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Contributors

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HEALTH
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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1948.



KINGSBRIDGE :

Lugger Bros., Printers, 83 Fore Street.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47.

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CLERK TO M.O.H.

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year, 1948.

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. HARRIS,
A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector : MR. M. S. POWLING, C.R.S.I.
(Inspector of Meats and Foods).

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1948.

The health of the district has continued to be very satisfactory.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on the 5th July, 1948, the hospital services were taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, and the local Health Authority (Devon County Council) become responsible for the ambulance services.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,390.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1948, according to the Rate Book—3,963.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—47.

Rateable Value—£60,889.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£259 (approx.).

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 :

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	163	76	87
Illegitimate	8	4	4
	<hr/> 171	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 91

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—
15.01.

Still Births 6 4 2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—33.89.

Deaths 141 81 60

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—
12.38.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
No. 29 Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.08
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

CAUSES OF DEATH :

	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	4
7. Other Forms of T.B.	1	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	1	—
13. Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph.	—	—
(M) Uterus (F)	—	1

14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	8	6
17.	Diabetes	1	—
18.	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions	13	11
19.	Heart Disease	21	17
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	3	2
21.	Bronchitis	3	2
22.	Pneumonia	1	2
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	3	1
28.	Nephritis	1	5
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	1	—
32.	Congenital Malformations	1	1
	Birth Injuries	—	—
	Infants Disorders	—	—
33.	Suicide	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	—	1
35.	Other violent causes	3	1
36.	All other causes	11	2
		81	60
		—	—

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1948.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	3	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	68	—	—
Measles	97	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	2	1	—
Polioencephalitis	1	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
TOTALS	182	7	—

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, Kingsbridge Urban District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority, and Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One whole time Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

One whole time Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. — The Public Health Laboratory Service has taken over the Bacteriological Laboratory, formerly administered by the Devon County Council, and are carrying on providing a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk and water supplies.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is available, free of cost, through the general practitioner service, and stocks are kept at local hospitals.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Devon County Council on the 5th July took over the District Nurses and Midwives of all Nursing Associations in the area, and at the end of the year there were 7 District Nurses/Midwives working the area, including one County Staff Sister in charge of the group. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. All nurses in the area are qualified to administer analgesics.

MIDWIVES.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There are six practising midwives in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on Wednesday afternoons.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth.

For Out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge, and the South-West Clinic, which deals with this district as well, is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides beds for 16 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.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the ambulance service of the Devon County Council. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Devon County Council is now responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities and cases of infectious disease are removed as in the past by the Swilly Isolation Hospital.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council also provides medical transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

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	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 years	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	10	2	—	1	1	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS.—There are 19 Elementary Schools in the District. Inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and in cases requiring further attention by the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 28 notices were received referring to 98 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows :

Measles	36
Scarlet Fever	9
Whooping Cough	18
Impetigo	—
Chicken-pox	10
Mumps	25

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the western part of the District, supplied by the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Frequent bacteriological examinations were made both of the raw water and the treated water going into supply, and tests for plumbo-solvency were also carried out at intervals.

The local supplies in the Eastern parishes are generally unsatisfactory in quantity and quality, and the Moorland Supply (Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board) is being gradually extended to cover the whole district. During the year the following villages were supplied from that source :—

Kingston, Challaborough, Bigbury-on-Sea, Bigbury, Malborough, East and West Buckland and Bantham.

A ring main has also been completed, linking up the reservoir which supplies South Milton and Thurlestone village.

During the year 133 dwelling houses were connected to the public water supply in the following parishes :

Aveton Gifford 4, Bigbury 20, East Prawle 1, Churchstow 7, Chillington 15, Kingston 52, Loddiswell 3, Malborough 3, Modbury 6, Ringmore 11, Sherford 5, South Milton 3, Torcross 3.

MOORLAND SUPPLY.

	House Supply.	Stand Pipe Supply.
Aveton Gifford	105	8
Beesands	10	35 Council's supply
Bigbury	92	—
Blackawton	Local supply	Council's supply
Buckland-tout-Saints	10	
Charleton	13	3 Council's supply
Chivelstone	32	15
Churchstow	12	—
East Allington	31	14 Council's supply
East Portlemouth	Private supply	—

MOORLAND SUPPLY—continued.

	House Supply.	Stand Pipe Supply.
Kellaton	4	10 Council's supply
Kingston	52	—
Loddiswell	88	46
Malborough	85	43
Modbury	187	69
Ringmore	53	—
Sherford	29	12
Slapton	62	7
South Huish	2 Private supply	—
South Milton	80	1
South Pool	Private supply	—
Stokefleming	75 Local supply	37 Council's supply
Stokenham	154	2
Strete	32	7 Council's supply
Thurlestone	125	—
West Alvington	55	27
Woodleigh	Local supply	Council's supply

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A serious nuisance has been abated at East Allington by carrying out improvements to one of the sewage outfalls, but the condition of the other outfall is most unsatisfactory. The sewage disposal arrangements of this village are in urgent need of attention. A scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers before the war is now being submitted to the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped that an early start will be made with the work.

The Sewage Works at South Milton which deals with the drainage of an Hotel and about 20 houses has been reconditioned and a great improvement thereby effected.

HOUSES ERECTED SINCE 1946.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Village.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford	6 temporary
Blackawton	Blackawton	2
Buckland-tout-Saints	Goveton	4
Chivelstone	East Prawle	6
Churchstow	Churchstow	8
Loddiswell	Loddiswell	10
"	"	4 temporary
Malborough	Malborough	3 temporary
"	"	18
Modbury	Modbury	32
South Milton	South Milton	8
Stokenham	Chillington	8
"	"	6 temporary

Thurlestone	West Buckland	6
	Thurlestone	7 temporary
West Alvington	West Alvington	4 temporary
		<hr/>
		132 (30 temporary)

HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION, 1949.

Thurlestone	Thurlestone	6
Ringmore	Ringmore	8
West Alvington	West Alvington	8
		<hr/>
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HOUSES TO BE ERECTED, 1949/50.

Kingston	Kingston	12
Thurlestone	Thurlestone	4
South Pool	South Pool	6
Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford	12
Sherford	Sherford	6
East Allington	East Allington	8
		<hr/>
		48

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

The District's fresh meat supply is allocated from the Dartmouth Abattoir. Inspection is carried out by that Authority's Sanitary Inspector, but he is relieved by this Council's Inspector for leave periods and conferences, etc.

Shops in the District are visited regularly and unsound tinned foods are condemned. The total condemnations during the year amounted to 318 lbs.

NUISANCES.

During the year 76 miscellaneous complaints have been satisfactorily dealt with.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There have been 17 new entrants into T.T. and Accredited milk production. Encouragement and advice is given and work supervised to bring premises up to the standard required by the Devon County Council (the licensing authority).

Inspections are made and advice given on all proposed sources of water supply on those farms applying for Grants under the Ministry of Agriculture's Grant Aid Scheme for farm water supplies.

BAKEHOUSES.

The register contains 16 bakehouses, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The 21 slaughter houses in the district are not used except for casualty slaughtering.

RODENT CONTROL.

1. The Ministry of Food (later the Ministry of Agriculture) has carried on its previous grant-aid arrangements to this authority throughout the year and from the 1st of April all private properties were treated free of cost to the tenants and owners. All the Council's own properties, notably the Refuse Tips and the Sewage Disposal Works have received regular attention. In the three villages of Slapton, Blackawton and Torcross the Rodent Operator has co-operated with the Ministry of Food's Research Department, who have been engaged on advanced studies in infestation control. The latter department has also experimented with several of the latest types of rat poisons, particularly at the Fuge and Kernborough Refuse Tips.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

2. After a protracted search for a suitable site for a new refuse tip, a disused quarry near Wakeham Farm, Aveton Gifford, was decided on. Following a Ministry of Health enquiry the quarry and adjoining land was purchased, and an access road constructed from the nearest public highway.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

