

[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Ilfracombe U.D.C.

Contributors

Ilfracombe (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1952

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jczv2aju>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1952

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} the Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1952

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} the Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29493511>

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ILFRACOMBE.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

This report is the tenth I have had the pleasure of submitting for approval.

It is pleasing to record that the infantile mortality rate of 17.85 is the lowest figure since the formation of the Urban District, and also that 1952 is the first year since records were commenced in 1896 that no deaths have occurred from Tuberculosis.

The population of the Urban District at the Census taken in 1951 was 9,218, for statistical purposes the Registrar General's estimate of the population at the middle of 1952 was 8,729.

I would like to acknowledge contributions made to this report by Mr. F. J. Saunders, Sanitary Inspector, and to thank him for his help during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

July, 1953.

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, 1952.

Area (including Foreshore)	...	...	...	5,856 acres
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	9,218
Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1952)				8,729
Rateable Value (1-4-52)	...	...	...	£87,868
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£354 15s. 7d.
Bright sunshine during 1952	...	...	...	1615.8 hours
Rainfall during 1952	...	...	...	45.34 inches

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1952.

	1952			England & Wales
	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births				
Legitimate	100	58	42	—
Illegitimate	12	6	6	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	12.83	—	—	—
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	14.11	—	—	15.3
Still Births				
Legitimate	1	1	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total births	8.85	—	—	—
Deaths				
From all causes	137	53	84	—
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	15.69	—	—	—
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the residential population	10.82	—	—	11.3
Deaths from Maternal Causes				
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	1	—
Other maternal causes	Nil	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year				
Legitimate	2	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
Death Rate of all Infants				
Per 1,000 Live Births	17.85	—	—	27.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	20.0	—	—	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births	Nil	—	—	—
Deaths from Measles (All ages)	Nil	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages)	Nil	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	Nil	—	—	—

Table showing the certified Causes of Death in the district during 1952.

Registrar General's Figures.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—
Measles	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	9
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12
Coronary disease, angina	11	12
Hypertension with heart disease	—	2
Other heart disease	18	16
Other circulatory disease	1	3
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	—	4
Bronchitis	—	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	2	—
Suicide	1	2
Total all causes	53	84

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals. The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the town and surrounding districts are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board, through the North Devon Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals situated in the town are the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital, which has 32 beds and the Bicclescombe Maternity Home, with 24 beds.

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

The Small Pox Hospital, to which any cases would be sent, is the Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter.

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 noon, 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 10 a.m.

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

DENTAL CLINIC. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Alternate months. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m.

SPEECH CLINIC. Each Monday at 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.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.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified													Ages at Death															
	Under		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	Under		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	
	1	2													1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65				
Scarlet Fever ...						3	2							5															
Measles ...		3	4	3	5	20	4	1						40															
Whooping Cough	1			1	1	5	2			1				11															
Diphtheria ...										1				1															
Pneumonia ...														1											3	1		4	
Poliomyelitis ...							1							2															
Food Poisoning														1															
Meningococcal Infection										1				1															

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria.

One case was notified but this was later found not to be diphtheria.

Measles.

38 cases were notified, most of them occurring during December.

Scarlet Fever.

5 notifications were received, one case was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Bideford, the other 4 were treated at home.

All were of a mild type.

Meningococcal Infection.

The only case was that of a young farmer who was brought from Barnstaple Rural District into the Tyrrell Hospital and notified as suffering from Cerebro-Spinal Fever two days after his arrival in the hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Two cases were notified, one of these was later found not to be this disease.

The other was a boy 10 years of age who had probably contracted the infection during a holiday spent in London and the East Coast.

Recovery has been uninterrupted.

Food Poisoning.

One case was notified but although samples of food were examined the cause of infection was not ascertained.

Water Supply.

The public supply in the Council's Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity throughout the year.

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.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter. This year a total of 21 samples from the public mains were bacteriologically examined, 17 of these gave excellent reports. Three samples taken from a tap on the low level mains were not so satisfactory, and on investigation it was found that the point sampled was on the dead end of a main in which there had been little water circulation. A valve was fitted and the main thoroughly flushed out, subsequent reports were of a high standard.

One sample taken immediately after the floods on Exmoor which had caused damage to the water undertaking was found unsatisfactory, but later samples were up to standard.

Three chemical analyses of water were made by the Public Analyst who reports :—

“ The results of the analyses exhibit no evidence of the presence of any unwholesome quality or unusual constituents in the supplies.”

“ All the samples were devoid of plumbo-solvent powers.”

Sea Water Swimming Baths. Modern filtration and chlorination plant is in use at the Council's Swimming Baths. Frequent tests are made by the Department to ensure that chlorination is effectually carried out.

Four samples of the water were bacteriologically examined. Satisfactory results were obtained.

Private Water Supplies. Samples of water taken from two private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination. Both were satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

*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-fifth Annual Report which relates to environmental public health during the year 1952.

50 preliminary notices were served and 43 verbal ones were given ; Statutory Notices were required to deal with 4 properties.

Letters & circulars totalled 1,526 and had reference to the following : Infectious Diseases, 229 ; Housing, 408 ; Food Supply, 401 ; Nuisances, 60 ; Salvage 21 ; Ice Cream, 57 ; Factories, 49 ; Rodent Control, 44 ; Petroleum Acts, 108 ; Miscellaneous, 149.

The number of complaints received was 37 ; 9 related to defects in Council houses, 13 to other property under the Council's control, 3 referred to choked street gullies, and 12 concerned nuisances on private properties.

38 rooms and 3,121 articles were disinfected, 34 of the rooms in consequence of infectious disease and 4 in order to eradicate vermin.

236 of the articles were disinfected by steam and 2,885 articles by spraying and fumigation.

No further progress has been made in persuading tenants who have small families in large houses to move to smaller ones, and thus make the largest houses available for the largest families.

As was the case at the end of the previous year, there are still 16 Council houses which are under occupied.

The list of housing applicants was again revised near the end of the year and on the 31st December contained 237 names. This is a reduction of 11 during the year.

Further extensions have been made in regard to the area from which house refuse is now collected and the service is operating most efficiently.

Salvage income shows a big reduction owing to the market for waste paper having been very slack. This slump in the waste paper trade took effect in May and as it was impossible to sell all the paper which was then baled, salvaging had to be discontinued in August pending the clearance of existing stock. Small quantities are now being sold each month under a rationing scheme, but at the end of the year there were several tons of baled paper remaining at our Depot.

Special attention was again given to hotels, boarding houses, cafes and all other premises where food is handled, a total of 409 visits were made and 276 different catering establishments inspected.

In some of the kitchens, especially in the smaller premises, far too many old jars are stored and harbouring dust on kitchen shelves; on several occasions soiled bed linen was seen laying in kitchens and at a number of premises refuse had been dumped in the yards instead of being placed in dustbins.

There is, however, a general improvement taking place, increased use is being made of enclosed storage space in which food and utensils are protected from dust, and this year dogs were seen in only 11 kitchens as compared with 41 the previous year.

More staff were seen to be wearing clean and washable head coverings while engaged in food preparation and kitchen equipment and utensils are receiving more attention.

Every effort is made when visiting to educate food handlers and on five occasions during the year talks dealing with Clean Food were given to local organisations.

One of the difficulties in a holiday resort is the employment of seasonal staff, many of whom are only here during the busy season and the only opportunity of instructing these is when making an inspection of the premises.

115 visits were paid to the Meat Depot, 52 to the Market and 53 to bakehouses. Inspections of food shops totalled 932.

8 slaughtermen's licences were renewed.

14 inspections were made of Public Places of Entertainment for the purpose of checking ventilation and sanitary conditions.

The number of rodent infestations again showed a big reduction, the number this year being only 134 as compared with 194 in the previous year and 273 in 1950.

I would again like to express my thanks to Miss M. Madge for the courteous and very able way in which her duties have been performed and which have contributed to the efficiency and smooth administration of the Department.

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	...	...	...	...	21
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	3
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	7
House doors repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	3
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	21
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	11
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	5
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	4

Sanitary Accommodation.

New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	4
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	5
" " walls repaired	...	...	...	...	1
" " roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	22
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	4
New interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	1

Factories.

Washroom ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	10
Water closet seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Water closets provided	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	3

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

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

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	109	2	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	50	90	1	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	6	20	—	—
Total	101	219	3	Nil

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) ...	10	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	3	3	—	—	—
Total	16	16	Nil	3	Nil

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 un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel —Making etc.	10	—	—	—	—	—
Brass & Brass Articles	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Smoke Abatement. 12 observations, each of thirty minutes duration, were taken of chimneys, but in no instance was smoke emitted in such quantity as to justify action being taken.

Ilfracombe being a holiday resort and residential area, there are very few factory chimneys in the district.

Sewerage and Drainage. The town's sewerage system is modern, well ventilated and adequately provided with means of access. There are two outfalls, both of which discharge into the tideway of the Bristol Channel at points considerably below low water marks.

No Sewer extensions were made this year.

There is no further progress to report respecting the proposed new main drainage scheme for Lee.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority	... .. 16
(b) By private enterprise	... .. 7

Housing Statistics.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... 81
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 620

(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	29
(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	60
 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	56
 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	60
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	4
(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	1
(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. At the beginning of the year, 3 houses were known to be overcrowded and 10 more came to notice during the year. The overcrowding in 7 houses was abated by transferring 34 of the occupants to accommodation under the Council's control, and in 4 more the overcrowding was abated by other arrangements, so that at the end of the year there remained 2 overcrowded houses which were occupied by 4 families consisting of 17 persons. The Worth Road estate was completed this year and afforded a further opportunity of making a number of rearrangements so that the number of families rehoused this year under improved conditions was 25.

Camping Grounds. Three sites are licensed in accordance with Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and all of these were fully occupied during the peak of the season.

For short periods four other sites were also in use.

A survey made during the early part of August showed there were then 7 sites in use, and these were occupied by a total of 48 caravans and 268 tents, accommodating approximately 1023 campers.

A supply of main water and suitable Water closets are available in each of the licensed sites.

32 inspections were made of camping grounds, on the whole they are well conducted but from time to time neglect is found in dealing with refuse.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

All meat sold in the district is brought to the Ministry of Food Depot at the Public Abattoir previous to its distribution to butchers in the district.

Routine inspection is made of the meat at this depot.

Premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foodstuffs are visited frequently.

The total amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was :

Unsound Meat. 55 lbs. beef, Bone Taint ; 25 lbs. beef, abscess ; 36 lbs. beef, and 4½ lbs. mutton, Traumatism ; 40 lbs beef and 24 lbs. mutton, Decomposition ; 11 lbs. pork, Fracture ; 6½ lbs. ox kidney, Nephritis.

Other Unsound Food Destroyed 1952.

Fish.

Haddock Fillets	...	5 st.
Hake	...	12 st.
Lemon Soles	...	8 st.
Smoked Fillets	...	2 st.

Tinned and Bottled Foods.

Apples	... 73 tins	Luncheon Meat	... 86 tins
Apple Juice	... 1 "	Minced Beef Loaf	... 5 "
Apricot Pulp	... 21 "	Pork Brawn	... 2 "
Blackberries	... 7 "	Pork Butts	... 20 "
Blackcurrants	... 11 "	Pork Kidneys	... 7 "
Cherries	... 133 "	Pork Liver	... 13 "
Gooseberries	... 2 "	Sausage	... 8 "
Grapefruit	... 3 "	Steak	... 35 "
Grapefruit Juice	... 3 "	Tongue	... 5 "
Grapes	... 3 "	Veal	... 6 "
Mandarin Oranges	... 19 "	Herrings	... 3 "
Orange Juice	... 11 "	Herring Roes	... 1 "
Orange Segments	... 16 "	Salmon	... 2 "
Peaches	... 7 "	Sardines	... 2 "
Peach Pulp	... 1 "	Sild	... 2 "
Pears	... 4 "	Coffee Essence	... 1 "
Pineapples	... 11 "	Milk	... 22 "
Pineapple Juice	... 4 "	Mollasses	... 1 "
Plums	... 118 "	Treacle	... 1 "
Prunes	... 44 "	Puddings	... 4 "
Raspberries	... 6 "	Lemon Barley Crystals	1 "
Strawberries	... 9 "	Barley	... 2 "
Tomatoes	... 35 "	Cocktail	... 4 bot.
Tomato Puree	... 3 "	Lemon Squash	... 2 "
Jam	... 7 "	Olives	... 4 "
Marmalade	... 3 "	Sauce	... 4 "
Mince Meat	... 4 "	Vanilla Essence	... 1 "
Beans	... 33 "	Vinegar	... 4 "
Beetroot	... 3 "	Apricots	... 7 jars
Carrots	... 6 "	Peaches	... 5 "
Peas	... 30 "	Pineapples	... 1 "
Spinach	... 4 "	Jam	... 1 "
Mixed Vegetables	... 1 "	Lemon Curd	... 1 "
Soups	... 23 "	Marmalade	... 3 "
Ham	... 56 "	Pickle	... 8 "
Jellied Pork	... 3 "	Salmon Spread	... 1 "
Jellied Veal	... 11 "	Potted Meat	... 1 "

Other Foods.

Bacon	... 10 lbs.	Potatoes	... 1 cwt.
Cheese	... 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Swiss Rolls	... 9 lbs.
Cooking Fat	... 28 "	Vanilla Wafers	... 36 "
Lard	... 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Chocolates	... 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Flour	... 3 "	Corn Flakes	... 2 pkt.
Sugar	... 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	Oats	... 1 "
Semolina	... 1 lbs.	Spaghetti	... 5 "
Whipping Compound	... 10 "	Cake Mix	... 1 "
Dried Apricots	... 27 "	Soup	... 1 "
Prunes	... 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Gravy	... 1 "
Green Peas	... 40 "	Chickens	... 56

Total weight :—1 ton., 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts., 3 lbs.

Early in the summer a number of complaints were received from hoteliers who had purchased cases of tinned Belgian cherries and found them to have a most unpleasant taste. As many of the tins appeared to be sound a sample of the cherries was submitted to the Public Analyst whose report stated :—

"The sample is free from contamination with tin and is harmless to health. It contains, however, a quantity of dissolved iron amounting to 140 parts per million and this renders the taste so unpalatable that the article is hardly of a saleable quality."

All damaged and blown tins were destroyed and the purchasers of the cherries were advised to communicate with their suppliers respecting the unpalatability of the fruit.

Markets. There is one market where fruit, vegetables, etc., are sold.

52 inspections were made in the course of the year.

MILK SUPPLY.

Three licences were issued to Dealers authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised," and four Dealer's Licences were granted for the sale of milk under the special designation "Tuberculin Tested."

63 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination and of these two failed to pass the Methylene Blue test and six failed to satisfy the Phosphatase test.

56 samples of milk were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination. No tubercle bacilli were found in any of the samples.

Ice Cream. The greater part of the ice cream sold in this district is manufactured by large firms who supply retailers. There are, however, 4 premises on which ice cream is produced.

72 premises were used for retailing ice cream.

During the year 142 visits were made for the purpose of supervising the manufacture or sale of ice cream and 43 samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

The results were as follows :

Grade 1	...	...	20
Grade 2	...	...	14
Grade 3	...	...	8
Grade 4	...	...	1

Four of the Grade 3 samples and the one Grade 4 sample were manufactured by firms whose works are outside Ilfracombe.

Shops Act. 274 inspections were made of shops and resulting from the visits improvements were effected as follows :—

The walls and ceilings of 4 shops were cleansed and colourwashed. Proper washing facilities, including a supply of hot and cold water, were provided in 3 shops ; attention was drawn to dirty towels in use in 2 shops and these were replaced by clean ones. Two accumulations of refuse were removed from shop premises. One shop floor was repaired.

The sanitary conveniences in one shop were improved and in three cases water closets were cleansed and the water closet compartments colourwashed.

Licensed Houses. Visits were paid on 30 occasions to licensed houses ; there is a great improvement in the general standard throughout the district.

All licensed houses now have a supply of hot and cold water available over the sinks in each bar, and suitable sanitary conveniences are provided for customers of each sex.

The water supply to 2 sanitary conveniences was improved this year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Dr. L. Meredith Davies, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied particulars of the samples which were taken by the County Sampling Officer in the Ilfracombe Urban District during 1952.

These comprised the following :—30 samples of Milk, 4 samples of Ice Cream, 2 samples of Gin, and one sample each of Luncheon Roll, Beef Sausages, Pork Sausages, Tincture of Iodine, Pan Yan Pickies, Bicarbonate of Soda, Tomato Soup, Semolina, Salad Cream.

One sample of Ice Cream was reported as being 10% deficient in milk solids other than fats and the sample of Pork Sausages as 15% deficient in meat. In both cases warning letters were sent to the vendors.

All other samples were genuine.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act, which is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals, came into operation on 1st April, 1952, and authorises the local authority to issue licences to persons wishing to keep pet shops subject to conditions which may be specified.

These conditions have for their object the prevention of cruelty to animals and require that they should be kept in clean and sanitary conditions and precautions taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease amongst animals.

One licence was granted and the premises were inspected on 8 occasions.

Pestology.

Bed Bugs. Only one infestation occurred, this was in a small house, where lodgers of a rather poor type were accommodated and after these had left the insects were found. A thorough spraying with insecticide was carried out and gave satisfactory results.

Ants. One serious infestation came to notice in a small house. It was found that the ants were harbouring in a garden which had been neglected but on clearing the ground, treating the nests with quicklime and putting the garden into cultivation no further trouble occurred.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There are no major infestations but cases are sporadic.

Complaints are received from time to time and usually occur on premises where rubbish has been allowed to accumulate or on which fowls are kept and where food has been left laying about.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for rodent destruction at private houses, but unfortunately there appears to be a belief that this act of grace relieves the occupiers of all responsibility, with the result that they do little or nothing to help themselves.

The onus of destroying rats and mice on premises is on the occupier of the premises and although the Department is pleased to give every assistance it should be remembered that the local authority has the power to take action against any occupier who neglects to carry out this obligation.

Sausage rusk is in general use for baiting, bread mash being used when a repeat treatment is required, and Oatmeal as a bait is utilised when Warfarin is laid down.

The poison most frequently used was Zinc Phosphide with arsenic for repeat treatments.

Warfarin the new blood anti-coagulant was used in two instances where infestations had been persistent, in both cases the results were most satisfactory.

The annual sewer test and a maintenance treatment were done in January, 60 manholes being baited. 2 takes were recorded during the test and poison was laid in the sections concerned.

During the year 514 premises were visited, 1574 inspections being made. On 99 premises there was infestation by rats and on 35 premises with mice. All these were treated, a total of 582 visits being made for this purpose.

206 lbs. of pre-bait was laid and of this 134 lbs. was taken.

108 lbs. of poison bait was put down and 62½ lbs. taken.

The bodies of 100 rats and 2 mice were picked up, but from the amount of poison consumed the casualties must have been considerably more than the number of bodies found indicates.

Public Cleansing.

Since 1946 the service of house and trade refuse collection has been operated by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the winter four men and one lorry are employed, but during the summer six men with two vehicles are engaged in the work.

From dwelling houses a weekly collection is made during the winter and a twice weekly collection during the summer. A daily collection is made from the larger boarding houses and hotels during the season.

The general collection of trade refuse is once each week, with a daily collection from fish shops and certain other premises.

House and trade refuse collected this year amounted to 866 loads, weighing approximately 3,264 tons.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at Killacleave. In the course of the year the following refuse and waste material was deposited at the Tip :—

House and Trade Refuse	...	...	866 loads
Street Sweepings	...	...	658 loads
Gulley Cleanings	...	...	75 loads
Water tabling, hedge trimmings, etc., from roads and pleasure grounds	...	...	273 loads
Builders waste	...	...	37 loads

In addition 700 loads of soil and shale were brought to the Tip by builders and contractors and this material was utilised for covering the refuse.

Regular use was made of insecticidal powder to prevent breeding of flies ; results were most satisfactory.

Street Cleansing. Street cleansing is carried out by men provided with orderly carts, the refuse after being brought to central points is then collected by a covered van and conveyed to the Tip.

Additional to the 658 van loads of this refuse dumped at the Tip, 110 loads of leaves were picked up from the roads and deposited in gardens for use as fertilizer.

Litter bins are fixed in convenient positions throughout the town but most particularly in the streets frequented by visitors.

Salvage.

In the following table particulars are given of the salvage collected and sold during 1952.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
36	18	1	0	Waste Paper ...	472	13	5
3	11	3	0	Newsprint and Books ...	49	16	3
5	18	0	0	Cardboard ...	66	0	9
	19	3	19	Rags ...	22	6	1
	14	1	3	Carpet ...	3	3	7
	3	1	5	Sacking ...	2	19	8
	1	1	14	Cord ...		12	9
		2	0	Flock ...		1	6
1	10	0	0	Iron ...	5	10	0
<hr/>					<hr/>		
49	17	1	13		£623	4	0

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

List of Public Conveniences in the Urban District :—

Situation	Accommodation	
	Females	Males
Hele ...	2 W.C.s	3 Urinal Stalls
Brimlands ...	2 W.C.s	3 " "
Shearclose ...	3 W.C.s	4 " "
St. James' Park ...	1 W.C.	2 " "
Pier ...	7 W.C.s	7 " "
Cheyne ...	2 W.C.s	3 " "
Pavilion ...	4 W.C.s	8 " "
Avenue Road ...	4 W.C.s	Nil
Market Square ...	Nil	2 W.C.s
Northfield Road ...	3 W.C.s	3 W.C.s
Church Hill ...	4 W.C.s	3 W.C.s
Bicclescombe Park	2 W.C.s	2 W.C.s

Visits are paid at frequent intervals to see that all these conveniences are maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

No public conveniences are provided at Lee, but two private residents allow the use of water closets, to the doors of which they have fitted slot machines.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

44 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, the total amount for which these licences were issued was 42,860 gallons.

2 licences were issued authorising the storage of a total of 125 gallons of petroleum spirit mixtures.

The sum of £28 5s. was received by the Council in respect of licensing fees.

208 visits were paid to garages and petroleum stores.



