling towards the east to the flat moors and marshy ground surrounding the lower reaches of Tone and Parret. Geologically also, the formations vary. In the north are found chiefly old and new red sandstone; in the south, lower lias and upper greensand; the valley regions have new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The climate is equable, with an average annual rainfall of 36.6 ins., and an average mean daily temperature of about 41° F. in January and 62° F. in July.

Rich arable and pasture land covers most of the district, but some of the hill regions are in the rough uncultivated state, and the soil on the Blackdown Hills tends to be poor in quality. In the eastern parishes the land is subject to seasonal flooding. Communications are good, and almost all parts of the district are easily accessible by road. Following the Tone valley through the middle of the district runs one of the main lines of the Western Region of British Railways and two branch lines leave it at or near Taunton to run to the north and west.

There are thirty-two parishes with estimated populations varying from 72 to 3,099.

Most of the inhabitants are engaged in some form of agriculture, dairy farming being particularly important. General farming is also largely practised, and allied activities are withy growing and basket-making, fruit farming and cider-making. There is a paper mill in the district which employs a fair number of people, and another source of employment for men is stone-quarrying which is carried out on a considerable scale. A factory producing meat products and a branch factory run by Taunton Shirt Manufacturers, are additional centres of employment in the district. Many of the residents in the rural district travel daily to Taunton to work in factories and other establishments.

There is one large institution in the district, namely Tone Vale Hospital in the parish of Bishops Lydeard, which, with its patients and resident staff, accounts for a population of about 1,000.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

With reference to the figures which follow, it should be pointed out that the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the populations in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

1. **Births.**

(*a*) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	192	168	360	Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.8
Illegitimate	10	7	17	
Totals	202	175	377	

Standardised Birth Rate, Taunton R.D. 17.3
Birth Rate, England and Wales 18.4

(*b*) **Still Births.**

Total... 4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—
Taunton R.D. 10.5
England and Wales 16.3

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—
Taunton R.D. 0.16

---

2. **Deaths.**

(*a*) Total Deaths 321

Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.5

Standardised Death Rate, Taunton R.D. 10.26
Death Rate for England and Wales 11.3

(*b*) Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal deaths from all causes 0

(*c*) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

Total	8
Deaths among legitimate infants	5
,, illegitimate ,, ...	3
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—	
Taunton R.D.	20.99
England and Wales	20.0

(*d*) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—

Total	51

Infant Mortality during 1964

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Cerebral palsy	—	—	1	—	1
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4
Congenital heart disease	1	—	—	—	1
Gross congenital defects	—	—	1	—	1
Septicaemia	—	—	1	—	1

Causes of death during 1964

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	8	2	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	12	16	28
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	27	52
Coronary disease, angina	25	21	46
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
Other heart disease	14	44	58
Other circulatory disease	5	8	13
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	16	26
Bronchitis	3	7	10
Other disease of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	17	33
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All Causes—Total ...	137	184	321

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Domiciliary Services

(1) Medical and Nursing

There are seven general medical practitioners living and carrying on the main part of their practice in different areas of the district. In addition to this, most of the Taunton Borough practitioners have some rural district residents on their lists, and there is also, as would be expected, some overlap from the surrounding rural districts in the provision of medical attention. There are adequate arrangements for domiciliary consultation, when required, with consultants serving the Taunton area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

(2) Home Help Service

This service, administered by the Somerset County Council, is now well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Taunton Rural District during 1964.

Tuberculosis	1
Maternity	33
Old age	100
Chronic sick	15
Post Operation	4
Mentally Ill	2
Post and Pre-Natal	2
Care of children	1
Accidents and general illness	2
Short term illness	7
Total	167

(3) Meals on Wheels.

The Womens Voluntary Service operates a scheme for supplying meals to old people in the Rural District. The usual thing is to provide a hot meal at mid-day on two days of each week to individual old people. During 1964 an average of 38 meals per week were provided to old people in the parishes of Bishops

Lydeard, Ash Priors, Halse, Cothelstone, Bishops Hull, Norton Fitzwarren, Kingston St. Mary, West Monkton, Creech St. Michael and Ruishton. The present arrangements involve two separate rounds on two days of the week. It is found that eight or nine cases are required in any particular district to make one of these rounds a practical proposition. The names of those requiring the service are provided by doctors, district nurses and home helps, and those patients requiring special diets as in diabetes can be catered for. It is hoped to extend this service progressively in the rural district provided that sufficient helpers are available. The work of distributing these meals is done by members of the W.V.S. and one would wish to express gratitude for this service which provides an outstanding social benefit to the community.

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital, which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Pædiatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopædics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose.

(2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital is certainly changing. Many of the patients admitted

suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by innoculation, and in the past few years there has not been a severe epidemic in this part of the country. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital. Thus although the type of illness dealt with changes over the years, the total number of cases requiring isolation treatment has rather tended to increase than to diminish.

(3) Tuberculosis

Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopædic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to the individual need.

(4) Poliomyelitis

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(5) Chronic Sick

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of the cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on.

It was not found necessary during the year to invoke powers under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47, for the compulsory removal to an Institution of persons in need of proper care and attention.

(6) Mentally Sick

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

(7) Mass Radiography.

Regular sessions are held by the Regional Hospital Board Unit on one afternoon of each fortnight at the old Gas Works site in the Borough of Taunton. Residents in the Rural District who wish to have a chest X-ray are welcomed at any of these sessions and it is strongly urged that this facility should be freely used, especially by those over the age of 40 who would do well to have an annual chest X-ray.

As an example of the type of work done in a unit of this sort the following table shows the findings obtained from routine examinations at the Taunton centre during 1964.

	Male	Female	Total
Number examined	338	386	724
Abnormalities detected	12	9	21
Details of abnormalities detected—			
Tuberculosis—Healed	1	4	5
Abnormalities of the Diaphragm	—	1	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	1	1	2
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	4	—	4
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Bronchial Carcinoma	2	1	3
Benign Tumour	—	1	1
Emphysema	1	—	1
Psittacosis	1	—	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis	—	1	1
	12	9	21

Clinics and Treatment Centres

(1) Tuberculosis

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in the Taunton Rural District.

(2) Venereal Disease

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue to have observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

(3) 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 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. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council. A valuable service is now provided for premature infants. Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to a Special Care Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, an ambulance equipped with an Oxygenaire incubator being sent to collect them from their homes. If the baby is deemed fit to be nursed at home, the district midwife can obtain advice and special equipment to help her with the management of the case.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, fæces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The main Ambulance Station and Control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows—

Vehicles	...	7 Ambulances
		6 Sitting-case Ambulances
		1 Car
Staff	...	5 Sub-officers
		22 Driver-attendants

All vehicles at this Station are fitted with radio.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Infectious Diseases

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases.

Diseases	No. of Notifications	AGE GROUPS							
		1st year of life	1-2 incl.	3-4 incl.	5-9 incl.	10-14 incl.	15-24 incl.	25 & over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	—	1	5	—	—	1	—
Measles	149	4	23	27	68	21	1	—	5
Whooping cough ...	8	1	2	2	2	—	—	1	—

The following table shows notification rates of the above diseases for Taunton Rural District compared with the same rates in the previous year. In each instance these rates are calculated as numbers of notified cases per 1,000 of population :—

Diseases	No. of Notifications in Taunton Rural District	Rates for Taunton R.D.	
		1964	1963
Scarlet Fever	7	0.29	0.35
Measles	149	6.27	13.71
Whooping Cough	8	0.33	0.08

It will be seen that the only infectious disease producing substantial numbers of notifications was measles and here the figure was only roughly half that of the previous year. The disease is one which tends to show a peak of incidence during every second year. A large scale trial of measles vaccines is being carried out by the Medical Research Council in various parts of the country to establish the efficiency of immunisation and the best means of carrying it out. Measles is at the present time a mild disease, and it seems doubtful whether the complications which are infrequent, though admittedly sometimes severe, and which generally respond well to antibiotic treatment, would justify an effort to provide immunisation for all children in the community. It is perhaps more likely that children who for some reason or other are at special risk from an attack of the disease will be given the benefit of protection by the administration of the vaccine.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1964 and mortality from the disease.

New Cases and Mortality during 1964

Age in years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp'tory		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 84 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 18 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been an outstanding success in this district and in the country as a whole; but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection, and there is some evidence that without constant stress on this fact, the number of children being immunised each year might easily fall to a dangerously low level.

Total "Primaries" under 5 years ...	270
Total "Primaries" 5—14 years	21
Total Re-inforcements	410

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

It is customary in the County of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

85 babies under one year of age were immunised against whooping cough. This is 22% of the total annual live births.

Tetanus Immunisation.

Last year reference was made to the value of immunisation against tetanus and the number of children given this protective treatment shows a gratifying increase over the previous year. It is expected that parents will take advantage to an increasing extent of the facilities available for protection against this disease.

Number of children immunised :—

	Primaries	Re-inforcing
Under 1 year	85	—
1—5 years	185	55
6—10 years	26	198
11—16 years	45	31

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

Poliomyelitis immunisation, which formerly involved injections is now carried out by giving the material by mouth. During 1964 the following persons received a course of primary vaccination or oral doses.

Children born in 1964	34
Children born in 1943-63	334
Young Persons born 1933-42	47
Persons under 40 years and priority groups ...	13
Total	428

In addition 1 person received a third (re-inforcing) injection.

325 children between 5—12 years received a dose of oral vaccine after 3 injections.

Small Pox Vaccinations.

The standard procedure is to vaccinate children routinely in the second year of life.

	Primary Vaccination		Re-Vaccination	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Under 1 year ...	56	66	—	—
1 year	15	88	—	1
2—4 years ...	4	11	2	2
5—14 years ...	5	5	11	7
15 or over ...	8	13	38	35
Totals ...	88	183	51	45

B.C.G. Immunisation against T.B.

Immunisation against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. vaccine is offered to susceptible children at the age of thirteen.

38 children attending school in the rural district were given the Heaf Test and 37 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

In the report for 1963 it was mentioned that the administration and control of water supplies in the district had passed to the West Somerset Water Board, of whose area Taunton Rural District forms one portion. I should like to thank the Chief Engineer, Mr. Wonnacott, for the details of water supplies in this district which follow :—

The Taunton Division of the Board is responsible for supplies to the Rural District of Taunton, the Borough of Taunton and the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington. It has not been found practicable to produce figures and other details for the Taunton Rural District alone, so that the other areas mentioned as coming under the Taunton Division are included in the present account.

The average daily domestic demand of the area was 2,731,000 gallons, giving a figure of 36.4 gallons per head per day. In addition to this, 921,000 gallons were provided on metered supplies to industrial establishments, farms and so on.

Most of the water now comes from the Clatworthy Reservoir in the Brendon Hills, but some is still obtained from gathering grounds on the Blackdowns and from the River Otter. All catchment areas are inspected and supervised and the Board's chemist takes regular samples for chemical and bacteriological examination, the water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. The quality is good, as is shown by the following results of sampling treated water by Officers of the Board :—

Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
253	4	9	1

Sampling of the public supplies is also done by the Public Health Department of the Rural District Council and details of the findings are included in Mr. Plimmer's portion of this report. All samples recorded as unsatisfactory are immediately investigated and any necessary action taken.

The year 1964 was, with the exception of 1921, the driest of the century in this area. The recorded rainfall in the Blackdown Hills was only about 70% of the average yearly figure, and the Luxhay Reservoir in this Region was actually empty on one day in the autumn. In spite of these difficulties no restrictions had to be put on the use of water at any time during the year. The whole of the shortage was made up from the Clatworthy source, which affords striking evidence of the farsightedness of this project.

Several small supplies to localised rural areas in which the water has an acidic character have been or are to be abandoned. No supplies in the district have a plumbosolvent action, and lead pipes are not generally in use.

Of the 6,821 houses in the district, it is estimated that 5,726 are connected with a public piped water supply. The remainder of the district is supplied chiefly from wells, most of them coming into the shallow category, and thus being very liable to pollution.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A sewage disposal scheme for the Churchinford area in the Parish of Churchstanton was completed during the course of the year.

A survey of drainage provisions in the various parishes of the district has been carried out in two stages by the Public Health Department over the past three years, a preliminary report of this having been made to the Public Health Committee in 1962, and a final report at the beginning of 1965. From the facts disclosed by these reports and the discussions which took place on the subject, the following summary of the position at the end of 1964 may be given :—

1. Seven parishes had satisfactory sewerage for their main concentrations of properties, with drainage either into small individual sewage works or into the Taunton Borough works at Ham, Creech St. Michael. These parishes were :—

Bishops Hull
Bishops Lydeard
Churchstanton
Creech St. Michael
Norton Fitzwarren
Ruishton
Trull

The only substantial problem with this group concerns the works at Bishops Hull which are overloaded and badly sited in relation to adjacent inhabited properties. Plans are in hand for conveying the sewage from this parish to the works at Norton Fitzwarren.

2. Two parishes had systems whose adequacy was doubtful. These were :—

Combe Florey
Corfe

Combe Florey has a public sewer leading to a settlement tank and the works at Corfe are probably inadequate in size. Conditions in these parishes, however, have not been such as to require urgent attention to these matters.

3. Eight parishes had sewerage schemes in various stages of planning or construction. These were :—

Cheddon Fitzpaine
Hatch Beauchamp
The Henlade portion of Ruishton parish
Kingston St. Mary
North Curry
Stoke St. Gregory
West Bagborough
West Monkton

The two largest projects in this group are the combined scheme for Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton, and the combined scheme for North Curry and Stoke St. Gregory. Both are well advanced in the planning stage and should come into operation within a reasonable time. The Hatch Beauchamp system was almost completed at the end of the year and was expected to be operating in 1965. The scheme for the Henlade portion of the parish of Ruishton was being undertaken by the Surveying Department of the Council and construction work was expected to begin in 1965. Provisions for the parishes of Kingston St. Mary and West Bagborough were in the early stages of planning.

4. Five parishes were considered to have sewerage problems of varying degrees of urgency, but no firm plans had up to the time of the report been made for dealing with them. These were :—

Ash Priors
Halse
Pitminster
Staplegrove
Stoke St. Mary

Of this group, the parishes of Pitminster and Stoke St. Mary, because of their proximity to the Borough of Taunton and the resulting pressure of housing development, will probably require to be considered for sewerage at an early date. Staplegrove is a somewhat similar case, but here the need may be slightly less pressing. Ash Priors and Halse lie in the more rural portion of the district but each has troublesome drainage problems.

5. Ten parishes were considered not to require sewerage schemes in the meantime. These were :—

Bickenhall
Cothelstone
Curland
Durston
Lydeard St. Lawrence
Orchard Portman
Staple Fitzpaine
Thornfalcon
Tolland
West Hatch

These parishes have scattered populations. They have no extensive concentrations of human habitations, with the exception perhaps of Lydeard St. Lawrence village and Bishopswood in the parish of Otterford, where small sewerage schemes might at some time be called for. Otherwise there has been no indication from these areas that drainage and sewage disposal is a serious problem. It is in these parishes, and in the more scattered portions of those previously listed, that a cesspool emptying service would be of especial benefit.

Housing

Provision of houses in the District by the Council has gone on steadily throughout the year. 12 were completed in 1964 and since the end of the war 841 have been built. In addition to this, about 1,186 houses have been built by private enterprise during the same period. This building activity has had some effect on the waiting list of families requiring accommodation, but continued efforts in this direction will be required for some time to come. There were about 370 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list at the end of 1964.

The Council's building programme was as follows :—

Parish	Number completed during 1964	Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1964
Pitminster	12	—
Hatch Beauchamp	—	8
	12	8

The following table shows the number of houses owned by the Council :—

Parish	Number of houses
Bishops Hull	150
Bishops Lydeard	261
Cheddon Fitzpaine	24
Churchstanton	24
Combe Florey	4
Corfe	8
Creech St. Michael	62
Curland	4
Hatch Beauchamp	23
Kingston St. Mary	44
Lydeard St. Lawrence	34
North Curry	63
Norton Fitzwarren	167
Otterford	4
Pitminster	52
Ruishton	60
Staplegrove	6
Stoke St. Gregory	50
Stoke St. Mary	12
Thornfalcon	8
Trull	14
West Bagborough	34
West Hatch	4
West Monkton	127
Total	1,239

The following table refers to properties dealt with under slum clearance procedure :

Action	Houses dealt with during 1964	Total number of houses dealt with since 1.1.55
1. Acquired by Council for demolition (site used for erecting new houses)	—	6
2. Demolition Order made ...	4	61
3. Undertaking given not to use for human habitation	11	98
4. Houses actually demolished ...	2	43
5. Clearance Area Procedure carried out	—	5 (in one terraced block)
6. Closing Order	3	16

The year showed very gratifying progress in the field of Improvement Grants During the year, 7 Discretionary Grants and 36 Standard Grants were made, bringing the total of Improvement Grants for the District up to the end of 1964 to 468.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

During 1964, 10 site licences were issued in respect of individual caravans.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a tabular summary of work carried out during the year 1964 :—

Number and nature of inspections :—

Dwelling houses (Inspections, revisits, etc.) ...	486
Food Hygiene	342
Slaughterhouses	2,843
Factories and Workshops	38
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956	1
Water Supplies	90
Drainage nuisances	461
Refuse collection and disposal	454
Clean Air Act, 1956	3
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act ...	251
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	62
Animal Boarding Establishments	29
Noise abatement	8
Miscellaneous nuisances	254

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

Visits to food premises in the area have been increased during the year and many improvements carried out as a result of the issue of informal notices.

Water Samples

45 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Of this number 27 have been taken from private supplies, and reported on as follows :—

Grade 1.	(highly satisfactory)	8 samples
2.	(satisfactory)	2 ,,
3.	(suspicious)	4 ,,
4.	(unsatisfactory)	13 ,,
		27

Advice on improving existing supplies and warnings against drinking water of doubtful quality without thorough boiling have been made in appropriate cases. One chemical sample from a private supply was reported on favourably by the County Analyst.

18 samples taken from various public supplies have been bacteriologically examined and classified as follows :—

Satisfactory	...	16	(including repeat samples)
Unsatisfactory	...	2	

Six samples taken for chemical examination from public supplies gave satisfactory results.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

One of the largest slaughterhouses in the area, dealing with the majority of sheep killed in the district and a substantial number of calves, was closed down during the year and replaced by a new slaughterhouse. This new slaughterhouse incorporates extensive hanging space (refrigerated and otherwise) and many other improved facilities. These new conditions are much appreciated by the Inspectors employed on meat inspection in this establishment

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Steady progress has been made in the improvement of caravan sites throughout the area and in some instances the facilities provided are ahead of the Council's standard of conditions. This is all to the good and seems a far cry from conditions which existed on many sites only a few years ago.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The initial inspections required under the above Act have been carried out and a total of 49 premises had been registered by the end of the year. The number of persons employed at the end of 1964 was 169.

Bakehouses

There are 3 bakehouses in the district.

Ice Cream

The number of retailers of this product in the area is 82. They sell pre-packed ice cream, which is stored in properly constructed refrigerators.

Rodent Control

The employment of a full time operator, with additional duties in connection with refuse collection, introduced during 1963 has been very satisfactory. Continuity of treatment is now possible.

Report for 12 months ending 31st December, 1964

	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All others (including Business Premises)	(4) Totals 1, 2 & 3	(5) Agricultural
I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	17	6,231	580	6,828	559
II. Number of Properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification ...	3	176	7	186	9
(b) Surveys ...	14	213	42	269	72
(c) Otherwise ...	—	153	96	249	55
III. Total Inspections carried out — including re-inspections ...	111	593	159	853	143
IV. Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats { Major	—	3	—	3	—
(a) Rats { Minor	11	263	14	288	10
(b) Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice { Minor	—	9	9	18	—
V. Number of Infested Properties treated by the L.A.	11	275	7	293	7
VI. Total Treatments carried out including re-treatments	17	297	7	321	7
VII. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act.					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block Control" schemes carried out	6	—	—	6	—

Meat Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	2,390	805	6,366	107,664	49,400	0
Number inspected ...	2,390	805	6,366	107,664	49,400	0
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	17	38	910	199	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	248	372	26	4,514	4,384	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.4	43	1.0	4.1	9.28	0
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	1	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	411	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	·83	0
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	7	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	7	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes of note have taken place during the year, frequency of collection and point and method of disposal remain the same. Problems do exist—labour is a little difficult to obtain and keep—refuse is increasing in volume and changing in nature—the completion of new houses in the area is steadily reducing the reserve capacity and labour which must be built into any scheme of refuse collection.

Salvage Collection and Sales

The following items of salvage were disposed of during the year :

Material	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Newsprint	71	10	1	0	160	4	9
Cardboard	9	2	3	0	28	16	10
Magazines	19	7	1	0	52	4	1
Waste	7	6	1	0	19	9	1
Rags	2	19	3	0	29	17	6
Wools		5	3	10	16	7	0
Scrap Iron	3	1	2	0	26	13	0
Non-Ferrous Metal		16	3	0	46	14	4
Domestos Bottles		120½ doz.			6	0	6
Meal Bags		4	0	0		12	0
Battery Lead		2	0	0	2	10	0
Batteries		nine			1	16	0
					£391	5	1

Factories Act, 1961

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.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	84	36	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	2	0	0
Total ...	96	38	0	0