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KINGSBRIDGE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

*For the Year 1952.*



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# *Kingsbridge Rural District Council*

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Annual Report*  
OF THE  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

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*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. D. J. COLE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

- I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1952.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,430.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1952, according to the Rate Book—3,815.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—78.

Rateable Value—£64,379.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£260. 6s. 5d.

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 :				Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	170	94	76	15.12
Illegitimate	7	1	6	
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 177	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 95	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 82	
STILL BIRTHS :				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
	1	—	1	5.62
DEATHS :				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
	160	88	72	14.87

Deaths as recorded under heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List :

	Rate per 1,000 total live and Deaths. still births.
No. 30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.41
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	22.60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .....	2	—
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningoccal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	1	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	3	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	—
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	15	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	8	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	16	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	1	2
20. Other Heart Disease .....	16	13
21. Other Circulatory Disease .....	2	4
22. Influenza .....	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	—	2
24. Bronchitis .....	3	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases .....	8	11
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	—
34. All other Accidents .....	4	1
35. Suicide .....	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—
	88	72



PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1952

DISEASES	Aveton Gifford	Bigbury	Blackawton	Buckland-tout-Saints	Charleton	Chivelstone	Churchstow	East Allington	East Portlemouth	Kingston	Loddiswell	Malborough	Modbury	Ringmore	Sherford	Slapton	South Huish	South Milton	South Pool	Stoke Fleming	Stokenham	Strete	Thurlestone	West Alvington	Woodleigh	Totals
WHOOPING COUGH	1	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	11	2	—	—	—	29
ERYSIPELAS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
SCARLET FEVER	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
MEASLES	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	7
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
PNEUMONIA	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
DYSENTERY	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
POLIOMYELITIS (PARALYTIC)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	1	—	3	1	—	13	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	—	6	14	3	—	2	—	52

## **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 Medical Officer to the South Devon 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.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the general practitioner service or at schools, school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

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 midwives in the area are qualified to administer analgesics.

The Modbury Nurse's bungalow is now almost completed and ready for occupation. We were fortunate in securing the services of a nurse for East Prawle, whose home is at Chillington, and therefore this housing problem is solved.

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

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a centre in Kingsbridge which is open on Wednesday afternoons, except on the first Wednesday in each month.

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.

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

**OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.** The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

**ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT** is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association as In-patients at Exeter and Ivy-bridge; 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 Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

**X-RAYS.** The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and 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.

**AMBULANCE SERVICES.** The Ambulance Service throughout Devon is operated in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Voluntary Organisations. Infectious cases in the Plymouth Infectious Area are carried, by agreement, in the Plymouth Infectious Ambulance.

**DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.**—In Kingsbridge there is a Home Help Service operated on behalf of the County Medical Dept. by the W.V.S. Home helps are also made available in other areas on application to the Devon C.C.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

#### **NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.**

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	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47.**  
**REMOVAL OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND**  
**ATTENTION.**

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of this Act.

**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 67 notices were received referring to 201 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts :—

They were as follows :

Chickenpox .....	.....	.....	74
Mumps .....	.....	.....	83
Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	30
Scarlet Fever .....	.....	.....	4
Measles .....	.....	.....	2
German Measles .....	.....	.....	7
Impetigo .....	.....	.....	1
			<hr/>
			201
			<hr/>

**WATER SUPPLY.**

Water Supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

AVETON GIFFORD. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—2.

BIGBURY. Moorland Supply.

BLACKAWTON. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—51.

Prior to the Moorland Supply becoming available, the numerous local supplies in the village were sampled and representations were made to owners of unsatisfactory supplies requesting them to connect properties to the mains when the latter became available.

31 supplies were inspected and sampled, of these only 5 proved satisfactory.

The number of samples taken was 63.

The number of properties using private supplies was 46, and of these 42 are now connected to the mains.

In addition, 12 consumers who were using the local public supply, which has now been dispensed with, are now connected to the Board's mains.

BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS. Moorland Supply. Number of properties connected to the mains—2.

CHARLETON. Water supply to East and West Charleton is derived from local springs which are unsatisfactory. Houses on the Charleton Court Estate frequently suffer serious shortage, and a Moorland Scheme is urgently needed in the parish. The South Devon Water Board hope that Moorland Water will be available in East Charleton in 1954.

CHIVELSTONE. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—13.

The work of extending the mains to the Old Coastguard Station and the construction of a new reservoir is nearing completion. 11 properties originally using standpipe supplies have now been connected to the Board's mains.

CHURCHSTOW. Moorland Supply.

EAST ALLINGTON. The local supply, derived from springs, is unsatisfactory, and it is hoped the Moorland Supply will soon be made available to the village.

EAST PORTLEMOUTH. The Moorland Supply has now been taken to the village, which was formerly supplied by a private undertaking. This supply was unsatisfactory.

Number of new connections to the mains—14.

KINGSTON. Moorland Supply. One property was connected to the Board's mains during the year.

LODDISWELL. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—3.

MALBOROUGH. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—2.

MODBURY. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—2.

A gravity main in the village also provides Moorland Water and water from Silverwell.

RINGMORE. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—2.

SHERFORD. Moorland Supply.

SLAPTON. Moorland Supply.

Part of the distribution system in this village has been relaid. A number of properties in the village were using two local supplies which were most unsatisfactory. The owners of these properties were requested to afford a wholesome supply of water to the cottages concerned, and at the present time eight of these have been connected to the Moorland Supply.

The total number of properties connected to the mains during the year was 9.

SOUTH HUISH, GALMPTON, INNER AND OUTER HOPE are supplied from private sources, the water being obtained from shallow springs. Bacteriological examinations show these supplies to be unsatisfactory, and the owners have been requested to chlorinate and are doing so.

SOUTH MILTON. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—3.

SOUTH POOL. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the mains—6.

STOKE FLEMING. Moorland Supply.

The Moorland Supply has been fed into the existing distribution mains in the village and the local well supply and reservoir have been dispensed with.

The owners of properties relying on standpipes have been requested to connect to the mains supply, and up to the present time three standpipes have been dispensed with and 10 consumers connected to the Moorland Main.

In all 25 properties have been connected to the Moorland Main during the year.

STOKENHAM, CHILLINGTON, TORCROSS, BEESANDS, HALLSANDS and KELLATON. Moorland Supply.

Number of connections in the parish during the year—25.

STRETE. The Moorland Supply has now been taken to Strete. The supply is fed into the existing reservoir and the old distribution system retained for the present time.

Renewals and extensions of mains in this village are required.

Number of new connections to the mains—5.

THURLESTONE. Moorland Supply.

Number of new connections to the mains—2.

WEST ALVINGTON. Moorland Supply.

Number of new connections to the mains—2.

WOODLEIGH. This hamlet relies entirely upon local supplies.

The Moorland Water for the Rural District is supplied by the South Devon Water Board.

The maintenance of supplies throughout the district has been in the hands of the Kingsbridge Rural District Council during the year.

The Eastern Pipeline was completed in the early part of the year and the parishes of Blackawton, Strete and Stoke Fleming now have the Moorland Supply.

Frequent analysis, both chemical and bacteriological, are made of the Moorland Supply.

Raw Water is also examined regularly, and tests for plumbosolvency are carried out at regular intervals.

During the year, 154 samples of Moorland Water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows :

Grade 1	.....	.....	110
Grade 2	.....	.....	10
Grade 3	.....	.....	10
Grade 4	.....	.....	24

TOTAL ..... 154

31 samples submitted to the Laboratory to determine plumbosolvency were reported as satisfactory.

STANDPIPES. It is the policy of the South Devon Water Board to dispense with all Standpipes throughout the district.

During the year 15 standpipes have been disconnected.

### SEWERAGE.

AVETON GIFFORD. The arrangements of sewage disposal for Aveton Gifford are still most unsatisfactory, and conditions have been aggravated recently by the arrival of Moorland Water to the village.

A scheme for permanent disposal works for this village has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Much of the equipment for the works is in store and it is hoped that the Council will soon be permitted to proceed with this scheme which is so urgently required.

BLACKAWTON. The work of extending the sewers and constructing a sewage disposal works has been completed.

It was found, however, that a large amount of surface water was entering the old system, which interfered with the smooth working of the new outfall.

A good deal of this subsoil water has now been removed by diverting it into other channels, but further work has been found to be necessary, and this is proceeding with all urgency.

EAST ALLINGTON. The new sewage disposal works for this village has now been completed.

LODDISWELL. The sewer at Towns Lane End has been extended in order to pick up the drainage of two cottages.

STOKE FLEMING. An informal inquiry was held by one of the Ministry's Inspectors relating to the extension of sewers and sewerage at Stoke Fleming.

It is hoped that the necessary work will be carried out at an early date.

STOKENHAM (BEESANDS). Schemes for the sewerage of Beesands have been drawn up by the Consulting Engineers, and it is hoped that an inquiry will be held by a Ministry Inspector in the near future.

THURLESTONE. Considerable damage was done to the sea outfall at Thurlestone owing to heavy gales. The concrete surrounding the sewer was broken away and several pipes were cracked allowing shingle to enter, causing a blockage.

The pipes have now been cleared, new pipes inserted in the sewer line to replace the cracked ones, and the concrete surround replaced.

## HOUSING.

PRE-WAR HOUSING. The Council erected 69 dwellings prior to the war in 1939, and their distribution is as follows:—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
BIGBURY	Park Cottages	4
BLACKAWTON	Park Lane	4
KINGSTON	Park View Terrace	6
LODDISWELL	New Road	6
MALBOROUGH	Moor View	4
MODBURY	Traine Villas	6
SOUTH HUISH (Hope Cove)	Meadow View	4
SOUTH MILTON	Middle Park	6
STOKE FLEMING	Venn	2
STOKE FLEMING	Bailey's Meadow	2
STOKENHAM	Holbrook Terrace	6
STOKENHAM (Beesands)	Council Houses	6
STRETE	Severn's Cottages	4
THURLESTONE	Sea View Terrace	9
TOTAL HOUSES		69

POST-WAR HOUSING. Since the war the Council have erected the following new dwellings:—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
AVETON GIFFORD	Icy Park	6 (temporary)
AVETON GIFFORD	Icy Park	12
BLACKAWTON	Main Street	2
BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS	Goveton	4
CHIVELSTONE (East Prawle)	Higher Park	6
CHURCHSTOW	Woodlands	12
EAST ALLINGTON	Laburnum Way	8
EAST PORTLEMOUTH	Cross Lane Cottages	8
KINGSTON	Yelland's Park	12
LODDISWELL	Ashwood Park	30
LODDISWELL	Oakwood Park	4 (Temporary)
MALBOROUGH	Collaton Way	10
MALBOROUGH	Jubilee Road	18
MALBOROUGH	Moorside	3 (Temporary)
MODBURY	Champernowne	34
MODBURY	Traine Villas	6
RINGMORE	Crossways	8
SHERFORD	Sherford Down	6
SOUTH MILTON	Sunnyside	8
SOUTH POOL	Creek End	6
STOKENHAM (Chillington)	Meadowside	8
STOKENHAM (Chillington)	Meadowside	6 (Temporary)
THURLESTONE	Island View	7 (Temporary)
THURLESTONE	Parkfield	10

POST-WAR HOUSING—continued

THURLESTONE (West Buckland)	Valleyside	6
WEST ALVINGTON	Townsend Road	8
WEST ALVINGTON	Townsend Road	4 (Temporary)
	Total	<u>252</u>

HOUSING, 1953. The following number of houses are under construction or contracts let, a certain number have been completed and occupied :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
BLACKAWTON	—	23
CHIVELSTONE (East Prawle)	—	10
EAST PORTLEMOUTH	Cross Lane Cottages	2
KINGSTON	Yelland's Park	10
STOKE FLEMING	—	10
STOKENHAM (Beeson)	—	14
STOKENHAM (Kellaton)	Hill Park	8
STRETE	Hyne Town	10
WEST ALVINGTON	—	12
	TOTAL	<u>99</u>

Further contracts for dwellings are in course of preparation :—

AVETON GIFFORD	.....	16
BIGBURY (St. Ann's Chapel)	.....	14
CHARLETON	.....	12
EAST ALLINGTON	.....	12
KINGSTON	.....	8
LODDISWELL (California)	.....	4
MODBURY	.....	10
SLAPTON	.....	10
SOUTH HUISH (Galmpton)	.....	10
STOKE FLEMING (Deer Park)	.....	28
STOKE FLEMING (Stoke House)	.....	17
STOKENHAM (Holbrook)	.....	6
STOKENHAM (Kernborough)	.....	6
STRETE	.....	12
THURLESTONE	.....	5
WEST ALVINGTON	.....	4
	TOTAL	<u>174</u>

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

COMPLAINTS.—32 complaints were received and dealt with.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES. 76 inspections have been made to shops, ice-cream vendors, bakehouses and butchers' shops.

DISINFECTIONS.—14 premises were disinfected due to the occurrence of infectious disease and a further six premises were found to be verminous and were fumigated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES. 27 inspections were made of various sites in the area. During the year 22 applications were received, 14 applications related to individual caravans, eight applications related to land used for camping purposes. All applications were granted.

Most of the camping in the district is centred in four different areas, namely :—

Challaborough—two licensed sites for 150 caravans each.

Pennymore Lane—one licensed site for 40 moveable dwellings.

Beesands Green—one licensed site for 100 caravans.

Stoke Fleming—one licensed site for 40 caravans.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

ICE CREAM. One property was registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice-cream.

The number of premises now registered for this purpose is 30.

Thirty-six samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, of these 35 were Grade 1 and the other Grade 4.

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 :

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat (Home killed) .....	.....	2	22	$\frac{1}{2}$
Meat (Imported and Canned) .....	.....	1	0	$0\frac{3}{4}$
Meat (Cooked Ham) .....	.....	3	10	$\frac{1}{2}$
Other Foods .....	.....	1	3	$15\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL .....	.....	4	1	$21\frac{1}{4}$

## 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.	No. in Register.	Inspect'ns.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosec'ed.
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	6		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	18		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—		
TOTAL	38	24		

#### RODENT CONTROL.

During the year a second man was taken on by the Council and trained in his duties by the Rodent Operator.

Particular attention was paid to Council property, refuse tips, and sewage works, etc., and to the inspection of agricultural properties throughout the district.

A free service is provided for private properties.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

	Local Author- ity.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Agri- cultural.	Others includ- ing Business Premis.	TOTAL.
<b>PROPERTIES INSPECTED.</b>					
(a) As a result of notification	—	205	10	10	225
(b) As a result of survey or otherwise	18	968	118	11	1115
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE</b>	185	1873	215	67	2340
<b>NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND TO BE INFESTED BY RATS</b>					
(Major)	1	—	16	1	18
(Minor)	17	694	78	12	801
<b>NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND TO BE SERIOUSLY INFESTED BY MICE</b>					
	—	71	—	7	78
<b>NUMBER OF INFESTED PROPER- TIES TREATED</b>					
	18	735	16	16	785
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TREATMENTS MADE</b>					
	33	853	21	38	945
<b>NUMBER OF DEAD RATS PICKED UP</b>					
	300	433	508	403	1644
<b>ESTIMATED KILL</b>					
					7000

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Five refuse tips are in use throughout the district. Regular inspections are made of all tips, especially with regard to rodent and insect control.

At one of the refuse tips, which in the past was subject to major infestation by rats at regular intervals, a new method of treatment was carried out using warfarin. The method used proved highly successful and has since been employed at other tips with good results. The tip at Molescombe, owned and used jointly by the Urban and Rural Authorities, was completed in the Spring and is now being used extensively.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

July, 1953.

*Medical Officer of Health.*