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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1949



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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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. (1/1/49-
21/5/49) (Inspector of Meats and Foods).
MR. D. J. COLE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (From 7/7/49).

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,540.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1949, according to the Rate Book—3,715.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—57.

Rateable Value—£61,499

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£255 (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	Males.	Females.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	200	99	101	18.19
Illegitimate	10	6	4	
	<hr/> 210 <hr/>	<hr/> 105 <hr/>	<hr/> 105 <hr/>	

STILL BIRTHS :	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 25.58
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DEATHS :	143	58	85	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 12.39
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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	.....	28.57
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		25
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	—

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	2
7.	Other Forms of T.B. ....	.....	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases .....	.....	1	—
9.	Influenza .....	.....	1	—
10.	Measles .....	.....	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis .....	.....	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis .....	.....	—	—
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F) .....	.....	—	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	.....	5	4
15.	Cancer of Breast .....	.....	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites .....	.....	5	7
17.	Diabetes .....	.....	—	1
18.	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions .....	.....	5	15
19.	Heart Disease .....	.....	11	28
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System .....	.....	1	3
21.	Bronchitis .....	.....	5	5
22.	Pneumonia .....	.....	5	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases .....	.....	1	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	.....	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	.....	—	—
26.	Appendicitis .....	.....	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases .....	.....	2	5
28.	Nephritis .....	.....	2	1
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis .....	.....	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes .....	.....	—	—
31.	Premature Birth .....	.....	—	1
32.	Congenital Malformations .....	.....	1	1
	Birth Injuries .....	.....	1	2
	Infants Disorders .....	.....	—	—
33.	Suicide .....	.....	2	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents .....	.....	—	—
35.	Other violent causes .....	.....	—	1
36.	All other causes .....	.....	6	7
			—	—
			58	85
			—	—

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1949.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	22	6	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	123	1	—
Measles	122	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—
TOTALS	274	8	—

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 provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

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.—District Nurses and Midwives (Devon County Council). There are seven District Nurses/Midwives working in 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)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 years	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	5	3	—	—	2	2	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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

During the year 64 notices were received referring to 259 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows :

Measles	.....	.....	.....	158
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	15
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	67
Impetigo	.....	.....	.....	2
Chicken-pox	.....	.....	.....	14
Mumps	.....	.....	.....	1
Scabies	.....	.....	.....	1
Ringworm	.....	.....	.....	1
				<hr/>
				259
				<hr/>

The increase in the number of cases of infectious disease reported in the year was marked and was due to an outbreak of measles and whooping cough. The measles occurred principally in the months of February and March and chiefly amongst children in age groups 5 and 6. Whooping cough was prevalent during the months of January and February, and was fairly evenly distributed in age groups 10 and under.

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. Chemical analyses including tests for plumbosolvency were also carried out at intervals.

The supply at Loddiswell village (which is obtained from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board) was found to show evidence of contamination. On investigation in conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory Service the contamination was found to be due to the presence of snails which had obtained access to the reservoir through defective screening of the ventilator pipes. On remedying this and cleansing the reservoir the supply again became Class I.

The local supplies in the Eastern parishes are generally unsatisfactory in quantity and quality and carting of water had to be resorted to in the villages of West Charleton, Strete and Slapton. The Moorland Supply (Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board) is being gradually extended to cover the whole district.

During the year, sixty-two properties were connected to the public water supplies, a summary of which is given hereunder :

Bigbury 7, Churchstow 8, Chivelstone 1, Buckland-tout-Saints 5, Kingston 18, Loddiswell 2, Malborough 1, Modbury 4, Ringmore 5, Stokenham 4, Strete 2, Stoke Fleming 1, Slapton 4, Thurlestone 2, West Alvington 13, Council Houses.

MOORLAND SUPPLY.

	House Supply.	Stand Pipe Supply.
Aveton Gifford	..... 111	8
Beesands	..... 10	35 Council's supply
Bigbury	..... 99	—
Blackawton	..... Local Supply	Council's supply
Buckland-tout-Saints	15	—
Charleton	..... 13	3 Council's supply
Chivelstone	..... 33	14
Churchstow	..... 20	—
East Allington	..... 31	14 Council's supply
East Portlemouth	Private supply	—
Kellaton	..... 4	10 Council's supply
Kingston	..... 70	—
Loddiswell	..... 90	44
Malborough	..... 86	42
Modbury	..... 191	65
Ringmore	..... 58	—
Sherford	..... 29	12
Slapton	..... 66	7
South Huish	..... 2 Private supply	—
South Milton	..... 80	1
South Pool	..... Private supply	—
Stokefleming	..... 76 Local Supply	36 Council's supply
Stokenham	..... 158	—
Strete	..... 34	6 Council's supply
Thurlestone	..... 127	—
West Alvington	..... 68	21
Woodleigh	..... Local Supply	Council's supply

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

AVETON GIFFORD.—A Public Enquiry was held during the year on a scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the provision of an adequate system of sewage disposal and treatment for this village.

BIGBURY-ON-SEA.—The sewage of this popular seaside resort is discharged into septic tanks and the crude effluent was then discharged direct on to the beach. This nuisance has now been abated by installing an ejector to pump the sewage from a lower down

septic tank into the main tank and the effluent pipe diverted to a much more convenient outfall.

A chlorinating apparatus has been installed and the effluent chlorinated before it discharges into the sea.

EAST ALLINGTON.—The sewage outfall in the village pond at East Allington remains in a most unsatisfactory and insanitary condition. A scheme to remedy these conditions is before the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped that early approval will be given to this most urgent matter. The Council's housing programme is held up pending the provision of suitable sewage disposal arrangements.

EAST CHARLETON.—To enable four houses to have up-to-date sanitary arrangements installed, the sewer in this village has been extended for 127 yards.

EAST PRAWLE.—Twenty yards of sewer in this village has had to be relaid owing to defective pipes.

SOUTH MILTON.—A scheme is being prepared by the Consulting Engineers for dealing with the sewage of South Milton, which at the present time is most unsatisfactory.

STOKENHAM.—Improvements have been made to the existing sewage system by building a large silt pit to intercept road grit, extending effluent pipe and building a soakaway to deal with effluent from existing cesspits.

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
Ringmore	Ringmore	8
South Milton	South Milton	8
Stokenham	Chillington	8
"	"	6 temporary
Thurlestone	West Buckland	6
"	Thurlestone	7 temporary
"	"	6
West Alvington	West Alvington	4 temporary
"	"	8

154 (30 temporary)

HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION, 1950.

Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford	12
Kingston	Kingston	12
South Pool	South Pool	6
Thurlestone	Thurlestone	4
		—
		34

HOUSES TO BE ERECTED, 1950/51.

Bigbury	St. Anne's Chapel	6
East Allington	East Allington	8
East Portlemouth	East Portlemouth	10
Sherford	Sherford	6
Slapton	Slapton	10
		—
		40

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

COMPLAINTS.—64 complaints were received and dealt with, 63 by informal action and the other by service of a Statutory Notice.

DAIRIES and COWSHEDS.—92 visits were made to Dairies and Farms in the District. The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies Act), 1944, came into force in October, and legislation governing milk producing premises is now enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Inspections are still carried out and advice given, however, on all proposed sources of water supply on farms applying for Grants under the Ministry of Agriculture's Grant Aid Scheme for farm water supplies. It is encouraging to note that the number of farmers availing themselves of this is steadily increasing.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.—109 inspections have been made to shops, ice-cream vendors, bakehouses and butchers' shops.

FUMIGATIONS.—31 premises were disinfected due to the occurrence of infectious disease and a further three premises were found to be verminous and were fumigated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.—26 inspections were made of various sites in the area. During the year 21 applications were received. 17 licences were granted, 4 refused.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

ICE-CREAM.—Six premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice-cream. Fourteen samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results showed that 13 samples were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

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 food condemned during the year was as follows :—

Meat (Home killed), 256 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lbs.

Meat (Imported and Canned), 76-lbs.

Other Foods, 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lbs.

Total, 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosec'ed. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	5		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	11		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—		
TOTAL	37	16		

RODENT CONTROL.

One full time rodent operator is employed by the Council. Particular attention is paid to the Council's refuse tips and sewage works. A free service is provided for private properties.

There were 94 complaints received during the year and work done was as follows :

Premises inspected—361.

No. of premises treated—163.

No. of rats picked up—698.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council have five refuse tips throughout the District. These tips are inspected regularly, and during summer months are treated for the control of flies, etc. The tip at Kernborough in the S.E. portion of the District is now nearly full and negotiations are in progress for the purchase of another site.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.

