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with D. Alford's comments.

❖ THE ❖

Annual Reports

FOR **1903** OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Urban & Rural Sanitary Districts

OF

TAUNTON ;

ALSO OF THE

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

BY

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond., F.I.C., F.C.S., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Taunton :

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Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1903.

Population of District (1902) ...	...	21,087
Estimated Population to middle of 1903 ...	...	21,367
Area in Statute Acres ...	...	1,393
Birth Rate per 1000 of Population ...	...	24·9
Death Rate per 1000 of Population ...	...	17·7
Zymotic Death Rate ...	...	2·8
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births ...	...	161·6

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough
of Taunton.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report of the health of the Borough of Taunton during the year 1903.

Notwithstanding its having been one of the dampest and dreariest years on record, the year 1903 was, speaking generally, a healthy year. Its good character was, however, I regret to say, greatly marred by an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough, which not only increased the general, but also the Zymotic Death-rate and Infant Mortality.

1. Mortality during 1903.

The total Deaths during 1903 were 380, or at the rate of 17·7 per 1000 of the Population.

Of these 380 Deaths, 26 which occurred in Public Institutions were non-residents, and must therefore be deducted from the whole. On the other hand, 9 residents died in Institutions without the Borough, viz., 2 in the Isolation Hospital and 7 in Cotford Asylum, and these must be added.

This makes the nett number of Deaths 363, or at the rate of 17 per 1000.

The average Death-rate of the preceding ten years was 17 per 1000.

LOCALITIES.

The 380 Deaths occurred as follows :—

Taunton Borough	...	...	317
Taunton and Somerset Hospital	...	...	40
Union Workhouse	...	...	23
Total	...	...	<u>380</u>

SEXES.

Of the 380, 187 were Males and 193 Females.

AGES AT DEATH.

The Deaths occurred at the following ages :—

Under 1 year	...	...	86
1 to 5 years	...	...	67
5 to 15 „	...	...	10
15 to 25 „	...	...	16
25 to 65 „	...	...	96
Over 65 „	...	...	105
Total	...	...	<u>380</u>

2. Deaths in Public Institutions.

The Deaths in Public Institutions numbered 63:—40 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 23 in the Union Workhouse.

The relative proportions of residents and non-residents were as follows :—

1. TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

Urban Cases	...	...	...	22
Rural Cases	...	...	...	6
Non-residents from outside the Union	...			12
				40

2. UNION WORKHOUSE.

Urban Cases	...	...	...	15
Rural Cases	...	...	...	8
				23

3. Causes of Death.

1. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Of these Diseases the mortality was exceptionally heavy, owing to the great number of Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough.

Whereas last year there were only 4 Deaths, this year there were 60 Deaths in the Borough from Zymotic Diseases—25 from Measles, and 31 from Whooping Cough, 1 from Enteric Fever, and 3 from Diarrhœa.

There were also 2 Deaths from Scarlet Fever in the Isolation Hospital, thus making a total of 62.

The Zymotic Death-rate was thus 2·8, as against 0·4 in the preceding year.

2. DEATHS FROM OTHER DISEASES.

The other chief causes of Death were as follows :—

Lung Diseases—Bronchitis	...	...	23
Pneumonia	...	...	11
Phthisis	...	...	20
Heart Disease	...	...	28
Influenza	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	24
Croup	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Accidents	...	...	8
Premature Births	...	...	13

Births during 1903.

The total Births in the Borough during the year were 532, or at the rate of 24·9 per 1000 of the Population.

The average of the preceding ten years was 27·6 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.

The Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 Births was 161·6.

The average of the preceding ten years was 142·2.

Sickness during 1903.

1. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I received 91 Notifications of Infectious Disease during the year.

The Diseases were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	63 cases
Diphtheria	...	..	11 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	2 „
Erysipelas	...	...	15 „
			91

Of these 91 cases, 68 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The number of Notifications, which indicates the prevalence of Infectious Diseases, is below the yearly average of the preceding ten years. It may be of interest to compare them; they were as follows :—

Total average Notifications	..	104'9
„ „ Scarlet Fever	...	63'2
„ „ Diphtheria	...	17'4
„ „ Enteric Fever	...	5'7
„ „ Erysipelas	...	16'6

2. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

I admitted 87 cases into the Isolation Hospital during the year, 68 being from the town and 19 from the country.

Of these 68 cases, 61 were cases of Scarlet Fever and 7 of Diphtheria; 56 were from the Borough, 1 from the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, 8 from the Barracks, and 3 from St. Saviour's Home.

Full details will be found in my Annual Report of the Hospital, which accompanies this Report.

3. DISINFECTION.

This has been carried out free of charge in all cases of Infectious Disease.

Moreover, in all cases where death has resulted from Phthisis, disinfection has been done.

The total number of articles of Bedding, &c., disinfected during the year has been 1699.

The opening of the new Disinfecting Chamber, with a Defries' Equifex High Pressure Steam Disinfector, has been of great service, as disinfection can be carried out with greater efficacy than under the old system.

4. SICKNESS DURING 1903.

As already stated, the chief epidemics during the year were those of Measles and Whooping Cough. They occurred during the early part of the year, and the weather was inclement and the mortality very high.

Neither of these Diseases are notifiable, and they spread unknown to a great extent, and unfortunately but little attention is paid to their deadly character, whereas a panic at once arises if a disease with the affix "Fever" is attached to it.

The Deaths were caused chiefly by the Lung complications which arise in the course of the disease.

One fact deserving of notice is that nearly all these infants' lives are insured.

I am convinced from observation that this Infantile Insurance is to be deprecated, and should be put a stop to. It is an unpleasant subject, and one which one would rather not say much about.

Scarlet Fever has occurred during the year, as it always does, and some alarmist rumours were spread, which did no good; on the contrary, tended only to damage the good reputation of the town.

At the request of your Sanitary and Drainage Committee I presented a full Report to them on the subject in the month of May. In it I was able to show that the disease had been very rife throughout England, especially in South Wales and the West of England. As many of the cases were of a very mild type and taken no notice of, and daily railway excursions are the order of the day, one cannot wonder at the prevalence of the disease.

But the number notified did not exceed that of the previous ten years, the annual average of which was 63.2; whereas in 1903, 63 cases were notified.

Had it not been for the expenses entailed by removals to the Isolation Hospital, so much would not have been heard about it.

A few cases of Diphtheria occurred, and 2 of Enteric Fever, but these were much below the average of preceding years.

In looking back over a period of thirty years, one is astonished at the comparative immunity from infectious diseases, and this notwithstanding the steady increase of the population. To the Isolation Hospital and the improved sanitary condition of dwellings this is no doubt due.

5. SANITARY CONDITION OF DWELLINGS.

The condition of the Dwellings of the Working Classes is generally improving. This is due greatly to the muchly improved new streets which are so rapidly arising.

The constant inspection, too, which is carried out tends in the same direction. Your Inspector of Nuisances inspected 1154 Houses, &c., during the year. 371 House Drains were tested, and 239 Houses cleansed, repaired and limewashed.

The Drainage is not so satisfactory in many cases as it should be, for 435 House Drains required repairing and cleansing, and 230 Water Closets required repair. More attention is required in many cases in the laying of new Drains.

6. NUISANCES.

The new Horsfall Destructor was completed during the year, and is now in working order. It is a great boon to the town, and prevents the nuisance and other evils due to large accumulations of town refuse, to which I have alluded in my former Reports.

7. SEWERAGE.

The completion of the new Sewage Disposal Works is a subject for congratulation.

The freedom, moreover, of the town from Floods, due to a great extent to the Intercepting Sewer from Rowbarton, is very satisfactory. Notwithstanding the almost unparalleled rainfall of the year, the flooding of North Town and all its concomitant evils has been escaped.

8. WATER SUPPLY.

There has been an ample supply of Water from the hills during the year. The rainy season has, however, tended greatly to retard the work at the new Reservoir.

The constant rain, too, has tended to render the water cloudy at times, which in all other respects maintains its excellent quality.

9. DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

These are 43 in number, and the licensed Cowsheds 5. They are frequently inspected and kept in good condition.

10. BAKEHOUSES.

These number 31, and are satisfactory. There is no underground Bakehouse in the Borough.

11. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The 10 Slaughter Houses are frequently inspected, and kept according to your Bye-laws.

As I have so often mentioned before, a Public Abbatoir would greatly tend to public health, and also to the more merciful treatment of the animals slaughtered.

12. FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

The number of registered Workshops in the Borough, including Bakehouses and Work-places, is 145. These have been inspected, and cleansing, limewashing, &c., carried out where required.

A list of "out-workers" is kept and renewed twice yearly.

Meteorology of 1903.

1903 will be remarkable for its heavy rainfall and want of sunshine.

The Rainfall was 35.21 inches, and rain fell on 188 days

The average of the preceding twenty-five years is 29.60 inches; 1903 was thus 5.59 inches above the average.

The hours of sunshine were 1367.5, and the sunless days were 97.

Below is a Table of Rainfall and Sunshine, from the year 1899 to 1903:—

		Hours of Sunshine.		Sunless Days.		Rainfall.		Days Rainfall.
1899	...	1810.3	...	76	...	27.28	...	142
1900	...	1467.2	...	98	...	31.03	...	164
1901	...	1721.4	..	85	...	25.97	...	132
1902	...	1434.5	...	103	...	25.74	...	170
1903	...	1367.5	...	95	...	35.21	...	185

Tables.

With this Report are the Tables issued by the Local Government Board, which give the (1) Population, Births, Deaths, Zymotic Death-rate, and Infantile Death-rate for the past ten years.

(2) The cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

(3) The Causes of and Ages at Death during 1903.

Table No. 2 of the Local Government Board is not filled up, as the Registration Sub-District of Taunton includes the whole Borough, and the figures are all given in Table 1.

A Meteorological Table, and a Tabular Report by the Inspector of Nuisances also accompany the other Tables.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One year of age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Death at all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	18,308	558	30.5	82	157.0	347	19.1	93	—	—	—	—
1894	18,499	504	27.4	57	117.0	298	16.0	68	36	—	—	—
1895	18,590	576	30.0	70	121.0	288	15.4	70	36	—	—	—
1896	19,831	632	31.9	92	145.0	336	16.9	85	38	—	—	—
1897	19,972	558	27.9	90	150.0	359	15.9	89	41	1	—	—
1898	20,113	544	27.0	65	119.4	302	15.0	73	31	3	—	—
1899	20,254	562	28.7	110	189.0	388	19.1	89	30	2	—	—
1900	20,395	535	26.2	84	157.0	427	20.9	77	46	8	389	19.2
1901	21,078	502	23.8	68	135.4	335	15.8	80	41	7	301	14.2
1902	21,227	488	22.9	64	131.9	353	16.6	94	45	12	320	15.0
Average for years 1893-1902	19,827	545	27.6	78	142.2	343	17.0	81	38	5	336	16.0
1903	21,367	532	24.9	85	161.6	380	17.7	63	26	9	363	16.9

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water ...)	1,435	Total population at all ages ...	21,078	} At Census of 1901
		Number of inhabited houses ...	4,514	
		Average Number of persons per house	5	

TABLE III.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all ages.	At Ages--Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ...	11	..	3	6	..	2	..
Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	15	..	..	..	3	9	3
Scarlet fever ...	63	1	8	45	7	2	..
Typhus fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ...	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
Relapsing fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	91	1	11	51	12	13	3

TABLE IV

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year, 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	23	2	20	1	...	...	...	2
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	31	16	15	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	10	5	4	...	...	1	...	1
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	16	...	...	...	1	5	10	4
Other tubercular diseases	8	1	4	...	2	1	...	3
Cancer, malignant disease	21	...	...	...	...	11	10	3
Bronchitis	19	5	3	...	...	1	10	4
Pneumonia	10	6	2	...	...	2	...	1
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver }	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases	22	...	2	1	2	9	8	6
Accidents	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	5
Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes	177	33	13	8	9	48	66	29
All causes	363	82	64	10	16	86	105	63

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1903.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January ...	29.89	30.38	29.21	42.5°	56°	24°	51	16	3.64	21
February ..	30.04	30.61	29.36	46.5°	60°	25°	58	11	1.65	9
March ...	29.97	30.31	29.05	45.5°	62°	32°	73	8	3.52	21
April ...	29.87	30.40	29.23	46.4°	60°	26°	127	6	1.72	12
May ...	29.83	30.38	29.19	53.5°	74°	35°	181	4	2.69	12
June ...	30.00	30.41	29.52	58.2°	75°	38°	152.5	6	2.59	11
July ...	29.68	30.33	29.54	60.9°	83°	44°	168	3	1.78	12
August ...	29.85	30.25	29.30	59.1°	74°	41°	205.5	3	2.86	15
September ...	29.99	30.48	29.53	56.7°	71°	36°	139.5	3	3.53	14
October ...	29.59	30.07	28.92	52.6°	68°	35°	102.5	7	6.02	30
November ..	30.04	30.54	29.21	49.1°	56°	27°	75.5	11	1.49	15
December ..	29.80	30.14	28.97	40.2°	58°	25°	34	19	3.72	16

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

*Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed
in the Year 1903 (J. W. Northcombe, Certified Inspector).*

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer		...	...	55	
Number of Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c.		...	...	1154	
,, Re-Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.		...	...	70	
Results of Inspections.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c.			} 52	
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Lime-washed, &c.				} 239
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character			88	
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test			 371	
	Pollution of Stream			 1	
Drains (House).	Soil Pipes Repaired and Renewed			 14	
	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.			 435	
Water Closets.	Repaired			 230	
	Supplied with Water			 17	
	New Provided			 26	
Dust Bins.	Repaired, Covered, &c.			 4	
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed			 3	
	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c.			 1	
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water			 14	
	Wells Unfit for use and Condemned			 2	
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered			 2	
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to			 } 690	
	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse			 } 48	
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept			 221	
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses			 31
		Licensed Cowsheds			 5
		Dairies and Milkshops, &c.			 43
		Licensed Slaughter Houses			 10
Articles of Bedding, &c., Disinfected			 1699		

Taunton Rural Sanitary District.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1903.

Population of District (1902) ...	...	17,565
Population estimated to middle of 1903 ...	...	17,465
Birth Rate per 1000 of Population	...	20'0
Death Rate per 1000 of Population	...	15'4
Zymotic Death Rate ...	...	1.1
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	...	97'7

To the Taunton Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Health of the District during the year 1903.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the Health of the District has been good.

No epidemic has occurred.

Mortality during 1903.

The total Deaths in the District during the year were 267, or at the rate of 15·4 of the Population.

But of these 267 Deaths, 42 occurred in Public Institutions in the District, viz., 4 in the Isolation Hospital and 38 in Cotford Asylum. Of these 39 were non-residents, which, being deducted from 267, reduces the number of Deaths to 228.

But 14 residents of the Rural District died in the Borough of Taunton, viz., 6 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 8 in the Union Workhouse. These added to 228, bring the corrected number of Deaths to 242, or at the rate of 13·8 per 1000.

LOCALITIES.

The 267 Deaths occurred in the following localities :—

1.	Pitminster Registration District	...	50	deaths.
2.	North Curry	„ „	89	„
3.	Taunton(Without),,	„ „	23	„
4.	Bishops Lydeard	„ „	63	„
5.	Cotford Asylum	...	38	„
6.	Isolation Hospital	...	4	„
Total			...	267

SEXES.

Of the 267 Deaths, 128 were Males and 139 Females.

AGES AT DEATH.

The Ages at Death were as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	36
1 to 5 years	...	...	12
5 to 15 „	...	...	8
15 to 25 „	...	...	7
25 to 65 „	...	...	95
Over 65 „	...	...	109
Total			...
			267

Deaths in Public Institutions.

There were 42 Deaths in Public Institutions—38 in Cotford Lunatic Asylum and 4 in the Isolation Hospital.

These came from the following Districts :—

COTFORD ASYLUM.

Taunton Rural Sanitary District	...	1
Taunton Borough	...	7
Outside Districts	...	30

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Taunton Rural Sanitary District	...	2
Taunton Borough	...	2

Causes of Death.

1. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 19 Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during 1903, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	2
Diphtheria	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	2
Measles	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	5
Diarrhœa	...	1

This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of 1·0 per 1000.

2. DEATHS FROM OTHER DISEASES.

The chief other causes of Death were :—

Heart Disease	...	34
Pneumonia	...	18
Bronchitis	...	16
Pleurisy	...	1
Influenza	...	3
Phthisis	...	19
Cancer	...	13
Enteritis	...	2
Premature Births	...	6
Accident	...	6

Births during 1903.

The Births during the year numbered 368, or at the rate of 20·0 per 1000 of the Population.

The numbers registered in each District were as follows:

1. Pitminster	...	...	64
2. North Curry	...	...	160
3. Taunton (Without)	...	...	40
4. Bishops Lydeard	...	...	104
Total	...	...	368

The Infantile Death-rate, or Death-rate of Infants under one year of age, to 1000 Births, is 97·7.

Sickness during 1903.

1. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I received 40 Notifications of Infectious Disease during the year. They were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	17 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	11 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	8 „
Erysipelas	...	...	4 „

40

These cases occurred in the following Parishes :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total.
Ash Priors	...	1	...	...	1
Bishops Hull	2	1	..	1	4
Bishops Lydeard	2	...	...	1	3
Cheddon	1	...	...	..	1
Churchstanton	...	...	1	...	1
Cothelstone	4	1	...	...	5
Creech ...	2	...	...	...	2
Cotford ...	...	...	...	1	1
Halse ..	...	2	...	...	2
Kingston	1	...	...	...	1
Monkton	3	...	...	...	3
North Curry	...	...	1	...	1
Otterford	...	...	...	1	1
Stoke St. Gregory	...	...	6	...	6
Taunton St. James	...	2	...	...	2
Thorn ...	...	3	...	..	3
Thurlbear	1	...	...	...	1
Trull ...	1	1	...	..	2
	17	11	8	4	40

2. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Nineteen of the 87 cases admitted into the Isolation Hospital came from the following Parishes :—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
Cheddon ...	..	1	...	1
Combe Florey	...	1	...	1
Cothelstone	...	4	1	5
Bishops Lydeard	...	2	...	2
Monkton ...	...	2	...	2
Taunton St. James	.	1	1	2
Thorn Falcon	...	...	3	3
Thurlbear...	...	1	...	1
Trull ...	...	2	...	2
		—	—	—
		14	5	19

Further particulars will be found in my Annual Report of the Isolation Hospital, which accompanies this Report.

3. SICKNESS.

The year, taking it as a whole, was fairly free from sickness.

Scarlet Fever occurred as isolated cases in various parts of the District and at different times of the year. The removal of the first case to the Isolation Hospital and immediate disinfection of the premises prevented its spread.

The same may be said of *Diphtheria*, the cases of which were very few. In one instance only did it attack more than one member of a family, and this was in an overcrowded cottage where all the surroundings were most insanitary.

The cases of *Enteric Fever* were nearly all in the Parish of Stoke St. Gregory, and in every case the water supply was impure, and in most the drainage and closet arrangements bad.

In a few Parishes *Measles* appeared, but it did not occur to any extent.

Water Supply.

The most important step taken during the year was the carrying out of the Hatch Beauchamp Water Supply. I mentioned the subject in my last year's Report. The work is now nearing completion, and the Parish will soon have a plentiful supply of pure water, carried to the doors of the inhabitants.

The Tank of the Bishops Lydeard Water Supply has been raised. This has enabled the water to be raised to a greater height at the more remote parts of the village.

I have analysed a great number of samples of well water during the year, and in very many cases found them polluted. In all cases steps were taken to provide a pure supply.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The outfall works at North Curry, Norton, Hatch Beauchamp, Bishops Hull and Bishops Lydeard have all been inspected during the year, and steps taken to ensure their being properly worked.

The heavy rainfall of the year has tended to keep sewers and drains well flushed, and nuisances arising from choked drains have not been so prevalent as in past years.

Nuisances.

In March two new Inspectors of Nuisances were appointed, and they have made what was sadly needed, a thorough house-to-house inspection of the whole District. The result has been the discovery of a great number of nuisances and their subsequent abatement. Unfortunately they are more or less ever recurring, and a vigilant, constant supervision is necessary to prevent their recurrence.

Condition of Dwelling Houses.

Some nuisances and very many dirty cottages have been reported by your Inspectors. Cases of overcrowding have also been dealt with. There is a general improvement, however, in the condition of houses, more frequent limewashing, and more attention to sanitary needs.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been inspected, and where necessary, steps taken to ensure their being kept in accordance with your Bye-laws.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

These have all been inspected. The Dairies are as a rule kept clean and well ventilated. The condition of Cowsheds is better, but there is still room for improvement.

Factories and Workshops.

These have been found as a rule in a satisfactory condition. They are not numerous, and are very sparsely spread about the District. They will continue to be periodically inspected.

Tables.

Accompanying this Report are the Tables required by the Local Government Board, giving—

- I. The Population, Births, Deaths, and Zymotic Death-rate, and Infant Mortality for the past ten years.
- II. The cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.
- III. The causes of and ages at Death during the year 1903.

In conclusion I beg to thank you, Gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy, and the ready help you have always given me in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Death at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	18,692	531	28.5	61	114.8	311	16.0	1	—	—	—	—
1894	18,631	520	28.7	55	105.7	276	15.2	6	3	—	—	—
1895	18,509	501	27.0	43	85.8	264	14.2	7	6	—	—	—
1896	18,448	505	27.0	55	108.9	290	15.7	5	5	22	—	—
1897	17,287	503	29.0	40	79.5	256	14.2	4	3	25	—	—
1898	17,226	456	26.4	53	116.5	293	17.0	2	1	29	—	—
1899	17,165	439	25.5	43	97.9	304	17.7	27	23	20	—	—
1900	17,104	464	27.1	47	101.2	300	17.5	42	21	22	—	—
1901	17,043	382	21.8	51	128.2	286	16.9	38	33	30	283	16.6
1902	17,565	384	21.8	31	80.7	243	13.8	39	36	27	234	13.5
Average for years 1893-1902	17,767	468	26.2	47	101.9	282	15.8	17	14	25	258	15.0
1903	17,465	368	20.0	36	97.7	267	15.4	42	39	14	228	13.0

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	68,094	Total population at all ages ...	17,566	At Census of 1901
		Number of inhabited houses ...	3,938	
		Average number of persons per house...	4.46	

TABLE III. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Pitminster.	North Curry.	Taunton Without.	Bishops Lydeard.	1	2	3	4
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.								
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	6	14	9	8	..	5	14	7	11	2	6	2	9

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).				DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	¹ Pitminster.	² North Curry.	³ Taunton (Without).	⁴ Bishops Lydeard.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Measles	6	3	2	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	5	3	2	..	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteritis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Septic diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	...
Phthisis	14	...	1	...	2	9	2	4	4	4	2	5
Other Tubercular diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	13	...	...	...	...	8	5	3	3	2	5	...
Bronchitis	14	...	1	...	...	4	9	2	6	1	5	2
Pneumonia	14	5	3	1	1	2	2	1	6	2	5	4
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Heart diseases	33	...	..	1	...	10	22	11	17	1	4	1
Accidents	6	1	...	..	2	2	1	1	3	...	1	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
All other causes	103	14	2	2	...	16	66	22	32	9	41	24
All causes	228	36	12	6	9	56	109	50	89	23	66	42

The Annual Report

For the Year 1903

OF THE

TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

By HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer to the Institution.

Committee—

MR. R. BRUFORD (Chairman).

MR. ALDERMAN GOODLAND MR. MEDWAY

MR. HUTCHINS MR. SIBLEY

MR. ALDERMAN LOCK MR. SUMMERHAYES

MR. ALDERMAN WRENN.

Medical Officer—DR. ALFORD.

Natron—MISS HEATH.

Annual Report for the Year 1903

OF THE

TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL,

BY

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D. LOND.,

Medical Officer.

TAUNTON, JANUARY, 1904.

To the Isolation Hospital Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Taunton Isolation Hospital for the year 1903.

1. Number of Cases Admitted in 1903.

The total number of cases admitted was 87, a little over the average of the preceding twenty-three years that the Hospital has been open.

Strangely enough, the largest number of Patients occurred in cycles, at intervals of eight years. Thus, in the years 1884-85, 127 and 205 cases were admitted. In the next octave, 1893-94, 182 and 176 cases; and in the next, 1902, 144 Patients were admitted.

The following Table gives the yearly admission from 1879 to 1902 inclusive :—

From July, 1879, to September, 1880	...	42
„ Oct., 1880	„ „ 1881	... 19
„ „ 1881	„ „ 1882	... 76
„ „ 1882	„ „ 1883	... 64
„ „ 1883	„ „ 1884	... 127
„ „ 1884	„ „ 1885	... 205
„ „ 1885	„ „ 1886	... 60
„ „ 1886	„ „ 1887	... 93
„ „ 1887	„ „ 1888	... 66
„ „ 1888	„ „ 1889	... 25
„ „ 1889	„ „ 1890	... 79
„ „ 1890	„ „ 1891	... 70
„ „ 1891 to December, 1892	...	44
„ Jan., 1893	„ „ 1893	... 182
„ „ 1894	„ „ 1894	... 176
„ „ 1895	„ „ 1895	... 69
„ „ 1896	„ „ 1896	... 65
„ „ 1897	„ „ 1897	... 78
„ „ 1898	„ „ 1898	... 41
„ „ 1899	„ „ 1899	... 54
„ „ 1900	„ „ 1900	... 66
„ „ 1901	„ „ 1901	... 40
„ „ 1902	„ „ 1902	... 144
„ „ 1903	„ „ 1903	... 87
Total	...	... 1972

2. Details of Cases Admitted.

A. Diseases.

The Diseases admitted were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	... 75 cases
Diphtheria	...	... 12 „
		87

B. *Localities.*

Of the 87 cases, 68 were from the Borough, and 19 from the Rural District.

1. URBAN CASES.

Of the 68 Urban cases, 56 were from the Borough, one from the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, 8 from the Barracks, and 3 from St. Saviour's Home.

They were as follows :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
Borough ...	.. 53	3	56
T. and S. Hospital	... 1	...	1
Barracks	.. 4	4	8
St. Saviour's Home	... 3	...	3
	61	7	68

2. RURAL CASES.

These cases, 19 in all, came from the following Parishes:

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
Cheddon ...	... 1	...	1
Combe Florey	... 1	...	1
Cothelstone ...	... 4	1	5
Bishops Lydeard	... 2	...	2
Monkton ...	... 2	...	2
Taunton St. James	... 1	1	2
Thorn Falcon		3	3
Thurlbear ...	.. 1	...	1
Trull ...	... 2	...	2
	14	5	19

The relative number of Urban and Rural cases admitted since the opening of the Hospital are as follows:—

	Urban Cases.		Rural Cases.		Total.
1879-80	...	19	...	23	42
1880-81	...	11	...	8	19
1881-82	...	63	...	13	76
1882-83	...	29	...	35	64
1883-84	...	70	...	57	127
1884-85	...	166	...	39	205
1885-86	...	46	...	14	60
1886-87	...	47	...	46	93
1887-88	...	27	...	39	66
1888-89	...	16	...	9	25
1889-90	...	58	...	21	79
1890-91	...	29	...	41	70
1891-92	...	26	...	18	44
1892-93	...	120	...	62	182
1893-94	...	132	...	44	176
1894-95	...	64	...	5	69
1895-96	...	46	...	19	65
1896-97	...	45	...	33	78
1897-98	...	22	...	19	41
1899	...	36	...	18	54
1900	...	27	...	39	66
1901	...	28	...	12	40
1902	...	121	...	23	144
1903	...	68	...	19	87
		1316		656	1972

D. *Ages of Patients.*

The greatest number of Patients are invariably between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and this year was no exception to the rule, as the following Table shows :—

Patients admitted—

Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	Over 65 years.
0	17	55	9	6	0

E. Monthly Admissions.

Cases were admitted during every month in the year.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
January ...	... 7		7
February ...	... 5		5
March ...	... 11		11
April ...	... 3	1	4
May ...	... 11	1	12
June ...	... 11	2	13
July ...	... 2	2	4
August ...	... 4		4
September ...	... 3	1	4
October ...	... 7	1	8
November ...	... 6	3	9
December ..	5	1	6
	—	—	—
	75	12	87

F. Progress of Cases.

Four of the 87 cases ended fatally—2 of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 1 died from Acute Nephritis, and the other was in an unconscious state when admitted.

Of the Diphtheria cases, one was of a very malignant type, and death was caused by Paralysis, and the other was dying on admission, being brought from the country in an open cart.

3. General Working of the Hospital.

I cannot speak too highly of the Nursing and General Management of the Hospital during the year.

Although many bad cases were admitted, some of an extreme type, no extraneous help was required—a fact that reflects great credit upon Miss Heath and her small band of Nurses.

The interior of all the Wards and Administrative Block have been painted, &c., during the year.

The satisfactory condition of the Hospital and its comfort and cleanliness, has elicited high praise from visitors to the Hospital, especially from Medical Experts, who have been greatly pleased with it, and have spoken in the highest terms of the condition in which they found it.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I wish particularly to express to you, as Members of the Committee, my warm thanks for all your kindness and courtesy. The work of this Hospital, always arduous and often thankless, has been materially lightened by the interest you have taken in the Institution, and the ready help you have given to me and the other members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer to the Hospital.





