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The Urban District of Ilfracombe.

ANNUAL REPORT

— ON —

THE HEALTH OF ILFRACOMBE,
VITAL STATISTICS,
SANITARY WORK, ETC.

FOR THE YEAR

1920.

BY

E. J. SLADE KING, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

HERBERT J. KARSLAKE, M.S.I.A., ETC.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING INSPECTOR.

ILFRACOMBE :

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ILFRACOMBE,

April 11th, 1921.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration a Report on the Public Health of Ilfracombe at the close of the year ending December 31st, 1920.

This Report is constructed on the lines indicated in the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health.

The Population as furnished by the Registrar General for calculating the Birth and Death Rates is 8,440.

The Birth Rate for 1920 is 15.0 per 1,000 population.

This is the highest recorded Birth Rate since 1909.

The Birth Rate for 1919 stood at 13.7. The natural increase in population for the year is, therefore, 22.

The total Deaths as corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers was 115, and is equal to a Death Rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population.

The rate of Infant Mortality, or, in other words, the rate of deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 births for the year, was 45.4.

This is one of the lowest Infant Death Rates on record.

The average age at death for the year was 60.2.

51 deaths were registered at and over 70 years, which is equal to a percentage of 44.3 of the total deaths.

During the past year the District has been singularly free from Notifiable Infectious Diseases. Of the 37 Notifications received, 20 were Tuberculous Diseases, and 7 Malaria.

These statistics tell their own tale and bear eloquent testimony to the fact that Ilfracombe is a healthsome district.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended. It affords me particular pleasure to record the singularly sound judgment, accuracy, and energy with which Inspector Karslake has carried out his various official duties.

I am, yours faithfully,

ED. J. SLADE - KING,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION	(Census 1911)	8,935
"	(Estimated 1920)	9,045
"	(Registrar General's Estimate)	8,440

Physical Features and Character of the District.

The Southern limit of the Urban Sanitary District of Ilfracombe is a range of high ground (600—800 feet), forming the water parting. It runs East and West, and conforms in its direction to the Bristol Channel, which constitutes the Northern boundary. The East and West sides of the District are not defined by any well marked natural limits. The natural slope terminates abruptly in a line of weather-worn cliffs. Its surface has been rendered rugged and picturesque by continued denudations, and is cut up by three valleys trending North and South. As the three mouths of these valleys open out to sea, they afford space sufficient for the town proper, and its several hamlets.

The soil is mostly light and thin. The rocks are shales over sand-stone and grit. There are a few pockets of mountain limestone, and some small deposits of poor clay.

Occupations.

Agriculture, fishing, lodging-house and hotel keeping, and general retail shop-keeping.

There are a large number of Private Residents mostly consisting of persons retired from professions and businesses in other parts of the country.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The births registered within the 12 months ending December 31st, 1920, were 137.

This is equivalent to a Birth Rate of 15.0 per 1,000 population. The Birth Rate for 1919 was 13.7 per 1,000 population.

60 Males and 77 Females were born in 1920. 129 were legitimate and 8 illegitimate births.

The natural increase in population, or, in other words, the excess of births over deaths, is 22.

Deaths.

During the year 1920, the total deaths registered, corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers, have been 115.

This is equal to a Death Rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population.

Ages at Death.

In the year 1920, 51 deaths were registered at and over 70 years, which is equal to a percentage of 44.3 of the total deaths.

19.1 per cent. of the total deaths registered were 80 years and over.

There were 6 Infant deaths.

The Death Rate per 1,000 births is 45.4.
 The average age at death for the year is 60.2 years.

BIRTH RATE AND DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1920.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1000 Population.									Rate per 1000 Births	
		All Causes.	Enteric.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under 1 year.
England and Wales.....	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80
Ilfracombe...	15.0	13.6	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.1	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.23	0.00	45.4

Causes of Death in Ilfracombe during 1920.

Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Influenza	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Tuberculosis Meningitis	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4
Cancer	15
Rheumatic Fever	1
Meningitis	2
Heart Disease	20
Bronchitis	6
Pneumonia	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	4
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3
Debility, etc.	1
Violence (Accidents)	2
Other Diseases	37
Encephalitis Lethargica	1

No deaths were registered from Alcoholism or Suicide.

Of the 10 Pulmonary Tuberculous Deaths registered, 4 were Imported Cases, and 6 Resident.

Poor Law Relief.

The following are figures respecting paupers chargeable to the Ilfracombe Parish during the year 1920 :

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Out-door Relief	27	77	23	127
In Workhouse	9	13	5	27
Children in Cottage Homes	22	16		38

The amount of Poor Law Relief expended during the year was £711 13s. 5d.

Extent to which Hospital and other Forms of Gratuitous Relief are Utilised.

There is one Cottage Hospital supported by Voluntary Contributions.

The North Devon Infirmary, at Barnstaple, also receives patients from Ilfracombe.

There is one District Nurse (Voluntary) and one County Council Health Visitor resident.

The School Clinic is under the control of the Devon County Council.

WATER—PUBLIC SUPPLY.

The Public Water Supply is constant, and is delivered by gravitation; it is of the highest purity and practically unlimited in quantity.

It is received by eight intakes, which are fed from a watershed of upwards of 3,000 acres of open moor, forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.

It is conveyed by means of an aqueduct and pipe-line for a distance of 14 miles to the Ilfracombe Reservoirs; it is then filtered and stored in small covered service reservoirs before distribution to points as far away as the hamlet of Hele on the east, and Morte Hoe and Woolacombe on the west.

The subjoined is an analysis of the water, as furnished by the Clinical Research Association:

	Grains—per Gallon.
Total Solid Residue (dried at 102 c.)	3.50
Combined Chlorine	0.8
Expressed as Common Salt	1.3
Nitrogen as Nitrate	trace only.
Nitrates	Nil.
Saline Ammonia	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.003
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter	0.037
Hardness in Degrees	1.9 deg.
Lead or Copper	Nil.

OBSERVATIONS.—This is a water of great purity, and from a chemical point of view admirably suitable for drinking purposes.

This water is liable to have a lead solvent action at certain periods of the year, but the use of lead pipes is absolutely forbidden in distributing water for domestic use.

36 samples have been taken from the Public Mains by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the Medical Officer of Health for analysis.

They were found to be bright and clear, well filtered and free from all dangerous Chemical impurity.

Ilfracombe Rural Water Supply.

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

The Public Rural Water Supplies at Hele and at Lincombe have been sufficient and of good quality.

The Private Rural Water Supplies are 57 in number.

Rivers and Streams.

There are 4 streams in the district, viz., Chambercombe stream, East Wilder, West Wilder, and Lee Water.

None of these streams are known to be polluted.

SEWERAGE.

The sewers are new, satisfactory, and well equipped with ventilating shafts, manholes, and automatic flushing tanks.

There is a separate system for Hele.

The outfalls discharge into the tide-way of the Bristol Channel at points considerably below low water mark.

The sewerage system and Outfalls at Cheyne Beach and Hele are proving most satisfactory.

There has been no extension of sewers during the year.

(For report of Drainage Inspection, see Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Excrement Disposal.

Within the town area by water carriage through pipe drains to the sewers. In the quasi rural district earth closets are in use, and the soil goes direct to the land.

Privy middens are practically unknown.

36 Earth Closets are in use.

Scavenging.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT.

(Report of Sanitary Inspector).

Inspections and Visits.

Bakehouses	10
Slaughterhouses	63
Schools	10
Workshops	51
Dairies and Cowsheds	97
Stables	82
Fruit Shops	14
Ice Cream Factories	9
Provision Shops	21
Housing Acts	57
Houses (Infectious Diseases)	58
(re complaints)	98
Houses (Defective Drains)	32

Other Premises 29

Defects Discovered.

Bakehouses 1
 Slaughterhouses 8
 Workshops 7
 Dairies and Cowsheds 68
 Stables 1
 Housing Acts 41
 Houses (Complaints) 87
 Houses (Drains) 14
 Other Premises 12

Action Taken.

(NOTICES SERVED).

Public Health Act, 1875.	Sec.	Statutory.	Informal.	Total.
"	36	1	1	2
"	41	2	1	3
"	47	1	0	1
"	49	6	0	6
"	91	2	7	9
"	94	14	38	52
P.H. (Water Act, 1878		2	1	3
F. & W. Act, 1901		4	4	8
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order		116	3	119
Ilfracombe Improvement Act, 1900		1	1	2
Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement			8	8
Act, 1905			6	6
Town Police Clauses Act, 1844			2	17
Bye-laws (Pig keeping)		15	0	1
Accumulations.....		1		
Housing Act, 1919	28	7	0	7
" " 1909	17(2)	3	0	3
"	17(3)	3	0	3
"	17(4)	3	0	3
"	18(1)	17	0	17
"	18(2)	27	0	27
"	18(4)	27	0	27
Total Notices Served		252	72	324

Common Lodging Houses.

None in District.

Public Elementary Schools.

The whole of the Schools have been inspected.

The Sanitary Fittings are generally satisfactory, and the water supply is good.

The cleansing of the Schools is efficiently performed by the different caretakers.

There has been one School Closure during the year in consequence of an outbreak of Measles.

Food.

All British milk used in the town is produced within the District and in the immediate surrounding area.

The storing of milk and the conditions under which milking is carried out are improving, but the condition of the Cow-sheds is not yet satisfactory. The buildings are old and much behind the standard which the Regulations suggest.

The cows themselves are healthy, and remarkably free from Tubercular Diseases, but if the following suggestions were more carefully observed they would obviate the cause of many complaints which are made of the presence of sediment in the milk as delivered at the houses of private purchasers.

- (1) The milker should be responsible for seeing that the can which he uses is thoroughly clean.
- (2) The cows' flanks and udders should be sponged over and rubbed down with a clean cloth before milking.
- (3) The milker should wear a clean overall.
- (4) Care should be taken that all milk sent for a distance should be contained in cans provided with dust-proof covers.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The County Police are the appointed Officers under the above Acts.

Meat Inspection.

There is one Public Slaughterhouse and five Private Slaughterhouses in the District.

The Sanitary Inspector visits them when possible at times of slaughtering, but in consequence of killing taking place on the same day and often at the same hour, his supervision is very limited.

(For details of work done in Meat Inspection, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Number of Slaughterhouses in use in the District :

	December, 1914.	January, 1920.	December, 1920.
Registered.....	0	0	0
Licenced	6	5	4

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The Medical Officer of Health receives all notifications of Infectious Disease, and on receipt of instructions from him the Sanitary Inspector supplements his visits by obtaining a record of the movements of the patient or patients, together with any other information that will tend to trace the origin of the case as well as ascertain the source of milk supply, place of employment, and

school, if any, and the condition of the sanitary arrangements of the house.

Every effort is made to secure home isolation, but if circumstances render it necessary the case is removed in the Ambulance to the Isolation Hospital.

Where home isolation is secured suggestions as to precautionary measures to be adopted are made, and a precautionary leaflet specially drawn up is left together with a form which has to be filled up and signed by the Medical Attendant at the termination of the illness.

After the termination of the illness, or removal of the patient to Hospital, rooms, clothing, bedding, etc., are disinfected by "Formalin Gas," or removed from the house to the Steam Disinfector.

The Devon County Council provide free Bacteriological Examinations of material for the detection of Diptheria and Tuberculosis. These facilities are largely made use of.

The Sanitary Inspector directs all necessary disinfecting and actively secures the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital wherever it is necessary.

Infectious Diseases Notified During 1920.

Tuberculosis	20
Malaria (Contracted Abroad) ...	7
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysypelas	2
Diptheria	1
Enteric Fever	1
Para Typhoid	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1
Total	<hr/> 37
Port Sanitary contacts	4

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital was open for the reception of one Scarlet Fever, and one Enteric Fever patients for 70 days.

There were no deaths.

No return cases.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons.

No special apparatus or appliances are provided.

No cases have been reported during the year.

REPORT OF THE ILFRACOMBE MATERNITY & INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

The Committee again have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Association for the past year, which has been a

very encouraging one, several new Mothers having availed themselves of the Centre.

The number of Mothers attending was 76, whilst there were 349 infant attendances, and 277 children between the ages of one and five years were brought to the Centre. An increase in the first case of 26 on the previous year ; 210 increase in the infant attendances ; and 217 increase in the latter case.

Miss Gale continues to do excellent work in her post as Health Visitor, and her valuable services cannot be too much appreciated.

Throughout the year, various health talks have been given at the Centre, where the Mothers meet every Friday afternoon.

Jumble Sales are another form of activity. In August, at the Centre, the first Baby Show was held, which was most successful ; and it is hoped to make it an annual event. Entertainment for the Mothers is provided in the shape of musical afternoons and a Christmas party.

Mention must also be made of the Maternity Baskets, which are a great boon to Mothers ; also the Knitting Guild, which has furnished the Centre with beautiful knitted garments, and Mothers get the benefit of buying these at the cost of the wool only.

Glaxo, Malt, Rusks, and other medical requisites at reduced prices have been supplied where needed. The outlay under these heads has not been borne by the local authority, but has been met from the social funds of the Centre.

Dr. Percy Gardiner, as medical attendant, is most assiduous in his duties, visiting the Centre every Friday ; and Mothers are only too glad to avail themselves of his skill and interest.

The Nursery is also a popular feature of the Centre's activities. A valuable contribution to the fund was again handed over by the Committee of the Alexandra Fete, held at Bicclescombe Park in August. This and voluntary subscriptions and contributions enable the Committee to carry on the extraneous but very essential side of the Centre's work, which exists for the material welfare of the Mothers and Children, but for which the purse of the local authority is not available.

The Committee wish to express their best thanks to all who have assisted in the work of the Centre.

It is still the most urgent desire of the Committee that the approach to the Centre Rooms in Cow Lane be improved, or more suitable premises obtained by the Local Authority, as this is a real drawback to the work, many Mothers being quite unable to bring their babies, owing to the bad approach. The Committee are still living in hopes of this improvement, and also the introduction of a locally resident midwife.

Too much importance cannot be attached to the extreme usefulness of Maternity and Infant Welfare work, and it is with great pleasure the Committee present so satisfactory a Report in connection with the Ilfracombe Centre.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—Whole time for three Districts.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.—This Official is the appointed Inspector under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and Inspector under the Petroleum Acts. He also supervises the collection and removal of House Refuse and Street Sweepings, and does all the general clerical work of the Sanitary Department.

GENERAL ASSISTANT.—Disinfecting, Drain testing, etc.

Hospital Accommodation Available for Infectious Diseases.

1 Smallpox Hospital (Limited).

2 Infectious Disease Hospitals (20 beds).

The floor area, cubic space, and other details are strictly in accordance with modern requirements.

Adopted Public Health Acts in Force within the District.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878 (part of).

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Ilfracombe Improvement Act, 1900.

Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement Act, 1905.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN DISTRICT.

(Housing Inspector's Report, 1920).

The extent of need of New Houses in 1919 was estimated at 37. The number required to meet the natural increase in population and to replace persons dispossessed by the clearance of the Unhealthy Area, and to re-house persons living in dwellings unfit for human habitation during the succeeding 3 years, is 60.

By the end of 1922, it is hoped that 97 houses suitable for the Working Classes will have been erected.

Local Builders have offered to erect the number of houses required, which, on completion, will be purchased by the Local Authority. 18 of these houses are now in course of erection and nearing completion.

It is expected that 14 houses will also be erected by the Local Authority under Part 1 of the Housing Act, 1890.

During the past year 7 new houses have been erected by private enterprise, and the plans for 46 houses have been presented to the Council for approval under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919.

No cases of overcrowding have been discovered.

The general standard of houses in the District is good, but there is room for much improvement.

The General character of defects found to exist are dampness, defective roofs, eaves gutters, and yard paving. Lack of proper refuse receptacles, and general dilapidations.

These defects are invariably due to lack of attention by the Owners. Closing Orders are made in respect of all houses reported as unfit for human habitation.

The difficulties of remedying unfitness are certainly due to the increased cost in labour and materials, together with the impossibility of raising the rents to such an extent as would warrant the carrying out of works of such an extensive nature as would bring the houses up to the standard required. Practically all the houses concerned are let at a low rental, and the Owners are generally poor people. Progress must, therefore, necessarily be slow.

Owing to the present shortage of houses, it has not been found practicable to evacuate the tenants of houses which have been closed as unfit for human habitation during the past 2 years. To adopt and carry into effect a drastic policy of the destruction of these houses is, therefore, out of the question until the present shortage has been met.

One small area has been represented by the Medical Officer of Health to the Local Authority under Part II. of the 1890 Act, and the Council have decided to include this Area in the Improvement Scheme to be carried out under Part I. of the Act.

There are no bye-laws in force in the district relating to houses let in lodgings. There are no Common Lodging-houses.

During the past year the Council have adopted the Model Bye-laws issued by the L.G.B., with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. These Bye-laws are now awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Housing Conditions.

(Statistics).

Year Ending 31st December, 1920.

General.

Estimated population (Registrar General)	8,440
General Death Rate	13.6
Death Rate from Tuberculosis	1.8
Infantile Mortality	45.4
Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	2,249
Number of working-class dwelling-houses	863
Number of new working-class houses erected...	7

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	41
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	27

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	0
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	20
Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	15
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .	0
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied under Public Health Acts	14
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	10
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .	1
Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act., 1909.	
Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	3
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	27
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under Part 1 or Part 2 of the Act of 1890 :

Name of Area	The Area bounded on the North by Hiern's Lane, on the South by Quayfield Road, on the East by the Strand, and on the West by Broad St.
Acreeage	approximately half an acre.
Number of working-class houses in Area ...	14.

Number of working-class persons to be displaced	9.
Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with the consent of the Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town, Planning, &c., Act, 1919	4.

Staff Engaged on Housing Work.

Clerk to the Council	Preparation of contracts, etc., clerical work in connection with Improvement Scheme and keeping of accounts generally.
Surveyor	General supervision over erection of new houses.
Clerk of Works	General duties under supervision of Surveyor.
Architect (Messrs. Orphoot & Whiting) ...	Preparation of plans for Improvement Scheme.
Sanitary Inspector	Inspector under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.

The Urban District of Ilfracombe.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1920.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ILFRACOMBE,

**To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

Complaints.

During the year, 231 complaints were received. All were investigated and the usual steps taken for the abatement of any nuisance found to exist.

Pig Keeping.

The Council having decided to enforce the bye-law with respect to the keeping of pigs within 50 feet of a dwelling-house, much time and activity has been devoted to this particular work during the year, with the result that 43 pigs from 15 different premises have been removed.

One owner was prosecuted and fined, and on a second summons being taken out, a daily penalty was inflicted by the Justices.

Prosecutions were also ordered in respect of two other pig-keepers, but the pigs were removed without the necessity of bringing the cases before the Magistrates.

Notices Served.

Public Health Act, 1875	73
Other Act, Orders and Bye-laws ...	164
Housing Acts	87
Infectious Diseases	34
	<hr/>
Total	358

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

1 Public Slaughterhouse and 5 Private Slaughterhouses are in use.

Two of the Private Slaughterhouses are situated in the Unhealthy Area, and in due course will be demolished as the Improvement Scheme progresses. One of these Slaughterhouses

was licensed prior to the passing of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, but the other is licensed annually. The Council have refused the renewal of this licence. In the case of the other Slaughterhouse, the Council having recently purchased the property, the tenant will, in due course, receive notice to quit.

The number of animals slaughtered in the Public Slaughterhouse during the year was:—

Bovines	210
Sheep and Lambs	1562
Calves	111
Pigs	139

The amount of diseased meat and unsound food destroyed during the year is as follows:—

Beef (Tuberculosis)	1145 lbs.
Pork do. ...	132 lbs.
Internal organs, do. ...	217 lbs.
	<hr/>
	1494 lbs.

OTHER DISEASED AND UNSOUND MEAT.

Beef	114 lbs.
Mutton	10 lbs.
Pork	336 lbs.
Bacon	9 lbs.
Sausages	3 lbs.
	<hr/>
	472 lbs.

FISH.

Kippers	22 lbs.
Blóaters	87 lbs.
Shrimps	15½ lbs.
Haddocks	10 lbs.
Tinned Fish	20 tins.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Prunes	24 lbs.
Plums	3 lbs.
Beans	5 lbs.
Tomatoes	4 lbs.
Figs	86 lbs.
Melons	36
Pears	295
Tinned Fruit	123 tins.

OTHER FOODS.

Butter	9 lbs.
Milk	46 tins.
Various	6 tins.

No action has been taken under section 117 of the Public Act, 1875. All diseased and unsound meat and food was surrendered voluntarily by the respective owners, after examination.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

97 visits and inspections have been made.

119 notices have been served on different occupiers.

The structural condition of the cowsheds generally throughout the district is unsatisfactory. The buildings are old, and much behind the standard which the Regulations suggest.

In November the Council gave instructions for proceedings to be taken under the Regulations, against 12 different cow-keepers, but owing to a slight error made at the time of the adoption of the Regulations, summonses were not issued. The Regulations have now been re-adopted and will come into force in March.

One prosecution has been ordered under Section 8 of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

The following letter has been sent to all Cowkeepers in the District :

ILFRACOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,

Town Hall,

Ilfracombe,

23rd November, 1920.

Dear Sir,

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

I have to inform you that many Cowsheds in the District have recently been represented to the Sanitary Authority as being unfit for use as places for housing animals kept for the production of milk. I am, therefore, sending you the following extracts from the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, and the Council's Regulations made under the Order (copies of which you have previously received) with respect to the position of Cowkeepers and the steps they are expected to take under the Order and Regulations in the interest of Public Health.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

SANITARY STATE OF ALL DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Sec. 8: It shall not be lawful for any person following the trade of Cowkeeper or Dairyman to occupy as a dairy or cowshed any building, whether so occupied at the commencement of this Order or not, if and as long as the lighting, and the ventilation, including air-space, and the cleansing, drainage, and water

supply thereof, are not such as are necessary or proper :—

- (a) for the health and good condition of the cattle therein, and
- (b) for the cleanliness of milk vessels used therein for containing milk for sale, and
- (c) for the protection of the milk therein against infection or contamination.

REGULATIONS MADE BY THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF ILFRACOMBE WITH RESPECT
TO COWSHEDS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF ILFRACOMBE.

Lighting.

3. Every Cowkeeper shall provide that every cowshed in his occupation shall be sufficiently lighted with windows, whether in the sides or roof thereof.

Ventilation.

4. Every cowkeeper shall cause every cowshed in his occupation to be sufficiently ventilated, and for this purpose to be provided with a sufficient number of openings into the external air to keep the air in the cowshed in a wholesome condition

Cleansing.

5. (1) Every cowkeeper shall cause every part of the interior of every cowshed in his occupation to be thoroughly cleansed from time to time, as often as may be necessary to secure that such cowshed shall be at all times reasonably clean and sweet.

(2) Such person shall cause the ceiling or interior of the roof, and the walls of every cowshed in his occupation to be properly limewashed TWICE at least in every year, that is to say, once during the month of May and once during the month of October, and at such other times as may be necessary.

Provided that this requirement shall not apply to any part of such ceiling, roof or walls, that may be properly painted, or varnished, or constructed of or covered with any material such as to render the lime-washing unsuitable or inexpedient, and that may be otherwise properly cleansed.

(3) He shall cause the floor of every such cowshed to be thoroughly swept, and all dung and other offensive matter to be removed from such cowshed as often as may be necessary, and not less than once in every day.

Drainage.

6. (1) Every cowkeeper shall cause the drainage of every cowshed in his occupation to be so arranged that all liquid matter which may fall or be cast upon the floor may be con-

veyed by a suitable open channel to a drain inlet situate in the open air at a proper distance from any door or window of such cowshed, or to some other suitable place of disposal which is so situate.

(2) He shall not cause or suffer any inlet to any drain of such cowshed to be within such cowshed.

Water Supply.

7. (1) Every cowkeeper shall keep in, or in connection with, every cowshed in his occupation a supply of water suitable and sufficient for all such purposes as may from time to time be reasonably necessary.

(2) He shall cause any receptacle which may be provided for such water to be emptied and thoroughly cleansed from time to time as often as may be necessary to prevent the pollution of any water that may be stored therein, and where such receptacle is used for the storage only of water he shall cause it to be properly covered and ventilated, and so placed as to be at all times readily accessible.

If the Cowshed occupied by you and the conditions under which the cows are housed and milked do not already comply in every respect to the before-mentioned requirements, I am directed to state that the works necessary to bring your cowshed up to the standard required by the Regulations, must be at once carried out.

The following general description covers points which the Council consider essential in the repair of cowsheds, and any works which may be required to be carried out in connection with your building should comply with the following specification :

Walls.

Internal walls to be properly flat pointed, plastered or rendered in cement and finished smooth, so that they can be efficiently cleansed and lime-washed.

Floors.

The floors to be of good construction, impervious to moisture and without indented surfaces facilitating the lodgment of filth.

Manure Channel.

The manure channel behind the stalls to be at least 2 ft. wide with an average depth of 4 inches, and with a fall of 1 inch in 30 inches.

Water Supply.

A water supply suitable and sufficient for all purposes to be provided inside the cowshed.

Lighting.

Windows of not less area than 3 square feet per cow stalled to be provided in walls or roof of the cowshed so that the light does not fall directly on the eyes of the animals.

Ventilation.

Sufficient inlet and outlet ventilation to be provided irrespective of doors and windows.

Drainage.

All drain inlets, to be situated outside the walls of the cowshed. All drains to be of jointed stoneware pipes leading to a properly constructed catch pit.

Cubic Space.

Each cowshed to have a cubic capacity of, not less than 600 feet per cow stalled with 40 square feet floor space.

Manure.

All manure and litter to be removed from the building to a suitable dung pit not less than 30 feet distant.

Yard.

The surface of the Yard to be hard, impervious and properly drained.

In order that you may not be put to unnecessary expense by commencing works which might not subsequently be considered sufficient by the Council, I would suggest that you forthwith submit a short specification of any proposed alterations.

Yours truly,

HERBERT J. KARSLAKE.

Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases removed to Hospital	2
Rooms Disinfected	58
Articles Disinfected (Steam)	125
Articles Destroyed	58
Hospital Wards Disinfected	7

Housing Acts.

A detailed report of the work done under the Housing Acts has been submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and is included in his Annual Report.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

A detailed report has been submitted to the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the Local Government Board's Order of December 13th, 1910.

House Drains.

The drains of 15 houses have been tested. In 9 cases the drains have had to be relaid, and in 5 cases defects remedied.

Scavenging.

The removal of house and trade refuse is carried out by contract. Carts call at houses once weekly during the winter months and twice weekly during the summer months. The refuse from fish shops, hotels and boarding-houses, is, where possible, collected daily during the season.

In 1919 the Council decided on the erection of a Refuse Destructor for the District, but the difficulty in procuring a suitable site in a convenient place, together with the present day cost of buildings, etc., caused the abandonment of the scheme. A piece of land, some 7 acres in extent, has now been purchased in the New Barnstaple Road, known as Killacleave Wood, and all refuse is being tipped there.

It is estimated that for the 22 weeks during the season, 1,425 tons of refuse were disposed of, and for the remainder of the year 1,296 tons, making a total of 2,721 tons.

A man in the employ of the Council is kept at the refuse depot for the purpose of covering the refuse with soil at the time of tipping.

Salvage.

With the exception of a quantity of old tins no works of salvage of waste materials are carried out. In a small district, distant from industrial centres, salvage works, as they should be done, could only be carried out at a considerable additional cost to the present system of dumping. For the effective and efficient salvage of the waste materials contained in house refuse, proper plant, including appliances for moving, elevating, handling, screening, sorting, crushing, grading, pressing, etc., would be necessary, but the highest possible price obtaining for the salvaged materials would scarcely cover the cost of its transport to the desired destination.

Street Cleansing.

The surface cleaning of the streets is still carried out by men in the employ of the Council. The collection of the sweepings is done by contract.

All street sweepings finds its way to allotments and garden ground.

In 1915 8 full-time sweepers were employed during the summer months, and they worked 576 hours per week. In 1920 4 full-time and 3 part-time sweepers were employed, and they worked 208 hours per week, a reduction in working hours of 368 per week. This great reduction in working hours is equal to a saving in wages of over £20 per week.

If the same hours were worked to-day as in 1915, 12 full-

time sweepers would have to be employed instead of 4 full-time and 3 part-time.

That the importance of road sanitation is inclined to be overlooked requires to be again emphasised. It must not be forgotten that a thoroughly cleansed street surface is a necessity of Municipal hygiene.

Petroleum Acts.

The work under the Petroleum Acts continues to increase.

During 1920, 20 applications were received for licence to keep Petroleum. 17 licences were granted and 3 refused. 8 stores were reported to the Council as not being kept in conformity with the Council's Conditions. 138 visits and inspections have been made of premises on which Petroleum is being kept. 26 persons not requiring a licence gave the necessary notice under the Secretary of States Regulations.

68 letters have been written to various keepers of petroleum.

Something approximating to 40 tons of Petroleum Spirit is kept in the various stores and garages in the town in the season.

As the use of water in the event of an outbreak of fire in connection with a Petroleum Store would not only be useless but positively dangerous, a list of Petroleum Stores in the town has been submitted to the Captain of the Local Fire Brigade.

I wish to express my appreciation for the support which I have received from the Council during the year, and also to acknowledge the ready assistance of the Officials of the various departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT J. KARSLAKE.

