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**Contributors**

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URBAN DISTRICT OF CLEVEDON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1961



Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting you with a report upon the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1961 in which is included a summary of some of the work of your Public Health Inspector.

The year has been an uneventful one from the medical point of view; in the first quarter there were a few cases of whooping cough and in the second and third quarters an outbreak of measles from which all cases made a good recovery. In January, which was rather a wet month, we had an increase of sickness rates in which claims on influenza predominated. Thereafter the spring was generally mild though April was not so good but the summer months were quite nice and the year drew to its close with the promise of some real wintry weather.

The cases of food poisoning which are recorded in the statistical summaries have been accounted for as follows:-

- Three were due to a processed food which was heavily infected with staphylococci; this was reported to the Bristol Health Authority;
- The fourth was due to a salmonella infection probably acquired from watercress;
- The fifth was also a salmonella infection probably acquired from an egg;
- The sixth was a salmonella Heidelberg infection from unidentified food.

All cases made a good recovery and there were no secondary cases.

There have been no cases of Diphtheria or Polio against which prophylactic inoculations are continuing; the alternative use of an oral vaccine against Polio will be welcomed by mothers and their long-suffering offspring as a more pleasant way of acquiring immunity against this disease.

The introduction of virulent small-pox at the end of the year is a salutary reminder of the risk we run of having a dangerous infection introduced by modern air transport while the disease is still in the incubation stage. Against small-pox we have absolute protection in successful vaccination and revaccination.

We are well served by local Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Homes for the elderly, with in-patient and out-patient clinics and a range of ancillary services and in addition we have ready access to the larger and special Hospitals and clinics in Bristol.

I acknowledge with thanks the help I receive from the Chairman and Members of the Council, from the officers and staff, from my colleagues and from the Somerset County and Bristol Health Authorities.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

G. MACLEOD

Clevedon  
4th June 1962.



# STATISTICS

Area of District	3,464 acres
Population (mid year estimate)	10,700
Rateable value	£151,735
Product of one penny rate	£620

## VITAL STATISTICS Mothers and Infants

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Number	73	66	139	
Rate per 1,000 population				14.03

<u>Illegitimate Live Births</u> (per cent of total live births)	5	4	9	6.5%
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<u>Still Births</u>				
Number	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births -	NIL			

<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	73	66	139	
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<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under one year)	0	1 (legit)	1	
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<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-		7.2	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-		7.7	
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	-		0	

<u>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	7.2	
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<u>Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	-	7.2	
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<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	-	7.2	
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<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>				
Number of deaths	-	0		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	0		

<u>Percentage of Births in Maternity Homes</u>	-	89.2%	
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## DEATHS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	79	109	188	
<u>Death Rate (per 1,000 of population)</u>			12.2	
Average age at Death			73.4 years	
Factor for correction (for Births)	-	1.08		
" " " (for Deaths)	-	0.69		

## Cause of Death of Infants under one year

One female (legitimate) at 12 hours - Prematurity

<u>Some of the principal causes of death:-</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer of lung and bronchus	2	0	2
Other malignant diseases	17	20	37
Coronary disease and angina	19	23	42
Other diseases of the heart	14	23	37
Cerebral vascular diseases	10	25	35
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis & respiratory diseases	5	2	7
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	0	0	0
Influenza	1	0	1

#### Notifiable Diseases

Whooping Cough	- 15
Measles	- 223
Food Poisoning	- 6
Puerperal pyrexia	- 4
Pneumonia	- 1
Meningococcal infection	- 1
Pulmonary T.B.	- 1

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

##### Water Supply

We are fortunate in having a water supply which is pure, ample in quantity and though chlorinated is virtually free from suspicion. The catchment area is difficult to delimit and so, with ribbon building development in the neighbourhood in the inter-war years, chlorination was resorted to as a precautionary measure. All properties are supplied direct, no plumbo-solvent action has been found and bacteriological analysis is satisfactory.

##### Sewage Disposal

The water-carriage system discharges into the tidal Channel. Plans are well advanced for the enlargement and reorientation of the main lower sewer owing to the considerable housing development within the Urban District.

Opinion is divided as to the present salubrity of the sea-water which is impounded into the Marine Lake; sedimentation helps to eliminate some of the suspended matter from the tidal water; but the prospect of the deposit into the Channel a few hundred yards away of further crude sewage from a new town of some 30 to 40 thousand people does not enhance one's opinion of the resulting water in which visitors are invited to bathe or of the cleanliness of the beaches which they may frequent.

The use of such water even after filtration in any proposed new bathing pool should be the object of careful examination and analysis. The town's chlorinated water is safe for drinking or bathing and it is difficult to see any special advantage to health to be obtained from bathing in doubtful sea-water.

There are no registered Common Lodging houses in the District.



### Home Health Services

These are administered by the County Council and give us an extensive and invaluable service for which my professional colleagues and the general public are very grateful. It is difficult to imagine how we could get on without the help of the District Nurses, Health Visitors, Home Helps, St. John Ambulance and Red Cross, to which must now be added Meals on Wheels organised by the Womens Voluntary Service.

In this context it seems unwise to contemplate closing the local Maternity Home which deals with 89% of local births apart from meeting the needs of the adjoining rural districts. Shortage of midwives is acute in established Maternity Homes but the hope of enlisting sufficient numbers for District work, which would embrace all maternity as well as general nursing cases, appears to be a highly imaginative one; the age of dedicated service tends to get swamped in an age of materialism. Further, the assessment of the value of a small hospital on the cost per unit of output as from a modern factory is a poor measure of its value to the community it serves.

A life-long experience of the inestimable value of a small local Hospital in the conducting of a general practice, recently reinforced by a personal experience as an inpatient there, makes an old man urge at the end of his career, the Minister of Health to reconsider his decision to close such Hospitals.

### Inspections under the Factories Acts

These have all been visited and any defects reported upon and remedied.

### Housing

Year by year it becomes obvious that short of drastic reconstruction many of the large Victorian properties are incapable of conversion into acceptable dwellings. Their division into units of one or two rooms with inadequate conveniences is a poor substitute for a home and basements which were never intended for independent dwellings are even less fitted for this purpose. The time may indeed have arrived when some of these should be replaced by well-designed modern flats with access by lift to the upper floors. At the moment, older tenants are economically confined to the cold and damp basements or relegated to the attics which are beyond their cardiac capacity. Your contribution of twenty Old Peoples' bungalows and the promise of a further equal number is a joyful assurance to the elderly that they are still wanted in the Community and are not to be relegated to institutional existence. The numbers on the waiting list for such accommodation is a measure of the need, a need which will not immediately lessen in an ageing population; while the need for more family houses has not necessarily been exhausted.

### Action taken during the year:-

Houses demolished or closed under Sec. 17 Housing Act, 1957	-	2
Certificate of disrepair - application received	-	1
Houses made fit during the year	-	5
Number of temporary houses - prefabs	-	22
Number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	-	82
Council houses sold during year	-	1
Old Peoples' dwellings in course of erection by L.A.	-	20
Old Peoples' dwellings - Applications for	-	127
Houses erected during year by Private Enterprise	-	67
Number of permanent dwellings in District - L.A. =		449
P.E. =		3,357
Total		3,806



## Improvement Grants

### Discretionary

Applications (received) - 15	(approved) - 14
Number of dwellings - 26	" - 25
Applications approved in respect of owner/occupier - 7	
Average cost per dwelling approved -	£1,069
Grant payable by Local Authority -	£8,627

### Standard

Applications received and approved -	22
Number of houses where standard amenities have been provided -	24

There are site licences in being for nine caravan units; one large site complies fully with model standards, the second large one is in process of attaining to that standard, while the others are all small units.

House and trade refuse are removed weekly by direct labour and disposed of in one controlled tip outside the town, and where they exist cesspits are emptied biannually by the Local Authority free of charge and on request at other times on a time/cost basis. It may justifiably be claimed that all the sanitary services are discharged to the general satisfaction.

## Food and Food Hygiene

All premises have been inspected and strict attention called to the cleanliness of rooms in which food is stored, prepared and cooked. Milk sampling is now carried out by the County Health Authority and so also is ice-cream sampling, owing to the difficulty of forwarding samples so as to reach the Laboratory in Taunton in reasonable time and before deterioration sets in.

## Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

The one Slaughterhouse is owned by the Local Authority and leased to a local man who supplies some of the local butchers and sends carcasses to the London markets. There are no food or bacon factories or knackers yards. The following are the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year. In view of the percentage of pig carcasses in which T.B. glands have been found, at a time when Bovine T.B. is almost non-existent in the country's herds, your Public Health Inspector has been advised to have the source of supply of these pigs investigated and inspected, and samples of the glands submitted to pathological and bacteriological examination.

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	
Number killed	255	120	4,430	4,781	2,181	
Whole carcass condemned	2	20	3	1	6	- all diseases exc. T.B. & cysticercus
Part " "	40	8	8	67	43	
Whole carcass condemned	0	0	0	0	0	- T.B. only
Part " "	0	1	0	0	27	" "
%	0	0.83	0	0	1.24	" "

### Public Health Staff:-

Public Health Inspector - J. Topham, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Health Inspector - K. Ashworth, M.A.P.H.I.

Medical Officer (part-time) - G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. Tel. 3297

1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed study of the various branches of the economy.

3. The third part is devoted to a study of the social and cultural life of the country.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a study of the political situation in the country.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a study of the foreign relations of the country.

6. The sixth part is devoted to a study of the internal security of the country.

7. The seventh part is devoted to a study of the military situation in the country.

8. The eighth part is devoted to a study of the economic situation in the country.

9. The ninth part is devoted to a study of the financial situation in the country.

10. The tenth part is devoted to a study of the administrative situation in the country.

11. The eleventh part is devoted to a study of the judicial situation in the country.

12. The twelfth part is devoted to a study of the educational situation in the country.

13. The thirteenth part is devoted to a study of the health situation in the country.

14. The fourteenth part is devoted to a study of the sports situation in the country.

15. The fifteenth part is devoted to a study of the cultural situation in the country.