#### [Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Bude-Stratton U.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

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## BUDE-STRATTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

1950

on the

HEALTH OF BUDE-STRATTON

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

L. RICH M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

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Medical Officer of Health for the Bude-Stratton Urban District.

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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of Bude/Stratton.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1950.

Housing still remains one of the most urgent problems which the Council has to face. However, during the year 1950 suitable progress was achieved in the completion of new houses, and the Council is to be congratulated on the strenuous efforts that have been made by all concerned.

With the exception of an outbreak of Poliomyelitis, the general health of the population remains satisfactory.

Once again I wish to place on record the complete co-operation I have always received from the Clerk and Council Staff and from your Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH.

Medical Officer of Health

20th September, 1951.

Health Area Office, Castle Green, LAUNCESTON.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Bude/Stratton Urban District Council for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

# SECTION A.

Social Conditions of Area & Statistics:

Summary of Vital Statistics	1950	1949
Area of acres	4,294	4,294
Population	5,286	5,207
No. of separate dwellings occupied in 1950.	1,400	1,378
Rateable Value in 1950	£50,133	€49,688
Product of 1d rate	€200	€197
Live Births Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate 31 (37)	21 (26)	52 (62)
Illegitimate 2 (-)	2 (1)	4 (1)
Birth Rate per 1000 of population	10.59	(12.10)
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.8	(16.70)
<u>Stillbirths</u> <u>Male</u>	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate 1 (1) Illegitimate - (-)	2 (1) - (1)	3 (2) - (1)
Deaths of infants under 1 year Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate 2 (2) Illegitimate 1 (-)	- (-) - (-)	2 (2)
Infant mortality rate Infant mortality rate for England and Wales	53.57 (31 29.8 (32	.74)
Deaths of all causes Male	Female	TOTAL
39 (29)	48 (59)	87 (88)
Death rate per 1000 of the population Death rate for England and Wales	16.45 (16.9 11.6 (11.7	0)

(Figures in brackets are for the year 1949)

was the same of th (4. (): A LONG TEN BALL STREET Large Land and the State of The registered causes of death were:

Cause	of death		Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Tuberculo 2. Tuberculo 3. Syphiliti 4. Diphtheri 5. Whooping 6. Menigococ 7. Acute Pol 8. Measles 9. Other inf 10. Malignant 11. Malignant 12. Malignant 13. Malignant 14. Other mal 15. Leukaemia 16. Diabetes 17. Vascular 18. Coronary 19. Hypertensi 20. Other hear 21. Other circ 22. Influenza 23. Pneumonia 24. Bronchitis 25. Other dise 26. Ulcer of s 27. Gastritis 28. Nephritis 29. Hyperplasi 30. Pregnancy, 31. Congenital 32. Other defi 33. Motor vehi	sis, respiratory sis, other c disease a Cough al infections iomyditis  ective and parasit neoplasm, stomach neoplasm, lung braeoplasm, uterus ignant and lymphat, aleukaemia  lesions of nervous disease, augine ion with heart disease culatory dis	ic neoplasms system ease ry system am crhoea	-(-) 1(1) 1(1) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) 1(-) -(-) 1(-) -(-) 4(2) -(-)	-(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-) -(-)	-(1) 1(1) 1(1) -(-) 1(1) 1(1) -(-) 1(1) 1(1
33. Motor vehi 34. All other 35. Suicide	ned and ill-define cle accidents			9(14) 1	-(1) .5(19) -(-) -(3) 1(2) -(-)

39(29) 48(59) 87(88)

(Figures in brackets are for 1949)

#### SECTION B.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

a. As outlined in previous reports, the free use of the Public Health Laboratories are always available either at Exeter or Truro. In the main most of the specimens from this district are dealt with at Exeter, and I should like to take the opportunity here of thanking Dr. B. Moore who is in charge of this Laboratory for the excellence of his work and the ready help he always gives.

Regular samples of Water, Milk and Ice Cream are carried out and on the whole the results have been satisfactory.

## b. CLINIC FACILITIES.

Infant Welfare Clinics. A regular fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at The Castle, Bude, and continues to provide a much valued service. Number of attendances during the year 1950 was 560.

It is mainly in the Preventive aspect of medicine that we concentrate here at the Clinic. This involves a good deal of personally conducted Health Education to the mother on how to handle and bring up her infant. There is no immediate yard stick for measuring the value of this work or its results, but from the regularity of attendance of the mothers with their babies, it is obvious that they appreciate an opportunity to discuss the particular and general aspects of Good Health. It should be realised that when a mother calls in a doctor to see her sick child, she is in no condition at that time to be informed on how the trouble could have been averted. The work at the Clinics supplements the work of the District Nurses who are the main interests in this scheme of Preventive Medicine. In their daily work they visit all homes where there are babies and

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and young children and their timely advice and help does much to prevent serious illness developing. Great tribute is due to them and our district is particularly fortunate in having Nurses of great ability.

Mothercraft Training Clinic. This Clinic has now been going for a whole year and is carried out fortnightly at The Castle, Bude.

Although the numbers attending are small, we have had particularly good results with the cases handled.

As outlined in last year's report the purpose of this Clinic is to abolish the fear and ignorance experienced by a mother during the trials of labour. We have definite evidence of the mental and physical relief which mothers derive from work of this character and much credit is due to the Nurses in charge.

Eye Clinic. A regular Eye Clinic for school children is held at The Castle, Bude, where they are seen by an Eye Specialist from Plymouth. There is no fixed date for this Clinic, as we wait for suitable numbers to accumulate before arranging his visit. The fact that this type of Clinic is held locally is a considerable saving in time and expense, as otherwise these children would have to be transported to Plymouth.

Dental Clinic. Since making my last report we are still without a regular School Dentist. Discussions are at present in progress with the Local Executive Council to see whether the Dentists in this Area could set aside certain periods for the treatment of schoolchildren. If this could be arranged those children seen by the School Medical Officer who in his opinion require urgent Dental attention, would then have some priority. The scheme would depend on the full co-operation

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of the School Health Service with the local Dentists.

#### c. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service was heavily engaged during the year. Our main Hospital centres are situated up to 40/50 miles from the Rural District which necessitates a large amount of travelling. Much of this could be overcome if the Stratton Cottage Hospital could be developed to provide more services. If adequate X-Ray and Radiotherapy units were made available, a fair proportion of the mileage now done would be cut out and this would result not only in financial saving, but would also be much more convenient for the patients.

To give the Council some indication of the work and mileage involved, the Bude Ambulance during 1950 conveyed 287 patients a distance of 14,400 miles. It should also be realised that not all the patients in our Area are conveyed by Bude Ambulance, as often this may be out when another case is to be handled. For this purpose an Ambulance from Holsworthy or Launceston may be called upon to do the journey.

It is not possible to separate out precisely the individual journeys to hospital from our District, but over the whole area, which includes Bude, Stratton, Launceston and Camelford, the number of patients conveyed during the year was 1,376, a distance of 65,800 miles, or an average of 47 miles per patient. From these figures the Council will realise the great disadvantage we experience owing to our remoteness from hospital and treatment centres, and why it is recommended that the local hospital should be developed as much as possible to give the public more facilities.

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d. HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE. Much of what has been said about the Ambulance Service applies to the Hospital Car Service. The Utilecon Ambulance which is situated in Poundstock for conveying the sitting type of case has been a most valuable asset in the District. In addition to the use of this vehicle, we also use private cars to convey cases to hospital where this is appropriate.

The Poundstock Utilecon Ambulance during the year 1950 conveyed 715 patients, a distance of 24,125 miles, to hospital. Here again private cars and Utilecons have to be brought in from other stations to cope with the work of the whole District.

In order that the Council may have some idea of the work done for the sitting type of case, the number of patients conveyed to hospital for the whole area was 4,687 patients, a distance of 160,373 miles, or an average of 34 miles per patient. Here again, if more local facilities were provided, a great saving in transport could be effected.

# e. REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

A Maternity Home is to be provided for the use of patients in this area at Old Tree House, Trebursey, Near Launceston. It does not seem likely, however, that this Home will be ready for occupation before 1952.

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## SECTION C.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

## (a) Drainage and Sewerage.

Stratton. The Stratton Sewerage Scheme has been further postponed, due to the cost of the works, but it is hoped to effect some improvements to the storm-water system, with the object of alleviating flooding, when labour and materials are available. In addition a modified scheme for the improvement of Stratton sewage disposal works is being prepared for early attention. There is no doubt that this latter work is urgently required to secure a satisfactory effluent from the Works.

Poughill. The modified scheme of sewrage for the Poughill district has been prepared, and a start at least should have been made in 1951.

## (b) Water Supply.

The Council's water undertaking, which supplies most of the Urban District and parts of the adjoining Rural District, is controlled and managed by the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer.

The duty of taking samples for bacteriological analysis, however, devolves upon the Sanitary Inspector. Results of routine samples taken during 1950 are appended below:-

Date of Sample	Where taken	Pithologist's Report.
3.1.50	New filters, Vealand Old Filters, Vealand	Satisfactory
	The Castle, Bude	a
30.1.50	New Filters, Vealand Old filters, Vealand	d n
n de la	The Castle, Bude	n
21.2.50	New Filters, Vealand	· ·
11	Old filters, Vealand	4

Part Costan Budo

21.2.50	No. 4 Flexbury Park Road	Small No. of coliform organisms - might be result of local growth not of excretal origin.
28.2.50	No. 4 Flexbury Park Road	Satisfactory
8.4.50	New filters, Vealand	it and a second
11	Old filters, Vealand	II II
at .	The Castle, Bude.	11
3.7.50	New Filters, Vealand	Large No. of coli - not
2.1.20	Old Filters, Vealand	
	ord Filters, Ventand	excretal - not suitable
		for drinking in present
- 11	Mb . Ocatio Duda	state.
	The Castle, Bude.	No. of non-faecal coli -
		doubt as to sterility of
30 7 50		bottles.
10.7.50	New filters, Vealand	Satisfactory.
11	Old filters, Vealand	The state of the s
11	The Castle, Bude.	"
18.7.50	New filters, Vealand	o .
"	Old filters, Vealand	
п	The Castle, Bude	0
30.8.50	The Castle, Bude	Unsatisfactory for treat-
		ed water.
12.9.50	New filters, Vealand	Unsatisfactory.
11	Old Filters, Vealand	0
11	The Castle, Bude.	Satisfactory
27.9.50	Old & New Filters, Vealand	11
a	The Castle, Bude.	II .
a) Douting T.	annationa	

# (c) Routine Inspections.

Sanitary inspection of the District	No. in District		No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses Dairies Food preparing places which are subject to	4 2	24 11	3 -	3 -
Inspection Factories	43 41	115 52	5	5

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year.

Keeping of animals Sanitary accommoda (a) insufficient (b) defective Drainage (a) reconstructed		Refuse receptacles Camping sites Yard paving Dampness Roofs & rainwater pipes Floors Walls & ceilings Windows & Ventilation	5 23 21 - 31 14
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OF THE PARTY White the transfer was the second A STATE OF THE PARTY a feet & a 

(c) cleansed	23	Water supplies 2	21
Cesspools			
(a) abolished	-	Total visits of all kind	s by
(b) repaired .	2	the Inspector during the	year:
		1	.846.

manufacture of the control of the co

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## SECTION D.

## Housing Survey.

Whilst the progress in the erection of new houses in the District continues to be slower than could be wished, some optimism is felt when the figures for 1950 compared with those of the previous year:

> New houses completed in 1949 10 New houses completed in 1950 23

It must be stressed, however, that numerous families are still living in overcrowded and unsatisfactory conditions, and an extensive programme remains to be effected before these conditions will be completely alleviated. The Hillhead Estate was developed almost to the full extent planned in the present programme, during the year, but delays due to a variety of causes have unfortunately held up the commencement of the Berries Avenue Development. When it is remembered that there are many old properties in the District which are unfit for habitation, quite apart from the problem of families newly created during or since the War, it will be appreciated that not until the Berries Avenue development is well under way will the problem approach a solution.

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#### SUCTION E.

#### INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies and Control. With the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, and subsequent regulations relating to raw and Esignated milks, much of the administration relating to milk supplies has been removed from the jurisdiction of the Local Authority, and placed in the hands of the County Council.

Samples are taken by the Cornwall County Council, and the results forwarded to this office. With very few exceptions these have been satisfactory.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. Of the 25 dealers in ice cream, all but four now serve only prepacked ice cream which has been submitted to heat treatment in accordance with the Regulations, in factories outside the District.

Fortnightly samples of ice cream have been taken for submission to the provisional methylene blue test. Whilst this test still continues to have no legal standing, it is found to be a useful method of securing improvement where this has been found necessary. The quality of the product continues to show improvement; nevertheless it is felt that a legal minimum chemical standard would assist greatly in this direction. At the time of writing this report it is gratifying to note that such a standard has been agreed, and given legal standing.

Unsound food. The bulk of the food found unfit for human consumption during the year was almost exclusively of the tinned variety. However when the amounts for condemnation are compared with the bulk they appear as only a very small percentage. An interesting feature in connection with the tinned type of product is the percentage of tinned cooked meats from the continent which

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The amount of food condemned as unfit was 84 cwt.

Meat Inspection. The slaughter of animals for food remains centralised, and there are no slaughter houses in the District. There is however a Meat Depot for the distribution of meat to the local butchers, and this Depot is inspected regularly. No fresh meat was condemned during the year.

Food Hygiene. The standard of cleanliness and hygiene of hotel and cafe kitchens in the District has been found to be uniformly good, with very few exceptions. In this connection the Byelaws concerning food handling, made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and adopted by the Council in May of the year under review, have been found a useful medium for securing uniformity of standards, and for effecting improvement where necessary.

Food and Drugs Act 1938. This Act is administered in the District by the Food and Drugs Authority, namely the Cornwall County Council. The figures relating to samples taken under the Act in 1950 are appended below, and have been supplied through the kind co-operation of the Divisional Weights and Measures Inspector.

Name of article	No. of samples taken.	No. tested on No. sent to Gerber(correct) analyst
		Genuine. Adulterate
Milk	14	14
Ice Cream	7	7
Cornish Ice Cream	1	1
Lard	1	1
Malt Vinegar	1	1
Gooseberry Jam	1	1
Barley Crystals	1	1
Curry Powder	1	1
Invalid Boyril	1	1
White Pepper	1	1

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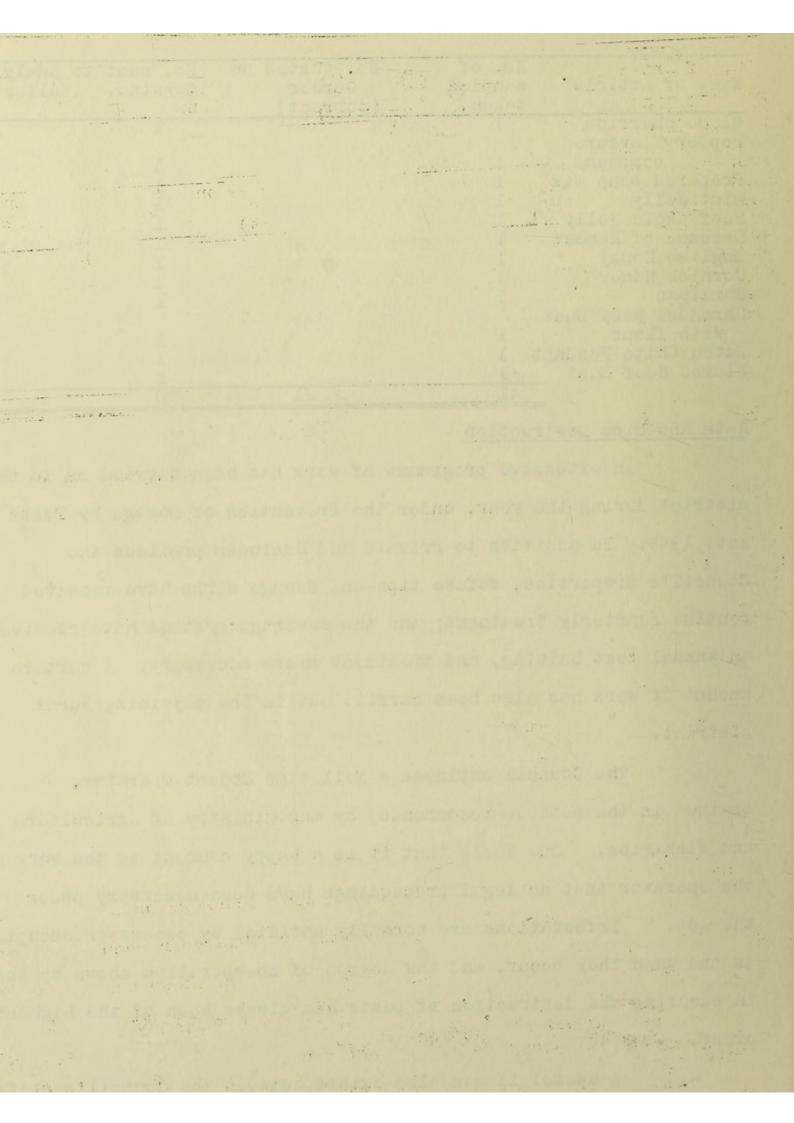
	No. of		No. sent to Analyst
Name of Article	samples	Gerber	Genuine. Adulterated
	taken.	(correct)	
Glace cherries	1		1
Pepper flavoured			
compound	1		1
Prepared soup mix	1		1
Mint Jelly	1		1
Beef aspic jelly	1		1
Essence of Rennet	1		1
English Honey	1		1
Cornish Honey	1		1
Marzipan	1		1
Shredded Beef Suet			
with flour	1		1
Dutch White Fondant	1		1
Flaked Beof Suet	1		1
	41	21	20

### Rats and Mice Destruction

An extensive programme of work has been carried on in the District during the year, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. In addition to Private and Business premises the Council's properties, refuse tips and sewage works have received routine quarterly treatment; and the sewerage systems have received an annual test baiting, and treatment where necessary. A certain amount of work has also been carried out in the adjoining Rural District.

The Council employes a full time Rodent Operator, trained in the methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. One feels that it is a happy comment on the work of the Operator that no legal proceedings have been necessary under the Act. Infestations are normally notified by owners or occupiers as and when they occur, and the degree of co-operation shown by them in securing the destruction of pests has always been of the highest order.

A useful liason also exists between the Council's staff



and the Rodent Destruction staff of the Cornwall County

Council who deal with the treatment of Agricultural properties
in the District.

No.	of	revisit	t.s					421
No.	of	treatme	ents					38
No.	of	survey	visits	made	bу	Rodent	Operator	467

Attender the hance out at their bestoered then the

#### SECTION F.

# Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases.

For the purpose of comparison, the prevalence of infectious diseases in the adjoining district of which I am also Medical Officer of Health is given:

AUTHORITY	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic,	Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	Acute Encephalitis	Meningoccal Infection	Food Poisoing	TOTAL.	
Bude-Stratton Urban District	1	1	5	2	-	-	5	2	1	-	1	18	
Stratton Rural District	19	-	3	7	1	-	6	4	-	1	-	41	
Launceston Rural District	18	1	2	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	26	
Launceston Borough	13	-	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	20	
Camelford Rural District	 13	3	9	13	3	_	1	-	-	_	9	51	_
TOTAL	64	5	19	25	7	2	15	7	1	1	10	156	

## POLIOMYELITIS

It will be noted that there has been a fairly high incidence of Poliomyelitis in the District. When one considers the size of our population, it would be no exaggeration to say that we have been very heavily smitten. There is no doubt whatsover that more cases exist

than are actually brought to our notice. These come under the heading of Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis and may have the symptoms of a common cold, and are thus not recognised.

We are still ignorant of the precise method of spread of Poliomyelitis and consequently our methods of prevention are limited. We still have to rely on the general principle of isolation of cases and supervision of contacts, and advice on general and personal hygiene. A great deal can be done to limit the spread of this disease if during the period when cases are occurring, children and adults are warned not to exhaust themselves and avoid congregating together in large crowds.

I should like to pay tribute to the ready and willing cooperation I have always had from the Sanitary staff in dealing with
the supervision of the families and disinfection in the houses where
these cases have occurred. The Council must realise that a great
deal of anxiour and heavy work is involved in the follow-up of all
these cases of Infectious Disease, particularly in Poliomyelitis.

The incidence of other serious Infectious Disease has fortunately not been heavy.

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

During the year 1950 the number of Diphtheria Immunisations and Vaccinations in the whole area were:

AUTHORITY	Immunisation	Boosters	Vaccinations			
Bude Urban District Stratton Rural District Launceston Borough Camelford Rural District Launceston Rural District	39	30	45			
	61	53	29			
	35	51	20			
	73	22	35			
	52	45	29			

Once again I am pleased to report that no case of Jiphtheria was reported in this District.

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#### TUBERCULOSIS

The preventive aspect of this disease is now being seriously tackled. All contacts of cases of Tuberculosis are tested by means of special skin tests, and if suitable, will be protected against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. Vaccine. This Vaccine is a modified form of the Tuberculosis germ which is harmless in itself but when injected is capable of enabling any individual to resist the disease.

The Council must remember too that special consideration must always be given in the question of re-housing where a case of Tuber-culosis occurs in a family. Inadequate housing is without doubt one of the most likely methods of spreading Tuberculosis.

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