

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Bideford Borough.

Contributors

Bideford (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

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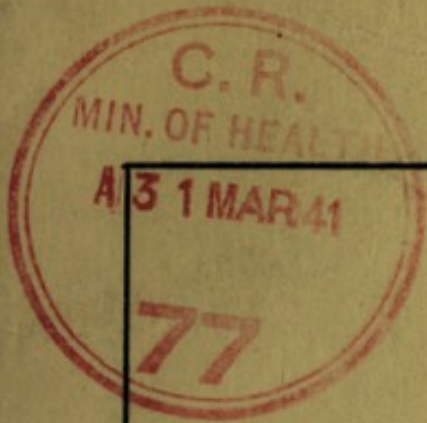
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BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD

VITAL STATISTICS,
SANITARY WORKS, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR

1939

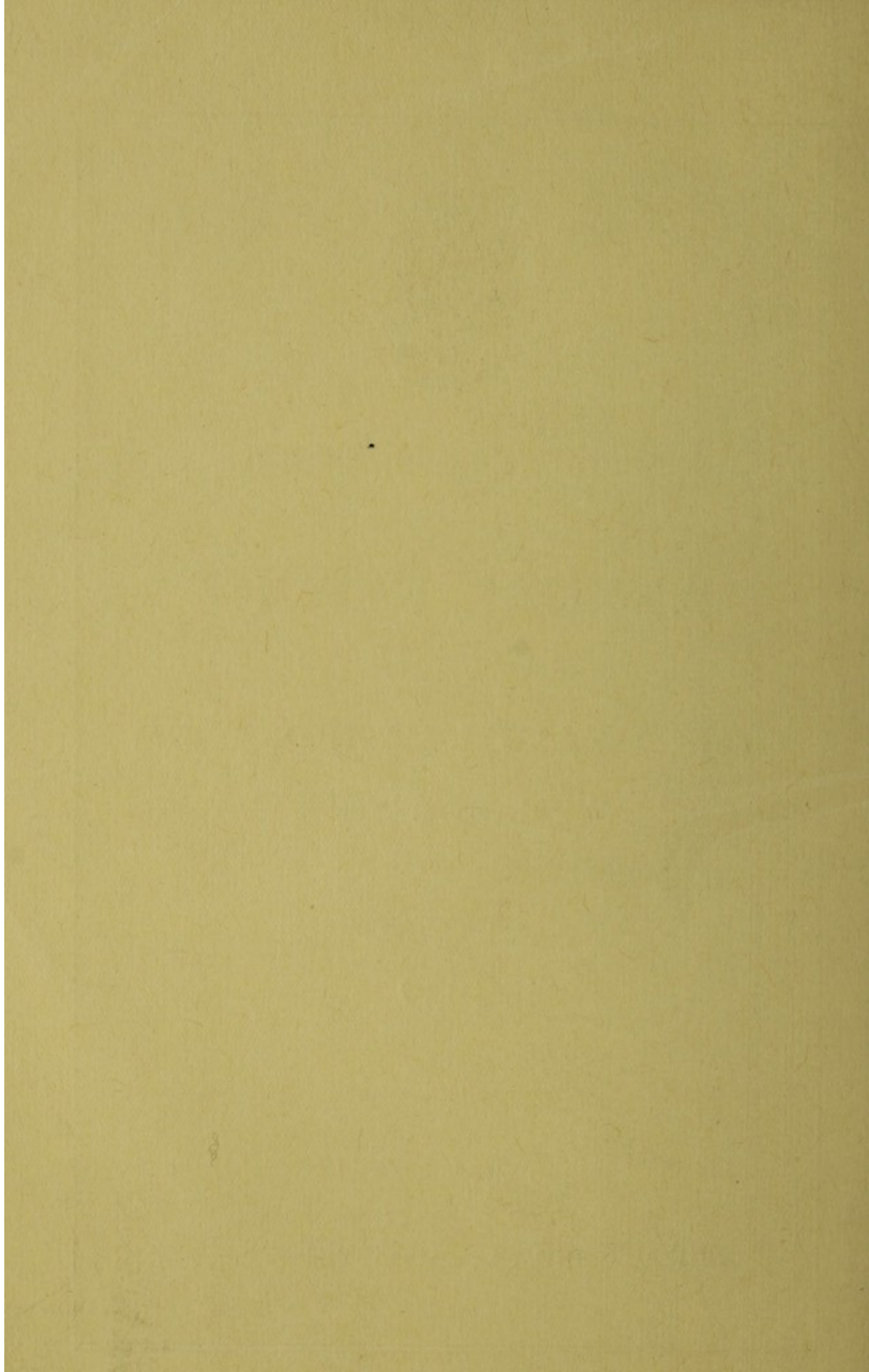
BY

ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health

AND

JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

Holloway & Son, Printers, Weston-super-Mare





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SANITARY WORKS, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1939

ELIAS PEARSON, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health

JOHN AGRILLAND, F.R.S.S., Sanitary Inspector

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health,
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child
Welfare Centre—
ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Foods—
JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Maternity Nurse—
NURSE M. WILLIAMS,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child
Hygiene Centre—
ALLS TARRANT ROAD.

Sanitary Inspector—
Inspector of Meat and Food—
JOHN ACHLAND, C.R.S., M.B.A.

Sanitary Inspector—
THOMAS M. WILLIAMS
GENTLETON ROAD.

To the Bideford Town Council

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

I am pleased to state the district continues to hold its own as a Health Resort as will be seen from the General Statistics given in the several Tables.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELLIS PEARSON.

October, 1939.

To the Biddeford Town Council

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen:

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

I am pleased to state the district continues to hold its own as a health resort as will be seen from the financial statement given in the several tables.

I am, Sir, Yours and Country's,

S. Young, Auditor.

ELIAS LEASON.

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1939,

General Statistics.

Area (Statute Acres)	3,920
Population (1931) Census	8,778
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, 1939	9,384
Number of inhabited houses	2,781
Rateable Value	£64,164
Sum represented by a penny rate (approx.)	£249

**Social Conditions, including the Chief Industries carried on
in the Area, and the extent of Unemployment.**

The chief industries are Glove Factory, Workshops for the Tailoring of Clothes, Carriage Building, Motor Works, and to some extent Agriculture and Shipping Trade. During the "season" women also find employment in Boarding Houses and Restaurants.

Boat building on the banks of the Torridge gives employment to about 25 men. Shipping has increased and will provide labour for a greater number of men.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{ Legitimate—Males 52 Females 52 }	108
	{ Illegitimate—Males — Females 4 }	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		11.5
Still Births	{ Legitimate—Males 2 Females— 2 }	4
	{ Illegitimate—Males — Females — }	
Still Births, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		35.7
Deaths—Males 69, Females 89.		158
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		16.83
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	{ Puerperal Sepsis — Other Puerperal Causes — }	—
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births (6 deaths)		55.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		55.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		19
„ „ Measles (all ages)		—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		1

Physical Features.

The Town of Bideford, situated on the Banks of the tidal River Torridge, slopes upwards to a considerable height, the higher part of the Town being over 240 feet above Ordnance Datum Line. The River divides the Town into Western and Eastern portions. The principal business premises and four-fifths of the dwellings are on the Western Bank. Bideford is largely residential and has an increased summer population, and on account of its equable climate is becoming increasingly popular as a winter resort. The sub-soil on which the Town is built consists mostly of shale.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

The Sanitary matters of the district are dealt with by a Special Sanitary Committee of the Whole Council, which meets monthly, the officials being the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.

Analysis of clinical matter and bacteriological examination of Milk is carried out by the Devon County Council.

Analysis of water is done by the Public Analyst appointed by the Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES—A Motor Ambulance is available for removal of patients to the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES—There is a St. John Ambulance Brigade equipped with a Motor Ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL—A Queen's Nurse is engaged by the Bideford Nursing Association to which the Council contribute.

Clinic.

A School Clinic is held at the Geneva School and is visited by the School Medical Officer.

Bideford Hospital.

Thanks to the very generous response of everybody, rich and poor alike, Bideford now possesses probably the most up-to-date modern Hospital in the County, and for its size the most efficiently equipped. The Hospital situated on an excellent site with plenty of room, is centrally heated and provided with electric light. It has a male ward of 12 beds, and three separate wards, for bad, noisy or accident cases, those that are unsuitable for the general ward, or detrimental to the cases there : the women's ward is similar. The children have a separate ward of 10 beds. There is an Out-patient department, consisting of Waiting Room, Doctor's Consulting Room, Casualty Room for dressing of minor or septic surgical cases and a Dispensary. There is also a very up-to-date Operating Theatre, X-ray Room, Pathological Room, and facilities for Eye Treatment and Refractive work. There is ample accommodation for Nurses and Staff.

The Hospital, with its accommodation of 40 beds, is more than really filled, and is only able to derive from the patients for whom it caters quite a small fee towards this maintenance. The expenses therefore are very heavy, and it is hoped that everybody will help in supporting its Annual Appeal for running expenses. The treatment of all patients in the Hospital is given free by the Medical and Dental Staff.

General Provision of Health Service.

The Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital is now available for cases of Infectious Disease. This New Isolation Hospital has been erected on the site of the old Hospital and consists of three blocks of buildings for isolation purposes, *viz.*, one block with twelve beds for Scarlet Fever, another block with twelve beds for Diphtheria, and an Observation Block with six beds. There is also an Administration Block, Garage, Modern Disinfecting Plant, and Caretaker's Lodge. The Hospital is thoroughly equipped throughout, and serves for the isolation of cases of infectious disease in the North Devon Area.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Town is derived from two sources, *viz.*, Gammaton and Jennetts. The water from both of these supplies is of good quality. The Reservoir

at Gammaton, which has a capacity of 32,837,000 gallons, supplies the low levels of the town, while the higher portion is supplied from Jennetts. This Jennetts supply is a new scheme which was completed in 1923 and has been a great boon to the Town. The capacity of the reservoir at Jennetts is 26,957,000 gallons. The water after being filtered, is pumped to a high level reservoir which holds 150,000 gallons, and from which the water gravitates into the Town.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage system of the Town is in fair condition. Extensions have been made during the past years to take drainage from new building sites, such as Sentry Corner and Station Hill and Barnstaple Old Road. The drainage of several new houses have been connected to the sewer and the system appears to be working satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is in use in the Town, and now with an abundant water supply steps are being taken to have all closets fitted with flushing cisterns and do away with the old fashioned method of carrying water for hand flushing. This will be a great improvement as with the water laid on the closet will be flushed after each time of using, which was not the case when the closet had to be hand flushed.

A few closets of the bucket system remain in the outlying districts but they are fast disappearing and drainage systems which discharge into septic tanks are being installed with satisfactory results.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No such Baths in the Borough.

Legislation in Force.

ADOPTIVE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	.....
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :—	
Parts 2 (except Sec. 29), Parts 3, 4 and 6	
Parts 7 (except Secs. 82, 84, 85 and 86).	
Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94)	April, 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 5	..... 26th Jan., 1926
Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 applied to Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams and Lambs (as regards old area)	..... 1st Feb., 1934
Ditto (as regards Borough as extended)	..... 1st July, 1935

Byelaws.

With respect to the Markets	..... 16th Feb., 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle	..... 5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot Pas- sengers	..... 8th August, 1892
For the Navigation of the River Torridge with- in the Harbour of Bideford	..... 4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles	..... 11th Nov., 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings ; shooting galleries, roundabouts, etc., street music & bad language	..... 25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places	..... 31st Jan., 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure Ground	..... 18th Jan., 1913
With respect to Hackney Carriages	..... 4th August, 1922
With respect to New Streets and Buildings	..... 10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery	..... 18th Aug., 1930
Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour	..... 17th Aug., 1931
With respect to the Public Slaughterhouse	..... 15th March, 1932
Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises	..... 20th Feb., 1933

With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs	17th Aug., 1935
For the Regulation of Advertisements	3rd Dec., 1936
With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences	1st April, 1937

With respect to :—

- (1) Nuisances contrary to Public Decency
 - (2) Deposit of litter to the detriment of
Public Amenities
 - (3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones,
etc.
 - (4) Disorderly Conduct
- 1st Feb., 1937

Regulations.

With respect to the supply of water 1893

Housing.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The standard of houses in the Town vary a good deal in consequence of some parts of the Town being old, and other parts modern. In the main streets the houses are of good type, but leading off these streets are several small streets, courts and drangs, containing rows of old unsound houses. The chief defects in these houses are :—

- (1) Lack of free ventilation : (2) Insufficient height in rooms :
(3) Old and dilapidated condition of structure : and (4)
Limited accommodation.

These houses cannot at the present time be closed, on account of there being an insufficiency of houses of the type, accommodation and rental suitable for this class of tenant.

The Council's aim in the matter of these houses is not to reconstruct or rebuild, but to demolish and leave open spaces.

There have been no important changes in the population, in fact the total has varied very little during the past five years.

There does not appear to be any special difficulties in the way of providing sites for new houses.

OVERCROWDING.

- (a) When Council houses are let preference is given to persons who are at present living in overcrowded conditions.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (a) No extraordinary difficulties have been experienced in carrying out the requirements of the Housing Acts. Where houses can reasonably be made fit for human habitation notices have been served, and in the majority of cases have been complied with.
- (b) Most houses have an adequate internal supply of water from the Town water mains.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Representations have been made to the Town Council of the defects found in many of the houses and these areas will gradually be demolished as new houses are erected.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Byelaws have been sufficient to deal with any cases that have arisen.

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DIS

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Total
	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over	
Diphtherie	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	2	—	—	1	—	11
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	10
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	4	8
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Measles	—	1	2	2	5	7	23	3	7	—	—	—	50
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Para Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2

TABLE II.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939 AND PREVIOUS 5 YEARS

Years	Estimated population for Year	Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Nett				Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate per 1000 population	Number	Rate per 1000 births	Number	Rate per 1000 population
1934	8941	111	12.41	136	15.21	4	51.28	136	15.21
1935	9561	113	11.81	119	12.44	8	70.79	119	12.44
1936	9422	105	11.14	128	13.59	4	38.09	128	13.59
1937	9361	121	12.92	136	14.51	7	57.85	136	14.51
1938	9294	117	12.58	101	11.94	3	64.00	101	11.94
1939	9384	108	11.5	158	16.83	6	55.4	158	16.83

TABLE IV.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	CASES.		Vision not Impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	1	3	5	4	4	4	1	—	—	—	—

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Congenital Debility & Premature Birth	3				3					3
Whooping Cough						1	1	1		3
Pneumonia						1				1
Diarrhoea						1				1
TOTALS	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	6

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Fifteenth Annual Report, which deals with the work carried out during the year ended December 31st, 1939.

Sanitation.

The tabulated summary shows the work that has been carried out under the Public Health Acts, and the Housing Acts, 1925, 1930, 1935, and 1936.

Number of Houses inspected	124
Number of Notices served under Public Health Acts	18
Number of Preliminary Notices under Housing Acts	29
Number of Notices served under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930, of time and place at which question of making a Demolition Order would be considered	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 19 Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Houses demolished	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made of Part of a Building under Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Notices served under Factory and Workshops Act	9

The chief defects that have been dealt with are :—

Houses provided with an adequate supply of water	1
Provision of food store and means of ventilation provided in existing stores	3
Windows made to open	5
Roofs repaired and made watertight	17
Eaves, gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	14
Damp walls treated	1
Floors of living and sleeping rooms repaired	12
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	5
External plastering repaired	4
Stairs repaired and put in safe condition	1
Chimney stacks repaired	1
Kitchen stove repaired	2
Scullery sinks fitted	7
New W.C.s. built to provide separate accommodation for each house	1
New W.Cs. built to replace small and dilapidated struc- tures	4
New W.C. pans fitted	5
Flushing cisterns provided in W.C.s.	3
Defective paving in yards repaired	4
New drains laid to old houses	4
Drains cleared	26
Animals kept in such a state as to be a nuisance	2
Accumulations of manure removed	1
Overcrowding abated	2

I have met the Owners or Agents who have been responsible for the execution of any works in connection with repairs to houses, and they have complied with the requirements of any notice served by the Council without any unnecessary delay or undue trouble.

Housing.

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

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	124
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	209

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	35
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	63
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
	(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year (without Service of Formal Notices) :—		
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	21
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—		
	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
	(a)	By Owners	8
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a)	By Owners	14
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
	(c)	Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, Act, 1930 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.	
(a)	(i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of the year	2
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	17
	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

Overcrowding.

Two cases still exist but the difficulty arises of providing a house at an economic rental with sufficient accommodation to suit a large family.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

No houses in the Borough have been reconditioned under this Act during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- (1) Houses found to be infested :—
 - (a) Council Houses, Nil. Other houses, 2.
These houses were disinfested.
- (2) All wall paper was stripped and the premises thoroughly sprayed with insecticide.
The work of disinfestation was carried out by the Council's employees.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year :—

Diphtheria	11
Scarlet Fever	10
Pneumonia	8
Erysipelas	3
Measles	50
Tuberculosis	12
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	2
Para Typhoid	2

Number of Houses disinfected for :—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	34
Tuberculosis	6
Other Infectious Diseases	4
Verminous conditions	1

Twenty-seven cases were removed for treatment to the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital.

A "Manlove" Steam Disinfector is available at the above Isolation Hospital.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	30	1	.....
Factories without mechanical power	54	4	.....
Other Premises under the Act	12	2	.....
TOTAL	96	7	.....

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Section 1)	3	3	.....	Nil
Overcrowding (Section 2)	1	1	.....	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (Section 3)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (Section 4)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Sanitary — Insufficient Conveniences — Section 7))—	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
unsuitable or defective	1	1	.....	Nil
Not separate for sexes	1	1	.....	Nil
Other Offences	1	1	.....	Nil
TOTAL	7	7	.....

Rainfall.

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall as recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts.

				Gammaton.	Jennetts.
January	.....	.....	.....	6.12	6.12
February	.....	.....	.....	1.66	2.10
March	.....	.....	.....	1.54	1.65
April	.....	.....	.....	2.03	1.87
May	.....	.....	.....	1.02	1.03
June	.....	.....	.....	1.40	1.38
July	.....	.....	.....	4.90	4.76
August	.....	.....	.....	3.65	3.11
September	.....	.....	.....	.59	.74
October	.....	.....	.....	3.90	4.09
November	.....	.....	.....	6.84	9.25
December	.....	.....	.....	2.08	2.58
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 35.73	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 38.78
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <i>Inches.</i>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <i>Inches.</i>

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Town is on the Constant System and is obtained from two sources, *viz.*, Gammaton and Jennetts. Samples of the water are taken periodically and submitted to the Devon County Council Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for chemical and bacteriological examination. From Gammaton Supply three samples were taken for examination.

The result of the latest sample for the year taken at Gammaton on December 19th, was as follows :—

REPORT.

CHEMICAL. (Results expressed as parts per 100,000). Hardness, as calcium carbonate.

Temporary	3.4.	Permanent	6.0.	Total	.....	9.4
Chlorides, as chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.1
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0008
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.006
Nitrates, as nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.04
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37 degrees C.)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.08
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Absent

REMARKS—Sample clear and free from sediment

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37° C.) 3 per c.c.

Total Organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20° C.) 10 per c.c.

B. Coli present in 50, absent in 10 ml.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c. 2

CONCLUSIONS.

The sample is of a high degree of bacteriological and organic purity.

From Jennetts Supply six samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination as follows :—

Raw Water	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Spring below Reservoir	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
After chlorination and filtration	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
From distributing service	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

All the samples taken at the Reservoir after filtration and chlorination were satisfactory. Three of the samples taken from the distributing mains were satisfactory and one was doubtful.

The result of the latest sample for the year taken at the Reservoir on November 30th, was as follows :—

REPORT.

CHEMICAL. (Results expressed as parts per 100,000). Hardness as calcium carbonate.

Temporary, 5.0. Permanent, 7.2. Total	12.2
Chlorides, as chlorine	3.6
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	0.0016
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as nitrogen	0.0142
Nitrates, as nitrogen	0.04
Nitrites, as nitrogen	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37° C.)	0.149
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Absent

REMARKS—Sample is of a brownish tinge.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37° C.)	2 per c.c.
Total organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20° C.)	35 per c.c.
B. Coli present in	absent in
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.	Nil

CONCLUSIONS.

The sample is of a satisfactory degree of purity.

The Watershed Areas for both Reservoirs are frequently inspected to ascertain that no contaminated material is polluting the water.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The refuse of the Town is now collected by a mechanical freighter and a Bedford lorry, and this collection is carried out during the forenoon. In the main streets it is collected daily and in the remaining parts of the town every other day.

The refuse is tipped at a dump at Northam Ridge and a man is constantly employed on the dump to supervise tipping.

Notices have been served requiring owners to replace defective and insanitary receptacles with galvanised iron bins. Many new bins have been provided, but frequently receptacles are used which do not comply with the requirements.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Rat Week was held during the first week in November. The Refuse Dump at Northam Ridge was treated with Sulphuretted Hydrogen and poisoned bait was laid. A considerable number of rats was destroyed and these methods of destruction are carried out at various times during the year, but with such a large dump and with the surrounding hedges and banks offering good harbouring ground and the almost impossible task of stopping all the holes, as there is so much undergrowth, it is a difficult matter to exterminate these pests, but the methods employed are killing a lot of rats and keeping their numbers down.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses.

There is one Public Abattoir and one Private Slaughterhouse in the Borough. The Public Abattoir is sufficiently large to allow for the killing of all animals that are required for the Borough, but improvement could be made in dealing with dressed carcasses. A Cooling Shed is necessary where dressed carcasses could be hung and allowed to set. This would necessitate an overhead rail so that carcasses could be conveyed from the place of slaughter to the Cooling Shed.

In September notice was received that the Public Slaughterhouse would be taken over by the Government

for the purpose of Food Control. Alterations and extensions to the abattoir were carried out to meet an increase in killing and a cooling shed was provided with necessary overhead running track to convey the dressed carcasses from the abattoir to the cooling shed. Additional accommodation was provided for the slaughtering and dressing of pigs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

In compliance with Section One of the above Act, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouses in the Borough are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument.

Under Section 3 of the above Act, twenty-two licences are in force in the Borough for slaughtermen to slaughter animals.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

The following Table is as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	458	51	53	2052	1133
Number inspected	458	51	53	1956	1080
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	4	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	16	2	4	49	17
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.49	3.92	7.54	2.71	1.75
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	4	—	—	26
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.58	7.84	—	—	2.77

Butchers' Shops.

The twelve butchers' shops in the town are kept in good condition and all comply with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in that they are provided with moveable glass fronts. The butchers' shops in the Butchers' Row are under a covered Market Place.

Bakehouses.

The six bakehouses in the Borough are kept in good condition but sufficient care is not taken to protect the bread from contamination after leaving the bakery. Baskets of bread are taken through the streets without any proper covering to keep off dust and other impurities. Each loaf should be separately wrapped before delivery to the consumer, or baskets of bread adequately covered.

Milk Supply.

There are forty-five premises registered within the Borough for the purposes of carrying on the Milk and Dairy Trade. Some of these Dairymen have a licence for wholesale and also for retail trade. All Dairies and Cowsheds in the Borough are periodically inspected and the majority are kept in good condition.

There are twenty-nine dairymen registered from the neighbouring Districts for the purpose of wholesale or retail trade in milk in Bideford.

The registered dairymen trading in the Borough are from the following areas :—

Bideford Borough	.....	.....	.....	45
Bideford Rural	.....	.....	.....	13
Northam Urban	.....	.....	.....	6
Barnstaple Rural	.....	.....	.....	5
Torrington Rural	.....	.....	.....	5
				—
				74
				—

The Registrations are classified as follows :—

Name of Local Authority	Wholesale	Producer Retailers	Retail only
Bideford Borough	13	14	18
Bideford Rural	2	11	.....
Northam Urban	1	5	.....
Barnstaple Rural,	2	3	.....
Torrington Rural	2	3	.....
	20	36	18

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following Table sets out the number of dairymen who are producing Graded Milk under the above Order and are trading in the Borough

Local Authority	Grade of Milk	
	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited.
Bideford Borough	3	4
Bideford Rural	1	3
Barnstaple Rural	1	.....

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Sixty-four samples of milk have been submitted to the Devon County Council Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for bacteriological examination. The milk is classified in Three Grades—(1) Tuberculin Tested : (2) Accredited : and (3) Ordinary.

Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk are taken from each licensed farm once a month, samples of Accredited Milk from Accredited Producers once in three months and samples of Ordinary milk are taken occasionally.

The samples of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk are taken on production at the various farms, samples of Ordinary Milk are taken from bulk delivery by wholesale dairymen or from producers retailers in course of delivery.

The Grade of Milk and results of the examination are shown on the following Table :—

Local Authority Name of	Number of Samples	Tuberculin Tested		Accredited.		Ordinary.	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Bideford Borough	46	17	5	8	4	7	5
Bideford Rural	9	—	—	3	—	1	5
Northam Urban	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Torrington Rural	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Barnstaple Rural	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	64	17	5	11	4	8	19

From the above Table it will be observed that particular attention has been given to the sampling of Graded Milks. The Designated Milks have to comply with a bacteriological standard as prescribed by The Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1936, but for ordinary milk no legal bacteriological standard for cleanliness has been laid down.

Biological Examination of Milk for Tuberculosis.

One sample of milk was examined by the County Bacteriologist for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation, and the result was negative.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ACKLAND.



