

[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Ilfracombe U.D.C.

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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

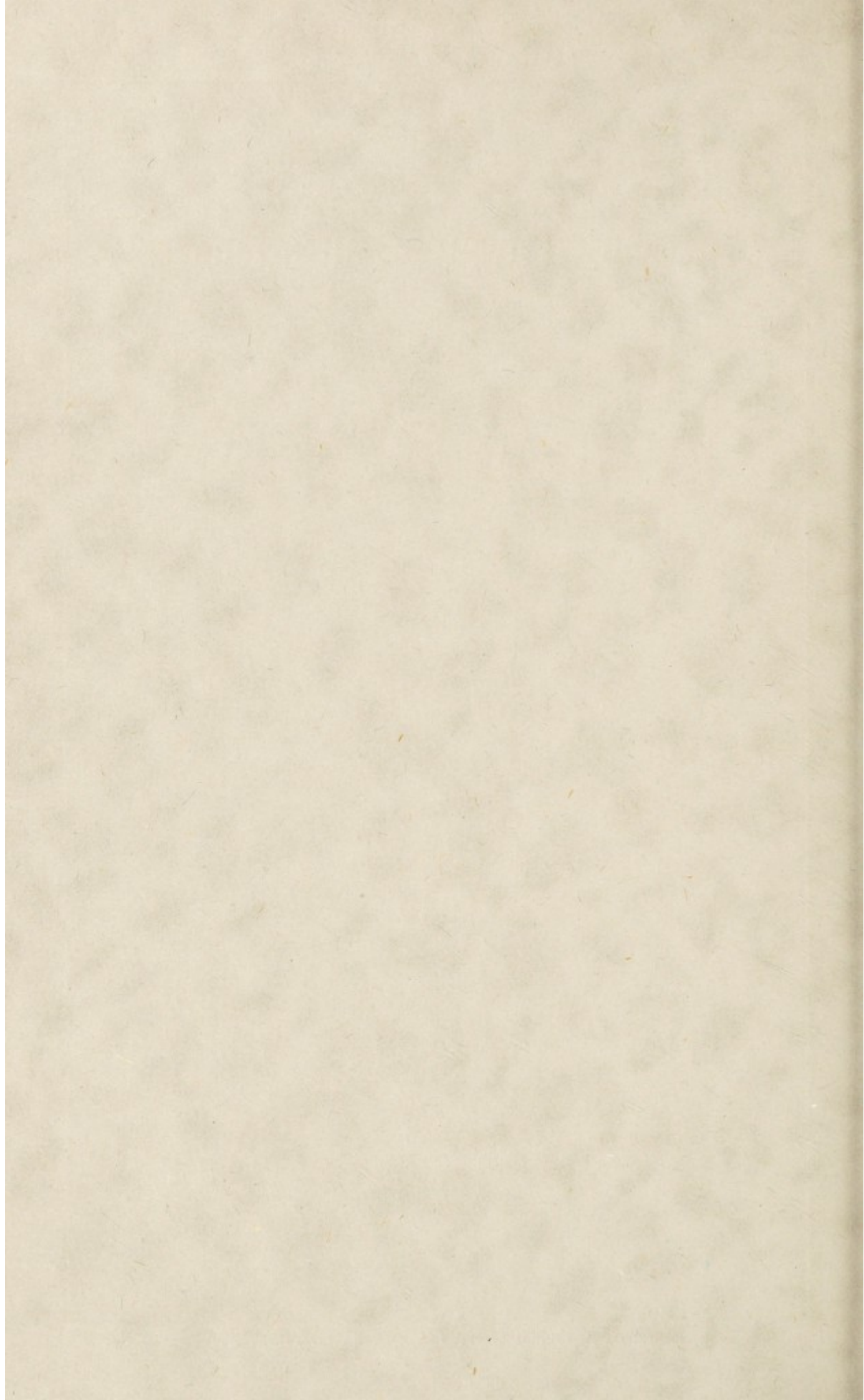
1949

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



Urban District of Ilfracombe.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Seventh Annual Report as Temporary Medical Officer of Health for the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

The Report is constructed on the lines indicated in the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The population of the Urban District at the 1931 Census was 9,175; the Registrar General's estimate of the population at the middle of 1949 was 9,224.

I would like to thank Mr. F. J. Saunders, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for all his help again during the past twelve months.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

July 1950.

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health—

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.

Clerk :—Miss M. Madge.

Statistical Memoranda, 1949.

Area (including Foreshore)	5,856 acres
Population (Census 1931)	9,175
Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1949) ..	9,224
Rateable Value	£85,558
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£346 17s. 2d.
Births	128
Birth-rate	13.9 per 1,000
Birth-rate (England and Wales)	16.7 per 1,000
Deaths	166
Death-rate	18.0 per 1,000
Death-rate (corrected)	12.6 per 1,000
Death-rate (England and Wales)	11.7 per 1,000
Infantile Mortality	62.5 per 1,000 live births
Infantile Mortality (England and Wales) ..	32 per 1,000 live births

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Live Births :

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	118	69	49	}
Illegitimate	10	4	6	

Still Births :

Legitimate	4	3	1	}
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

Deaths	166	79	87	}
				Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	—
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	—

INFANT MORTALITY.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	62.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	67.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Registrar General's Figures.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—
Influenza	1	3
Measles	—	1
Cancer	12	11
Diabetes	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	8	6
Heart Diseases	31	52
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1
Bronchitis	5	2
Pneumonia	—	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	—
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other digestive diseases	1	1
Nephritis	—	2
Puerperal & Post-Abort: Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature birth	2	2
Congenital malformation ; Birth injuries, etc.	4	—
Suicide	—	—
Road traffic accidents	—	—
Other violent causes	10	—
All other causes	1	3
Total all causes	79	87

The following table provides some statistical information which was not available for publication during the war years :—

POPULATION.

(Registrar-General's Estimates).

ILFRACOMBE.

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
10,160	13,370	11,010	10,110	10,270	9,377	9,039	9,110	9,621	9,224

The Tuberculosis Death-rate was .10 per 1,000.

Cancer was responsible for a Death-rate of 2.49 per 1,000.

The Death-rate from Heart Disease was 9.0 per 1,000.

103 of the deaths were those of persons 70 or more years of age.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There are two hospitals within the Urban District, the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital, with 32 beds and situated in St. Brannock's Park Road and the Bicclescombe Maternity Home adjoining Bicclescombe Park, with 24 beds.

Cases of infectious diseases other than Small Pox are treated at the North Devon Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford.

Small Pox cases would be isolated at the Upton Pyne Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities. Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Ambulance Services. Two motor ambulances, under the control of the County Health Authority, are stationed at Ilfracombe and operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Orthopædic Clinic. Held at Boutport Street, Barnstaple, the first Friday in each month at 11 a.m. by appointment.

Tuberculosis Dispensary at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe, Barnstaple, on Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 2 to 4-30 p.m. by appointment.

Venereal Diseases Clinic at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Females : Mondays 4-0 p.m. Thursdays 4-30 p.m.

Males : Mondays 5-15 p.m. Thursdays 5-45 p.m.

The following sessions are held at the Welfare Centre, Market Street :—

SCHOOL CLINIC. Each Thursday at 9-30 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

DENTAL CLINIC. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Alternate months. Third Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND FEVERS.

The following Infectious Diseases and Fevers are compulsorily notifiable in this district :—

Cholera	Pneumonia (Acute Influenzal)
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)
Dysentery (Bacillary or Amœbic)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Infective)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Non-Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Post Infectious)	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Small Pox
Measles	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)
Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
Plague	Typhus Fever
	Whooping Cough

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

AGE GROUPS	CASES NOTIFIED.			DEATHS.		
	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Pneumonia
Under 1 year	...	1				
1 to 2 years	...	13	1		1	
2 to 3 years	...	6				
3 to 4 years	3	17				
4 to 5 years	2	19	1			
5 to 10 years	15	52				
10 to 15 years	1	2				
15 to 20 years	...					
20 to 35 years	...					
35 to 45 years	...					
45 to 65 years	...	1	1			
65 years and over	...		1			1
TOTALS	21	111	4		1	1

Scarlet Fever.

21 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. The first case was notified in September after the teacher had seen that the child's hands were desquamating. Although the patient had regularly attended school, no other cases occurred amongst the scholars in this school.

The other cases were notified during the latter part of the year and were mostly children attending one school.

All were of a particularly mild type with no complications.

Measles.

An outbreak of Measles occurred during the early part of the year. Only one of the cases was a child under one year of age, 13 were between one and two years.

The majority of the cases were mild and ran an uneventful course. There was one death from Measles.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning during 1949.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	2	—	3	—	—	—	1

Water Supply.

The public supply in the Council's Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity, except that restrictions had to be placed on the washing of cars and the watering of gardens, etc., by hose pipe during the dry months.

The water is derived from two main sources :—

- (a) Watershed of open moorland forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.
- (b) A limited gathering ground in the vicinity of the Slade Reservoirs.

There is a piped supply of water for all the population with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the district who have their own private supplies. No houses are supplied by means of standpipes.

The water has a slightly plumbo-solvent action and the use of lead pipes is forbidden.

Samples of water for chemical examination were submitted to the Public Analyst, bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Three samples were obtained and forwarded for chemical examination and 11 samples were sent for bacteriological examination. 10 of these samples were classed as highly satisfactory, the other sample was classed as satisfactory.

No bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water before chlorination.

REPORTS ON THE CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER SAMPLES, 1949.

Date	6/1/49	6/1/49	6/1/49
Source	Folley Level	Low Level	High Level
Chlorine present as Chlorides	1.8	2.0	1.1
Nitrogen, present as Nitrites	—	—	—
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0.19	0.40	0.08
Phosphates	Slight trace	Slight trace	Slight trace
Hardness—Temporary ...	2.3	2.4	1.2
Permanent	3.5	3.8	2.5
Saline Ammonia	0.0004	0.0008	0.0054
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.0018	0.0016	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C	0.02	0.01	0.02
Lead, Copper, Zinc	—	—	—
Iron	trace	—	—
Manganese	—	—	—
Organic Matter observed in igniting the Solid Constituents	Slight trace	—	—
pH value	7.2	7.2	6.9

Sea Water Swimming Baths. 3 samples of water from the Council's Sea Water Swimming Baths were bacteriologically examined, two gave satisfactory results, the other report showed evidence of bacterial contamination.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Twenty-second Annual Report which deals with Sanitary Inspection during the year 1949.

86 preliminary notices were served in addition to 87 verbal ones being given. Statutory notices were required to deal with 16 properties.

Letters and circulars totalled 1,119, and had reference to the following :—

Milk Supply, 32; Food, 232; Housing, 43; Infectious Diseases, 304; Nuisances, 42; Salvage, 70; Rodent Control, 98; Petroleum Acts, 109; Outworkers, 33; Miscellaneous, 156.

The number of complaints received concerning nuisances under the Public Health Acts was 8; 10 complaints referred to choked street gullies, 5 related to Council Houses and 36 to other Council properties.

The scarcity of skilled labour and materials still exists and often prevents the carrying out of property repairs without considerable delay.

The housing shortage continues to be acute and on December 31st, 1949, there were 282 names on the list of applicants for accommodation, an increase of 35 over the number at the end of the previous year.

Only 16 new houses were completed by the Council during the year and at this rate of progress it will be many years before those without separate homes of their own can be accommodated. Until those now without houses have been provided for it is not practicable to consider certain properties which are ripe for demolition.

Much time is taken up in the interviewing of applicants and checking the information which they give in applying for accommodation.

It is now over three years since the collection of house and trade refuse by direct labour was commenced, and during this time the improvement in service has been continuous.

It was this year found possible to extend the work so as to make collections from outlying houses at Two Potts, Mullacott and Comyn Hill, in addition to the extra collections necessitated by the construction of new houses at Princess Avenue, Slade and Crofts Wood.

The public again showed a willingness to co-operate in notifying the presence of rats and mice and no less than 284 requests were made for the Council's assistance in eradicating these pests.

The knowledge that treatment of domestic premises will be carried out free of charge undoubtedly has much to do with the willingness to notify the Department of cases of infestation, as previous to the free service being instituted it was found that some neglected to notify for fear of the expense which would be incurred.

73 rooms and 5,707 articles were disinfected. 50 of the rooms being disinfected in consequence of infectious disease, the other 23 to eradicate vermin.

Further progress was made in getting work done at licensed houses this year, but in several cases improvements could not be carried out owing to the difficulty in obtaining building licences.

At a few premises the importance of providing separate sanitary conveniences for female customers, apart from that used by that used by the licensee's family, did not appear to be appreciated.

It is also surprising that at the present time it should be necessary to apply pressure on licensees to install proper facilities for washing glasses in bars and it is even more astounding that customers will continue to make use of bars when they see that the arrangements for the washing of glasses are inadequate.

193 visits were made to hotels and cafés, special attention being paid to the condition of kitchens and utensils used in food preparation, the food storage accommodation, washing facilities and arrangements for disposing of refuse and kitchen waste. In many cases inspections were also made of the staff quarters and where necessary suggestions for improvement were made.

Much requires to be done in educating food handlers to realise the importance of hygiene at every stage in the preparation of food and making certain they understand the vital necessity for washing their hands every time after using the toilet. Plaques drawing attention to this were issued to many food preparing premises.

In order to obtain any marked improvement it is therefore necessary to maintain continuous and thorough inspection of personnel and premises. The increased number of food poisoning cases throughout the country justifies all the efforts that are being made to ensure that food handlers appreciate the need for personal hygiene.

One great difficulty is that staff in many cases are only employed on a seasonal basis and are ever ready to throw in a job at one hotel and change to another, well knowing the hoteliers difficulty during the season.

I again wish to record my thanks to Miss M. Madge for the willing, courteous and efficient manner in which she has assisted in the smooth administration of the office.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS, M.S.I.A, C.R.S.I.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	17
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	8
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	7
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	12
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	24
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	3
Yards paving repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	12

Sanitary Accommodation.

New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	4
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	8
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	9
" " cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
" " seats repaired	...	...	...	...	2
" " doors repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage

New drainage provided	...	...	...	...	3
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	25
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Soil pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	7
New interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	7

Factories.

Walls and ceilings cleansed ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Water closet seats and pans cleansed ... ..	...	...	...	...	12
" " walls cleansed ... ..	...	...	...	...	6
Water closets provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
" " cisterns repaired ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Washing facilities provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied ... ..	...	...	...	...	3

Sewerage and Drainage. Sewage disposal is by sea outfalls, one discharging off Cheyne Beach and one between Hele and Hagginton Beaches.

The discharge from each is into a current which sets away from the shore and has proved satisfactory.

Consulting Engineers submitted a scheme of main drainage with a sea outfall for the Village of Lee and the Hamlet of Lincombe and have been instructed to prepare the necessary detailed plans and estimates, with a view to an application being submitted to the Minister of Health for a loan to carry out the work.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	59	100	5	—
2. Factories not included in(1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	52	123	2	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	6	35	—	—
Total	117	258	7	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were				Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	22	22	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	3	3	—	—	—
Total ...	26	26	—	1	—

OUTWORK.

SECTION 110

SECTION 111

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—
Brass & Brass Articles	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	—	—	—	—	—

It is interesting to note the variety of premises registered and inspected under the Factories Act.

Bakers 9 ; Beer Bottlers 2 ; Blacksmiths 4 ; Boot and Shoe Repairers 11 ; Cabinet Makers and Joiners 10 ; Coach Builders 1 ; Cycle Repairers 2 ; Dressmakers and Tailors 8 ; Electrical Engineers 5 ; Electrical Power Station 1 ; Gas Works 1 ; General Engineers 2 ; Glove Manufacturers 1 ; Jewellers 4 ; Laundries 3 ; Milk Factory 1 ; Milliners 2 ; Mineral Water Manufacturers 1 ; Monumental Mason 1 ; Motor Engineers 14 ; Ornament Manufacturers 1 ; Painters 4 ; Photographers 4 ; Picture Framing 1 ; Plumbers 7 ; Printing Works 2 ; Sausage Manufacturers 10 ; Saw Mills 1 ; Upholsterers 4.

Smoke Abatement. Ilfracombe is essentially a health resort and residential area, there are in this area very few works or factories emitting smoke.

14 observations, each of 30 minutes duration were taken of chimneys. On one occasion only was smoke nuisance observed, but on a visit being paid to the works at the conclusion of the observation, an explanation was given which could have accounted for excessive smoke on that date.

Further observations were taken of the same chimney but there was no recurrence of the nuisance.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	16
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	6

Housing Statistics.

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	...	...	...	623
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	11
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	33
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	0

(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	...	97
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	... ..	81
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.		
A. <i>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	0
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	97
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	0
C. <i>Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	0
D. <i>Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	0

Overcrowding. 6 houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year. These were occupied by 7 families consisting of 37 persons.

Overcrowding in 9 other houses was abated by transferring 44 occupants to accommodation under the Council's control.

In 5 other houses the overcrowding was abated by the removal to larger dwellings or the departure of lodgers.

On 31st December there were 282 names on the List of Applicants for Council houses or flats.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Infestation occurred in four houses, two were guest houses to which the vermin had been brought by staff.

Two of the infestations were discovered at an early stage and prompt treatment gave satisfactory results. The other two infestations were well established but responded satisfactorily to treatment. The method adopted is that of spraying with an insecticide after the woodwork has been loosened from the walls in the rooms concerned.

Holiday Camping Grounds. There are now three licensed camping grounds, but for short periods other sites are in use by campers.

28 visits were made to inspect the different grounds, attention being given to ensure that a suitable water supply and sanitary conveniences are available and that no nuisance is caused.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Under the Ministry of Foods Centralisation Plan, use of the Public Abattoir as a slaughterhouse was discontinued in 1942 and all slaughtering for this area is now done at Barnstaple.

The large cooling room at the Abattoir is, however, rented to the Ministry of Food and used as a Depot for allocating meat supplied for Ilfracombe and district.

Inspections made in connection with the food supply included the following :—

Bakehouses, 61 ; Cafés and Hotels, 193 ; Carriers' Vehicles, 39 ; Food Depots and Shops, 905 ; Hawkers' Vehicles, 23 ; Ice Cream Dealers, 172 ; Markets, 59 ; Preserved Meat Manufacturers, 75.

Unsound meat surrendered and disposed of included 1 carcase of mutton 66 lbs. Moribund ; 31 lbs. hindquarter of beef, Traumatism ; 6½ lbs. shoulder of veal, Abscess, and 50 lbs. beef, Bone Taint ; a total of 153½ lbs.

Other Unsound Food Destroyed 1949.

Apples	... 6 tins	Chutney	... 2 jars
Cherries	... 3 "	Coffee	... 4 bot.
Grapes	... 4 "	Corn Flakes	... 1 pkt.
Orange Juice	... 2 "	Jelly	... 8 "
Orange Juice	... 1 bot.	Macaroni	... 15 "
Peaches	... 9 tins	Milk	... 106 tins
Pears	... 3 "	Mixed Pickles	... 31 jars
Pineapples	... 1 tin	Pickled Cabbage	... 26 "
Plums	... 2 bot.	Pudding Mixture	... 68 pkts
Tomatoes	... 23 tins	Sauce	... 23 bot.
Honey	... 1 jar	Soup	... 26 pkts
Jam	... 29 tins	Sponge Mixtures	... 19 "
Marmalade	... 8 "	Walnuts	... 1 jar
Beans	... 6 "	Bream Fillets	... 126 lbs.
Beetroot	... 14 "	Catfish	... 42 "
Carrots	... 12 "	Cod	... 140 "
Peas	... 32 "	Cod Fillets	... 322 "
Spaghetti	... 11 "	Crayfish	... 16 "
Soups	... 15 "	Lobster Tails	... 16½ "
Brawn	... 13 "	Mackerel	... 190 "
Corned Beef	... 1 tin	Prawns	... 46 "
Meat and Gravy	... 2 tins	Bacon	... 5 "
Meat Rolls	... 6 "	Biscuits	... 97 "
Pork	... 6 "	Butter	... 32 "
Potted Meat	... 14 jars	Cheese	... 28 "
Veal Loaf	... 23 tins	Dates	... 1 cwt.
Bristling	... 1 tin	Dried Egg	... 14 lbs.
Fish Paste	... 2 tins	Ice Cream	... 56 "
Hake	... 1 tin	Ice Cream Powder	... 2 "
Herrings	... 2 tins	Rabbits	... 122 "
Pilchards	... 10 "	Sausage	... 26 "
Salmon	... 2 "	Tea	... 3½ "
Sardines	... 2 "		

Total weight :—19 cwts., 41 lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, and from that date supervision of milk production on farms became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A special report was submitted to the Council in November giving particulars of the changes made and details of the duties which remain in the Council's charge.

During the year one licence to use the designation "Pasteurised" was issued for premises in which the milk is treated by the "Holder" process and one licence was granted to sell milk under the special designation "Tuberculin Tested."

15 samples of pasteurised milk were tested, all of them gave satisfactory results.

60 samples obtained from different farmers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination. 54 of these were reported as free from tubercle bacilli. Six samples, owing to the premature death of the guinea pigs which had been inoculated with the milk, gave inconclusive results.

It is pleasing to again report that no sample was reported as tubercle positive.

19 samples of tuberculin tested milk and 31 samples of accredited milk were taken by the County Sampling Officer, of these, 12 of the tuberculin tested milk and 24 of the accredited samples passed the tests.

Routine sampling of milk for keeping quality was done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries National Milk Testing Scheme samplers. Results of the examinations were supplied to this Office and advisory work was carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

A number of the samples were obtained during the extremely hot weather when the mean average temperature of the atmosphere exceeded 65° F. during the 24 hours prior to testing and therefore the results of samples tested during this exceptional heat cannot be included for comparison.

Of the 477 samples tested in the approved manner, 333 or 69.8% were graded as being of good keeping quality; 93 or 19.5% were graded as fair and 51 or 10.7% were graded as of poor keeping quality.

Ice Cream. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947, which became more fully operative on the 1st May, 1949, prescribe conditions which must be observed in the making and storage of ice cream and are intended to safeguard consumers.

Low grading of ice cream is often associated with faulty cleansing and sterilising of the plant. The equipment used after the ice cream has been heat treated, namely cooler, storage tanks freezer and the pipes and valves going to the Homogeniser are the parts of the plant most likely to be the seat of trouble.

Tests for the bacteriological examination of ice cream samples are conducted on similar principles to those used for the bacteriological examination of milk and are carried out in accordance with recognised methods which necessitate pre-incubation in a waterbath at a temperature not exceeding 20° C.

After testing, the ice cream is graded according to the reaction during the methylene blue reduction test and provisional standards are as follows :—

Grade 1 is considered satisfactory,
 Grade 2 is considered fair,
 Grade 3 is considered unsatisfactory, and
 Grade 4 is considered very bad.

During the Summer of 1949 the results of 48 samples tested in the approved manner were received, 40 or 83.2% were placed in Grade 1 ; 4 or 8.3% were in Grade 2 ; 3 or 6.2% were in Grade 3 ; and 1 or 2.1% came into Grade 4.

10 other samples, which were obtained and submitted during the very warm weather, were tested, but, owing to the hot weather having raised the waterbath temperature during pre-incubation of the ice cream to more than 20° C, the reports on these 10 samples cannot be considered as strictly valid, 6 of the samples came into Grade 3 and 4 into Grade 4. It is probable that, had the waterbath temperature been the proper temperature, the grading of these samples would have been in a higher category.

The figures this Year again show an improvement over those of the previous years which may be noted from the following table :—

		1947	1948	1949
Grade 1	...	19	34	40
Grade 2	...	17	20	4
Grade 3	...	13	17	3
Grade 4	...	10	9	1

It is advised that the quality of ice cream from any vendor should not be assessed on the basis of a single sample, but that a number of samples should be taken in order to obtain a general opinion.

When results fall below Grade 2, a special visit is always made to the premises and an inspection made of the plant.

Six informal samples of ice cream were obtained and forwarded to the Public Analyst to be examined for fat contents. The percentage of fat in the respective samples was :—

4.1%, 4.8%, 8.4%, 9.4%, 10.2%, 11.9%.

There is no legal standard for fat content but this year the Ministry of Food have made available additional supplies of sugar and fats to ice cream manufacturers, conditional on the signing of an agreement that their ice cream will have a minimum fat content of 2½%. The whole of the samples were well above the Ministry's minimum.

In order to supervise the production and handling of ice cream : 172 visits were made to premises where ice cream was manufactured or sold.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year with the results of their examination :

Article	Number taken		Total	Results of Examination
	Formal	Informal		
New Milk ...	12	—	12	11 Genuine. Sample No. 540 was reported as containing only 7.82% of non-fatty milk solids but a high proportion of milk fat. As this sample was from one of four churns sent in by a farmer and as the bulked contents of the four churns was well above the minimum standard, no action was taken.
Peanut Butter ...	—	1	1	The sample of peanut butter was reported as showing traces of iron but nothing harmful.
Ice Cream ...	—	6	6	Genuine.
	12	7	19	

Dr. L. Meredith Davies, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied particulars of the samples which were taken during 1949, in the Ilfracombe Urban District by the County Sampling Officer.

These comprised the following :—7 samples of Milk, 2 samples of Saccharines and one sample each of White Pudding, Sweetened Fat, Olive Oil, Semolina, Essence of Rennet, Sausage Rolls, Rissoles, Seed Pearl Tapioca, Coffee—Chicory Essence, Sponge Cake, Pineapple Flavouring, Doughnuts, Ground Nut Margarine, Honey (English) and Essence of Ginger.

All the samples were genuine.

Shops Act. This Act deals with the welfare of persons employed in shops and requires that proper sanitary accommodation is available and that sufficient means of heating and ventilation are provided and maintained.

For the purpose of ascertaining that the provisions of the Act were being carried out, 243 visits were paid to shops.

In seven shops the sanitary conveniences were in a filthy condition, but on the occupiers' attention being called to this improvement was effected.

Washing facilities were not available in three shops where food was sold, but in each case suitable facilities have now been made available.

The undermentioned is a list of the defects found and remedied in 1949 :—

Walls cleansed	...	7	Dirty utensils cleansed	2
W.C. walls cleansed	...	4	Ceilings repaired	2
W.C. seats cleansed	...	4	W.C. pans cleansed	7
Shop floors cleansed	...	5	W.C. seats repaired	1
Washing facilities provided		3	New W.C.'s provided...	1

Licensed Houses. During 1949 a supply of hot water for washing glasses was provided in 9 more bars at public houses. Sanitary accommodation was improved by the construction of 3 new water closets and 1 new urinal.

Three licensed houses are without a supply of hot water in the bars, and in four others there is no separate convenience for females other than that used by the house tenant or the water closet provided for men customers.

Some of the work necessary has been held up owing to the difficulty in obtaining licences for the carrying out of work which would have included that necessary for sanitary purposes.

Supervisory visits were paid to licensed premises on 38 occasions.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

46 licences were issued for the storage of a total of 45,850 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

Two licences to store 120 galls. of petroleum mixtures were granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £29 0s. 0d.

162 Inspections were made under the Act.

RODENT CONTROL.

The operation of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, necessitated dealing with 300 cases of infestation.

Sausage rusk is the principal pre-bait and bread mash is used as an alternative. Red Squill is used as a poison when baiting has to be done in situations accessible to fowls or domestic animals, but for general use zinc phosphide has been found most effective, with arsenic as an alternative poison.

Baiting of the public sewers was carried out in January and again in June. Very few takes were recorded on either occasion and no dead rats were found in the sewers.

During the year the number of inspections made was 1,571, and the number of premises visited 517.

There were 300 premises on which infestation was found and treated.

342 lbs. of pre-bait was used, 230 lbs. of this being taken.

156½ lbs. of poison bait was laid and 104 lbs. taken.

The bodies of 515 rats and 26 mice were picked up, but this number does not by any means indicate the number of rodents destroyed, as many of the bodies are not found until after a considerable period. Based on the actual takes of poison it is estimated that 4,145 rodents were destroyed.

In May of this year an exhibition was arranged in the town to explain to the public the need for rodent repression. During the exhibition films were shown and while attendances were moderate, there was not so much interest shown as could have been anticipated.

Public Cleansing.

House and trade refuse is collected by men in the Council's employ, working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This method has operated since 1946 and proved efficient and economical.

One vehicle of the Barrier Type rear loader is used and continues to give good service. This type of vehicle has proved particularly satisfactory for a district of this kind as it is capable of carrying a very large load and thus avoiding frequent journeys to the tip and in practice it is found that refuse is not spilled on to the streets during loading nor are there clouds of dust thrown up to cause annoyance to pedestrians.

Throughout the winter there is a weekly collection of refuse from houses and a daily collection from fish shops. During the summer a system of shift working operates so that the vehicle is kept at work 12 hours per day, this in addition to the weekly collection from all houses, enables a daily collection to be made from the larger hotels and boarding houses and fish shops and a twice weekly collection from many other catering and boarding establishments.

The service this year has been extended to the groups of houses at Two Potts, Mullacott and Comyn Hill and in addition to collect from the new estates at Princess Avenue, Slade Valley and Croftswood.

The cessation of salvage collections has made a further increase in the work and there is now a special collection of shop refuse which occupies one half day per week.

915 loads of house and trade refuse were collected and based on test weighings this amounted to approximately 3660 tons, representing about 7.9 cwts. per head of the population.

Refuse disposal is by tipping at the Killicleave Wood ; in order to dispose of light combustible material an incinerator has been built from waste materials near the Tip and all trade refuse has been burnt.

Previous to 1939 this trade refuse was burnt in an incinerator at the Council Yard and occupied the time of a man for three or four days every week in addition to causing nuisance to neighbouring householders.

With the present arrangement all trade refuse is burnt the day it is collected, no extra labour is employed and no nuisance caused.

Two men are employed at the Tip to pack and cover refuse, maintain the roadway and keep the site in proper condition.

The present site has been the Council's Tip since the year 1920 and a large area has been filled in, there is however sufficient space to accommodate the refuse for about another seven years.

Refuse taken to the Tip during 1949 totalled 2,711 loads and included 915 loads of house and trade refuse, 820 loads street sweepings, 54 loads of gully cleanings, 286 loads of refuse including water tabling, weeds and hedge trimmings brought by the Surveyors' Department, 54 loads of refuse from local contractors and 582 loads, mostly shale, brought by builders and utilised as covering material.

Street Cleansing. The cleansing of streets is carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. A re-arrangement of the work has this year been made ; the town being divided into six districts in each of which a man is responsible for sweeping and also for the weeding of certain roads.

Each sweeper is provided with an orderly cart and arrangements operate for the carts to be cleared and the refuse taken to the Tip by another employee using a steel lined 5 cwt. van.

One man is employed part time for sweeping in Lee Village.

The number of loads of sweepings collected from the streets this year and taken to the Tip was 820, another 78 loads consisting of leaves were disposed of to gardeners.

The arrangement, commenced in 1948, of placing an increased number of litter bins in the vicinity of the Front and near to premises where ice cream is sold was continued throughout the summer. The bins being painted in bright colours attract the attention of the public and have helped to reduce the quantity of litter that would otherwise be thrown into the streets.

Public Conveniences. The men's public convenience at Brimlands was rebuilt this year and at the same time a new convenience was constructed for ladies.

There are now 22 public conveniences in the district, 11 for men and 11 for ladies.

The conveniences at the Pavilion have caretakers in attendance all day, but the others are cleaned every morning and are revisited by an attendant later each day.

There are no public conveniences provided at Lee and the provision of such will need consideration when a sewerage scheme is carried out, as during the Summer this Village is visited by a very large number of visitors each afternoon.

Salvage.

Until the beginning of July, 1949, every effort was made to continue collecting the maximum amount of salvage but that month we experienced difficulty in selling the waste paper and were notified that the price for waste paper would be reduced and in future regulated by supply and demand.

During August only a very small amount of paper was sold and in spite of many enquiries we were unable to sell about 19 tons of paper which had been collected in July.

It was therefore necessary to discontinue collections and close down the Salvage Department in August.

Ilfracombe's record in salvage work during the War years is one of which the town can be proud. Since salvage work began in 1940, 2,362 tons has been sold and for this the sum of £12,695 6s. 6d. was received.

In addition to the amount of salvage collected by the Council there was a very large amount of kitchen waste collected by local feeders and used in feeding pigs and poultry.

Liaison work was done by this Department in putting those who had waste for disposal in contact with those who required it for feeding animals or fowls.

The quantity of this waste known to have been collected exceeded 158 tons during the year.

It is known that Ilfracombe's record for the average amount of paper collected each month per thousand of the population was one of the highest in the whole country. It would be interesting to know if we have the premier place.

SALVAGE, 1949

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
80	1	2	0	Paper ...	525	6	2
6	0	0	0	Books ...	72	0	0
4	16	0	0	Newspaper ...	64	16	0
8	12	0	0	Iron ...	20	19	7
		2	22	Aluminium ...	1	1	4
	2	0	6	Brass ...	2	10	2
		3	22	Copper ...	2	3	7
	4	3	0	Lead ...	9	8	3
			10	Tinfoil ...			10
	2	2	19	Zinc ...	3	8	0
3	5	0	14	Rags ...	59	8	3
1	5	2	0	Carpet and Sacking ...	6	19	6
			20	Rubber ...		1	8
	4	2	0	Cord & Rope ...	1	11	8
	1	2	0	Felt ...		9	0
	1	0	18	Records ...		9	11
	1	1	14	Bottles ...	1	8	0
	12	0	3	Bones ...	3	9	5
			8	Gaskets ...			4
				Grant from the Ministry of Supply for Increased Paper Collection	55	0	6
105	12	0	16		£830	12	2

The following table gives the Meteorological summary for 1949. The observations are taken at the Victoria Pleasure Grounds, Ilfracombe.

Month	Air Temperatures						Earth Temperatures		Rel. Hum.	Cloud Amt.	Grass Min.	Rain		Sun	
	Means			Extremes		1 ft.	4 ft.	Amt. in.				No. of with 0.4 ins.			
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range	Mean								Min.		Max.
January ...	47.5	42.3	49.6	7.3	45.9	35	56	44.4	47.9	83.1	6.6	39.1	1.61	11	64.6
February ...	43.3	41.8	48.8	7.0	45.3	31	54	43.8	46.6	82.8	5.4	37.7	1.46	8	103.4
March ...	45.0	39.9	48.7	8.8	44.3	31	57	45.6	48.3	85.5	5.6	43.4	1.48	5	153.7
April ...	51.0	46.5	54.7	8.2	50.6	34	70	52.0	52.7	87.2	6.4	44.2	3.41	8	143.9
May ...	52.8	46.8	57.8	11.0	52.3	39	65	56.7	55.0	82.8	5.5	45.0	3.30	7	264.0
June ...	58.7	54.0	64.1	10.1	60.1	45	73	62.9	58.9	80.6	4.0	40.5	0.52	2	297.9
July ...	64.1	58.8	69.0	10.2	63.9	55	81	68.0	63.6	75.7	4.4	56.2	1.38	7	273.6
August ...	62.6	58.0	67.3	9.3	62.6	51	78	55.6	63.8	80.4	5.2	55.2	2.34	9	221.9
September ...	62.2	57.9	66.7	8.8	62.3	53	80	63.3	63.0	82.1	6.0	55.2	1.56	7	157.4
October ...	56.6	51.1	60.2	9.1	55.6	39	70	57.8	60.5	83.8	6.0	49.6	8.11	21	118.7
November ...	48.8	41.3	51.8	10.5	46.5	30	57	48.6	53.7	86.6	5.5	40.7	4.63	16	71.0
December ...	47.0	39.7	49.7	10.0	44.7	30	55	43.4	50.6	90.7	6.1	39.9	4.22	19	34.6
Means & Totals ...	53.2	48.2	57.4	9.2	52.8			53.5	55.4	83.4	5.6	45.6	34.02	120	1,904.7

Notes on Meteorological Report.

Temperature. The average daily mean temperature for the year was 52.8° , that for the summer months being 58.6° and for the winter months 47.0° , with an average daily range of 9.2°

The highest temperature recorded during the year was 81° on the 13th July and the lowest, 30° , on the 29th November and 9th and 13th December.

Sunshine. The total hours of sunshine recorded, 1,904.7 hours, was the highest since the Campbell Stokes Sunshine Recorder was fixed in 1919, and was 348.3 hours above the average over this period.

Rainfall. The total rainfall for the year was 34.02 inches, which fell on 120 days, October being the wettest month with 8.11 inches.

The total is 6.23 inches below the average of the past 46 years.



