

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Kingsbridge R.D.C.

Contributors

Kingsbridge (Devon, England). Rural District Council. no2011196201

Publication/Creation

1937

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/t8np64zg>

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>



KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937.

Kingsbridge :

Lugger Bros., Printers, 83, Fore Street.

KINGSDOWN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1937

Printed by the
Rural District Council, Kingsdown

Kingsbridge Rural District Council.

CLERK TO COUNCIL,
Council Offices, Kingsbridge.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 236.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Council Offices, Plympton.

(Clerk to M.O.H. : MISS M. M. LANGMEAD), Resigned 26/3/38.

MISS M. E. BATTEN. Appointed 9/5/38.

Telephone : Plympton 2244.

SANITARY INSPECTORS,
Public Assistance Institution, Kingsbridge.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 112.

Kingsbridge Rural District Council.

CLERK TO COUNCIL.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COUNCIL.

1. The following is a list of the

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COUNCIL.

1. The following is a list of the

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COUNCIL.

1. The following is a list of the

1. The following is a list of the

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COUNCIL.

1. The following is a list of the

1. The following is a list of the

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. H. COWPER,
M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector : MR. N. C. HARRIS,
A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector : MR. R. B. BAILEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Inspector of Meat and Foods (resigned 30/11/37).

Second Sanitary Inspector : MR. M. S. POWLING, C.R.S.I.,
Inspector of Meat and Foods (appointed 7/2/38).

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS CALEY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the Year 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.—70,818 acres.

Population.—10,580.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1937, according to the Rate Book.—3,630.

Number of Unoccupied Houses.—172.

Rateable Value.—£51,809.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate.—£227 14s. 3d.

The Area is mainly an agricultural one, although on the coast line many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits.

There is an annual influx of visitors during the holiday season over the whole of the district, to which they are attracted by the favourable climate and the beauty of the surroundings.

The conditions of employment and environs are conducive to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

Legitimate :	Male	65	Female	48	Total	113
Illegitimate :	Male	3	Female	3	Total	6
		—		—		—
		68		51		119

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :—11.24.

STILL BIRTHS.—Male 5, female 1 ; Total 6.

Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) Births.—48.

Deaths.—155.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.—14.65.

Adjusted Death Rate.—11.28.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.—Nil.

Death from Puerperal Sepsis.—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births.—34.45.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.—35.39.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.—Nil.

Death from Measles (all ages).—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).—2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age).—Nil.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Influenza was prevalent throughout the district during the early part of the year. There was a rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified, but there were only two cases of Diphtheria.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever, a boy who arrived from the Continent at the end of July and shortly afterwards developed the disease, which was confirmed serologically. The case was treated in hospital and recovered. Very careful enquiries were made into this case, and it appeared that the infection was acquired prior to his arrival in this country.

One case of suspected Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) was admitted to hospital, but proved to be a case of disseminated sclerosis.

Diphtheria Immunization.—A Clinic was held at Modbury Council Mixed School and 221 children were protected.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.**

Diseases	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	6	3	0
Diphtheria ...	2	2	1
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	3	0	0
Chicken Pox ...	1	0	0
Erysipelas ...	3	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0

Age Analysis. Scarlet Fever.

Under 5 years	0
Under 10 years	0
Under 15 years	10
Under 20 years	0
Under 25 years	21
Under 30 years	25

Age Analysis. Diphtheria.

Under 5 years	0
Under 10 years	7 and 9

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Swilly and one case to Bideford; the cost of the latter was paid by the patient, while the cost of the two at Swilly amounted to £36 1s. 0d.

The two cases of Diphtheria were admitted to the Swilly Hospital, Plymouth, at a cost of £46 0s. 6d. One of these cases died on arrival at the hospital.

A suspected case of Infantile Paralysis was admitted to Swilly at a cost of £6 3s. 0d. The diagnosis of this case was changed to Disseminated Sclerosis.

One of the three cases of Erysipelas was removed to Swilly. The cost of maintenance was £6 6s. 0d.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
45—55 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	4	1	1	3	1	1	1

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District Council and Kingsbridge Urban District Council, and School Medical Inspector, Devon County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

Two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors.

Laboratory Facilities are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

Provision of Anti-Toxin.—Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of anti-toxin. Material is also supplied for the immunization of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

LIST OF PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

Name of Parishes.	Name of Public Vaccinators.
Charleton, Aveton Gifford, Modbury, Bigbury, Kingston and Ringmore	... DR. W. H. COWPER, Kingsbridge.
Blackawton and Stoke Fleming	... DR. J. G. WARREN, Westbourne, Dartmouth.
Churchstow, South Milton, Thurlestone, W. Alvington, Buckland-Tout Saints, East Allington, Loddiswell and Woodleigh	... DR. W. G. VERNIQUET, Barnfield, Kingsbridge.
Chivelstone, Sherford, Slapton, South Pool and Stokenham	... DR. W. H. SIMONDS, Chillington, Kingsbridge.
E. Portlemouth, Malborough and South Huish	... DR. D. O. TWINING, Salcombe

Vaccination Officer : MR. H. SMITH.

Nursing in the Home.—None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employ Health Visitors in the district. Some of the parishes employ a District Nurse, whose services are of the greatest value.

Midwives.—Registration and supervision exercised by the County Council.

The South Hams Cottage Hospital provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts :

Men's Ward	... 6 beds.
Women's Ward	... 6 beds.
Children's Cots	... 2
Private Wards	... 2 (one bed each).

It is supported by voluntary effort.

Patients were admitted from the various parishes as follows :
East Allington, 5 ; West Alvington, 6 ; Charleton, 2 ; Chillington, 2 ; Chivelstone, 1 ; Churchstow, 2 ; Frogmore, 1 ; Loddiswell, 3 ; Malborough, 12 ; South Milton, 2 ; Prawle, 5 ; Sherford, 3 ; Slapton, 4 ; South Pool, 2 ; Stokenham, 7 ; Thurlestone, 13.

Isolation Hospital.—None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth. The Council have also an arrangement with the Paignton Urban District Council, by which infectious cases requiring hospital treatment can be sent to their Isolation Hospital.

The arrangements referred to are provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County, and which scheme is in course of preparation.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—There is a centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in each month, and one at Slapton (monthly meeting, 1st Wednesday).

The attendance for the year was as follows :

		Number of Openings	Mothers present.	Infants present.	Children 1 to 5 years.
Kingsbridge	...	18	384	113	423
Slapton	...	10	59	30	47

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.—The parishes in the district are mainly supplied by public water supplies from local sources derived from wells and springs. Supplies were analysed during the year and some of them proved unsatisfactory. The prolonged period of dry weather during the summer has shown that these supplies are still far from adequate.

THE KINGSBRIDGE AND SALCOMBE WATER BOARD ACT, 1937.

In the 1936-37 Session of Parliament, the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board successfully promoted a Bill to alter the constitution of the Board and to make the Kingsbridge Rural District Council a constituent authority and to authorize the construction of additional water works.

By this a water supply will be obtained for the contributory places within the Rural District which should prove sufficient to meet all demands for many years to come.

The Council will, in April, 1938, become a constituent authority of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board and steps will immediately be taken to construct additional waterworks throughout the district. The villages of West Alvington and South Milton will take precedence.

A number of improvements and extensions to water supplies have been carried out during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.—During the year the sewerage works at Modbury and Slapton were completed.

These works and the ones completed last year at Kingston, Torcross and Inner Hope are now in operation and appear to be working satisfactorily, although an alteration is required to the outfall at Hope.

40 new drains were laid and tested during the year.

The systematic conversion of privy middens to pail closets or water closets is being carried out where found necessary. Three privies have been converted during the year.

Scavenging.—Scavenging of the whole of the district is now done by private contract. Difficulties have arisen, but the scheme now appears to be working satisfactorily.

PARISH NOTES.

(NOTE.—In order to obtain adequate supervision over sewerage works and water supplies, the Council appointed a full-time water and sewerage bailiff during the year.)

Aveton Gifford.—Minor works have been carried out to the water supplies of this village.

Buckland-tout-Saints.—Private works of sewerage to four cottages have been carried out in this village.

Blackawton.—The water supply to this village is still under consideration and surveys of the village have been made.

Charleton.—Following improvements to the septic tank in this village, no nuisance was caused during the year.

Chivelstone.—The question of providing a water supply to East Prawle was considered during the year, and bore holes have been sunk with a view to providing a piped supply to the village.

East Allington.—Improvements are still required to the sewerage works at East Allington and it is hoped that this work will be carried out at an early date.

It is also proposed to augment the water supply as this village will not be affected by the provisions of the Water Board.

East Portlemouth.—A nuisance arising from the sewerage outfall at East Portlemouth occurred during the year, but was subsequently abated. The Council are now negotiating with a view to purchasing land for the improvement of these works.

Kingston.—The new improvements to the sewerage works are satisfactory.

Loddiswell.—An extension of the sewer in this village has been carried out during the year.

Slapton.—To augment the existing supply a new well has been sunk and the water pumped to the reservoir. This is a temporary arrangement pending the arrival of the Moorland supply.

Strete.—The Council has under consideration a scheme to augment the existing supply, as this village will not be supplied by the Moorland water.

HOUSING.

During the year a considerable number of housing inspections were carried out with a view to further consideration of including houses in a slum clearance scheme.

A number of owners have carried out repairs and improvements to their houses following informal notices.

The Council are still considering the question of re-housing tenants who will be displaced following the demolition of houses subsequent to the last Slum Clearance Enquiry.

Sites have been obtained in some cases, and plans are being prepared.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.—To date, 17 houses have been thoroughly reconditioned under the above Act, and there seems every possibility that during the next year this number will be very considerably increased.

Housing Statistics :

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :			
(1)	(a)	Total Number of Dwelling-houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	306
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose		380
(2)	(a)	Number of Dwelling-houses included in sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	...	30
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose		37
(3)		Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	....	125
(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	....	39
2.	Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers			
		...	...	18
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year			
		...		Nil.

Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding).

The Council still have under consideration the re-housing, etc., of persons living in overcrowded dwellings. Properties are still being measured under this Act in order that information may be inserted in the rent books by the respective owners.

At the end of the year there were 14 cases of overcrowding in the district, as compared with 24 cases when the original survey was made. It is improbable that there will be any further decrease in this number by natural adjustments, such as the marriage and departure from home of sons and daughters.

OVERCROWDING TABLE.

(a) The number of Dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year together with the number of families and the number of persons dwelling therein :					
	Number of Dwelling-houses overcrowded	...	...	...	14
	Number of families	...	...	...	14
	Total number of persons concerned	...	...	...	97
(b) The number of new cases of overcrowding reported					
		...	...	...	Nil.
(c) The number of cases of overcrowding relieved and the number of persons concerned :					
	Number of Cases	...	...	...	7
	Number of Persons	...	...	...	29
	Cases relieved by Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil.
(d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses in respect of which the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding have again become overcrowded					
	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to conditions in relation to overcrowding which the Minister may from time to time require :					
	Number of houses measured and recorded	...	...	...	52
Building Progress : Number of Houses erected :					
	Without State assistance	...	...	...	40
	With State assistance under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	Nil.
	Number of Plans submitted	...	...	...	118
	Number of Plans approved	...	...	...	116
	Block Plans for layouts submitted and approved	...	...	...	1

Water Connections.—Number of water connections made to public water supplies during the year.—23.

Modbury	...	9
Malborough	...	4
Beesands...	...	2
Loddiswell	...	1
Slapton	...	1
Stoke Fleming		3
Aveton Gifford	...	1
Kellaton	...	2
		—
		23
		—

Water Samples.—During the year seven water samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis ; five of them proved satisfactory.

Petrol and Carbide Licences, etc.—The following licences were issued or renewed during the year :

Petrol Licences	...	43
Carbide Licences	...	1
Explosive Licences		25

Camping and Camping Sites.—During the summer a number of visitors spend their holiday under canvas in this district, and as a result camping sites were established in various parts of the district. 15 permanent sites were in use throughout the summer, and although complaints were received, the nuisances were quickly remedied. Under the new Public Health Act, further powers are given to Local Authorities to enable them to control more rigidly all such sites, and it is hoped that the amenities of the district will accordingly be greatly benefitted.

Offensive Trades.—There is only one offensive trade in the district—that of a fellmonger. Nuisances have arisen during the year with regard to the disposal of the effluent at the new sewerage works at Modbury, but it is hoped that a remedy is forthcoming in the near future.

Nuisances.—52 complaints were received of various nuisances, such as choked drains, improper disposal of waste water, insufficient sanitary accommodation, etc. All were abated following the service of notices.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are 273 dairies and cowsheds on the registers. Inspections of premises are frequently made, and various notices are served from time to time requiring lime-washing, cleansing of utensils, etc. Improvements to existing sheds have been made during the year to enable tenants to produce milk under the Accredited Scheme. Samples have been taken during the year for bacterial counts and the presence of tubercle, but no samples proved positive to the latter test.

There are 28 accredited producers and two Tuberculin Tested producers in the district.

Food and Drugs Act, 1928.—This Act is administered by the Police, and 39 samples were taken during the year, all of which proved genuine.

Bakehouses.—The 16 bakehouses in the district are inspected regularly and are found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses.—There are 21 slaughterhouses in the district where slaughtering is carried on regularly. Frequent inspections of these premises are made, and when it is found necessary, diseased meat is seized and destroyed. There is still a considerable amount of occasional slaughtering carried on in the district, but notification of slaughtering is duly received from the persons concerned.

During the routine inspection of slaughtering, approximately 350-lbs. of diseased meat was seized.

There are 57 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

There are 15 butchers' shops in the district, all of which are kept in a cleanly condition, are provided with glass fronts and have adequate cooling chambers. 156 inspections of shops and places where food is prepared have been made.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

During the summer of 1912, the United States Geological Survey conducted a series of investigations into the geology of the Colorado Plateau. The results of these investigations are presented in this report.

The Colorado Plateau is a large, flat-topped area of land in the southwestern United States. It is bounded by the Rocky Mountains to the west and the Sierra Madre Occidental to the south.

The geology of the Colorado Plateau is characterized by a series of horizontal rock layers. These layers are composed of sandstone, shale, and limestone.

The sandstone layers are the most prominent feature of the Colorado Plateau. They are composed of fine-grained sandstone that has been deposited in a shallow sea. The sandstone layers are separated by thin layers of shale.

The limestone layers are also a prominent feature of the Colorado Plateau. They are composed of limestone that has been deposited in a shallow sea.

The geology of the Colorado Plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The deposition of the rock layers is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The erosion of the plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The deposition of the rock layers is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The erosion of the plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The deposition of the rock layers is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The erosion of the plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The deposition of the rock layers is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The erosion of the plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The deposition of the rock layers is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.

The erosion of the plateau is the result of a series of geological events. These events include the deposition of the rock layers and the erosion of the plateau.