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Contributors

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



R E P O R T
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year .

1942

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices,
Plympton.

From September, 1942

Manor House,
Kingsbridge.

Clerk to M.O.H., Miss Frowse. Clerk to M.O.H., Miss Hendrickson

Telephone: Plympton 2244

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004

SANITARY INSPECTORS

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246.

C.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year, 1942.

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.C.H.,

B.A.O.

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

C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector: MR. A. E. SMITH, Inspector of Meat and

Foods.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the Year, 1942.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area - 70,818 acres.

Population - 12,400

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1942, according to the
Rate Book - 3,880

Number of Unoccupied Houses - 73.

Rateable Value - £55,783.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £239.16.8.

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	79	Female	84
Illegitimate: Male	5	Female	3
	84		87
		Total	163
		Total	8
			171

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: - 13.79

STILL BIRTHS - Male - 1, Female - 3. Total 4.

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births:- 22.85

DEATHS - 181.

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:- 14.59

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis - Nil.

Deaths from other maternal causes - Nil,

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births: - 76.02

(b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:- 79.75

(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: - Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): - 24.

Deaths from Measles (all ages): - Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages): - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age): - 1.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1942

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	8	-
Diphtheria	7	7	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-	-

<u>AGE ANALYSIS</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>AGE ANALYSIS</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>
Under 5 years	3	Under 5 years	1
Under 10 years	8	Under 10 years	2
		Under 15 years	1
		Under 20 years	1
		Under 25 years	1
		Under 30 years	1

8 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Medbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at a total cost of £82.2.6

1 case of Diphtheria was admitted to the Swilly Hospital and 6 cases to Medbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at a total cost of £95.8.0 After observation one case proved not to be diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	1
25-35 years	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35-45 years	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
45-55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	5	3	1	-	4	2	-	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

664 children were fully protected during the year, and 303 children received one injection only.

GENERAL PROVISION 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).

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. Seale Hayne College also examines milk samples in cases of suspected mastitis. Urgent bacteriological specimens may be sent to the laboratory at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth.

PROVISION OF ANTI-TOXIN Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of anti-toxin. Material is also supplied for the immunisation 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,
Medbury, Bigbury, Kingston,
and Kingmore.

Dr. W.H. Cowper,
Kingsbridge.

Blackawton and Stoke Fleming.

Drs. Corbett & Spicer
(for Dr. Warren on active
service),
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.S. 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. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. There are five practising midwives in the district.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRE There is a centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

The attendance for the year was as follows:-

<u>Number of openings</u>	<u>Mothers present</u>	<u>Infants present</u>	<u>Children 1-5 years</u>
24	601	265	486

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.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. There is an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at Modbury, and by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, some infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS Of the 19 Elementary Schools in the District, all were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and in cases requiring further attention by the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 64 notices were received referring to 191 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	14
Chicken Pox	54
Diphtheria	7
Measles	20
German Measles	2
Whooping Cough	31
Mumps	14
Ringworm	2
Impetigo	4
Scabies	42
Infantile Paralysis	1

AVETON GIFFORD WATER SUPPLY A Military Camp having been erected above the Council Water Shed, the Medical Officer of Health thought it expedient to protect the supply by chlorination. A chlorinating apparatus was duly installed, and a man appointed to visit the installation every day to keep it in working order.

CHURCHSTON SEWERAGE. An improvement was made to the sewer in this village to obviate a nuisance arising from slop water from four cottages.

CHIVELSTONE - EAST FRAWLE WATER EXTENSION. In order to provide a pure and satisfactory water supply to the village of East Frawle, approximately four hundred feet of 4" water main was laid, and standpipes erected in various parts of the village. Several of the inhabitants were granted permission to take the supply into their houses. This extension enabled the two public wells, which were very badly polluted to be closed down.

MODBURY CLEANSING To facilitate the cleansing of the streets after Market days, an additional standpipe has been erected in Poundwell Street.

KINGSTON SEWERAGE. Owing to a collapse of a stone gutter, it was found necessary to replace this with one hundred and fifty feet of 6" spigot and socket piping.

STOKENHAM SEWERAGE. A nuisance having arisen from a cesspool which received the drainage of five houses at Torcross, a branch pipe was laid from the main sewer, and the whole of these properties connected up.

To deal with additional sewage in the village of Chillington, a new septic tank has been constructed.

THURLESTONE SEWAGE AND WATER SUPPLY A branch drain was laid from the Marine Camp and connected to the public sewer.

Nine hundred yards of 3" C.I. water main was laid by the Admiralty to the Thurlestone Hotel, and connected to the South Milton water main, which enabled this Hotel to be provided with an adequate water supply.

PETROL LICENCES The following licences were issued or renewed during the year:

Petrol 1.

OFFENSIVE TRADES One Offensive Trade, that of a Fellmonger, is carried on in the district. It has been regularly inspected and has given no cause for complaint.

NUISANCES 1 Formal notice was sent and the abatement was in due course effected. 93 complaints were received.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS There are 680 dairies and cowsheds in the area, 272 of which were inspected during the year.

88 samples of milk were taken by this Council, 54 of which passed and 34 failed.

The number of accredited Milk Producers placed on the list is 46.

BAKEHOUSES 16 Bakehouses are on the register and they are all in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. There are in the district 21 slaughterhouses. These slaughterhouses are not used for slaughtering except for casualties, as the whole of the meat supplied to the district is dressed outside the area. There are 5 licensed slaughtermen only.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.C.SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

