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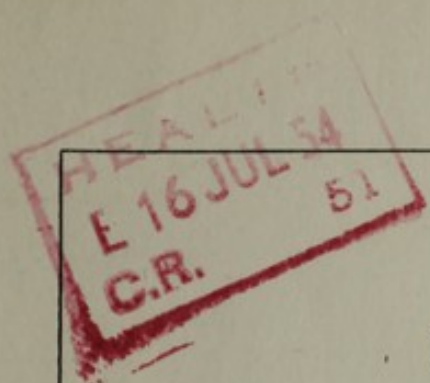
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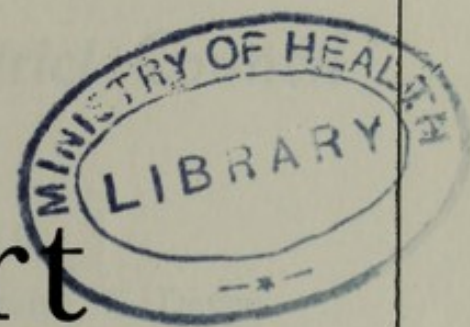


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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1953



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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Report

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1923

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The Kingsbridge Rural District Council

Kingsbridge Rural District Council

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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.,
E.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.

The following Committees are concerned with Public Health matters :—Public Health and Housing.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1953.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,690.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1953, according to the Rate Book—3,937.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—96.

Rateable Value—£65,024.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£264. 4s. 1d.

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	153	85	68	13.68
Illegitimate	7	5	2	
	<hr/> 160 <hr/>	<hr/> 90 <hr/>	<hr/> 70 <hr/>	

				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
STILL BIRTHS :	2	1	1	12.34

				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
DEATHS :	126	70	56	10.78

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

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and 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	.....	.....	.....	31.75
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....			19.61
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				142.85

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	12.50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....			6.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				142.85

CAUSES OF DEATH :

			M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	.....	—	1
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	.....	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	.....	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	.....	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	—	—
6.	Meningoccal Infections	.....	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	—	—
8.	Measles	.....	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	.....	1	—
10.	Malignant, Neoplasm, Stomach	.....	3	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	.....	2	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	.....	—	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	.....	—	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	.....	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.....	—	—
16.	Diabetes	.....	1	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	.....	6	7
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	.....	11	7
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	.....	—	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	.....	10	10
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	.....	4	4
22.	Influenza	.....	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	.....	4	3
24.	Bronchitis	.....	4	—
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	.....	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	.....	1	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	.....	1	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	.....	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	.....	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	.....	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	.....	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	.....	3	7
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	.....	1	—
34.	All other Accidents	.....	4	—
35.	Suicide	.....	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	.....	—	—
			70	56

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1953

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	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—	3	1	—	17
SCARLET FEVER	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	5	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	19
MEASLES	1	—	50	8	12	13	14	31	9	10	34	64	5	10	20	3	11	11	13	4	10	13	30	12	3	391
PNEUMONIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
POLIOMYELITIS (PARALYTIC)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	1	1	51	8	13	17	14	31	10	10	40	66	12	10	20	3	14	11	13	8	14	13	33	13	3	429

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 provided a service at the South Devon and East-Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, on 3rd June, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

This new Laboratory is of great assistance and I am grateful for their 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.

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 Scott 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 1953.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.
REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND
ATTENTION.

During the course of the year, action was necessary under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal and detention in a County Welfare Establishment of one aged person.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS.—Inspections of the 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 43 notices were received referring to 211 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts :—

They were as follows :

Chickenpox	16
Jaundice	2
Whooping Cough	1
Scarlet Fever	19
Measles	165
German Measles	4
Conjunctivitis	4
	<hr/>
	211
	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLY.

Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

AVETON GIFFORD. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—5.

BIGBURY. Moorland Supply. 460 yards of 3in. main was laid at Bigbury-on-Sea to replace existing galvanised pipes (the cause of many supply complaints in the summer).

St. Ann's Chapel. 60 yards of 3in. main was laid to the new housing site. Number of new connections to the main—1.

BLACKAWTON. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—2.

BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—1.

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. The laying of 840 yards of 3in. main and the construction of a service reservoir were completed in March, 1953. Number of new connections to the main—13.
- CHURCHSTOW. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—1.
- EAST ALLINGTON. Moorland Supply. 2,247 yards main laying scheme completed and village on Board's mains—August, 1953. Number of new connections to the main—20.
- EAST PORTLEMOUTH. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—21.
- KINGSTON. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—2.
- LODDISWELL. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—2.
- MALBOROUGH. Moorland Supply. A main of 4,100 yards from Oldaway Fork to Malborough was completed at the end of the year ready for connection to existing mains in the village. This main will ensure an adequate supply and will eliminate the need of boosting at Blanks Mill and the use of the water tower near the village, which was part of the R.A.F. Camp water supply scheme.
A new 4in. main of 469 yards was also laid to feed the newly constructed R.A.F. Camp.
Number of new connections to the main—1.
- MODBURY. Moorland Supply. The gravity main in the village also provides Moorland water and water from Silverwell. Number of new connections to the main—6.
- RINGMORE. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—5.
- SHERFORD. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—1.
- SLAPTON. Moorland Supply. 2,600 yards of 6in. main from Green Lane End to Slapton was completed by the end of the year. The main will be completed by July, 1954. This main will ensure an adequate supply to the south-eastern area of the Kingsbridge Rural District and will eliminate the need to boost at Cousins Cross, which is a source of constant concern as this booster was originally installed as a war-time measure only.
Number of new connections to the main—16.
- SOUTH HUISH, GALMPTON, INNER AND OUTER HOPE COVE 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.

SOUTH MILTON. Moorland Supply.

SOUTH POOL. Moorland Supply.

STOKE FLEMING. Moorland Supply. 240 yards of 3in. main including a supply to Dartmouth Hill was laid in October to serve the new housing estate. Number of new connections to the main—29.

STOKENHAM. Moorland Supply. 90 yards of 3in. main was laid at Stokenham in order to develop a private housing estate. 150 yards of 3in. main was laid for the Council's housing site at Beeson.
Number of new connections to the main—19.

STRETE. Moorland Supply. 210 yards of 3in. main was laid for the Council's housing site. Number of new connections to the main—10.

THURLESTONE. Moorland Supply. Number of new connections to the main—2.

WEST ALVINGTON. Moorland Supply. 200 yards of 3in. main was laid in August for the Council's new housing site. Number of new connections to the main—13.

WOODLEIGH. This hamlet relies entirely upon local supplies. A new main of 8,141 yards from Stanborough to Sorley Cross was completed in April. The main duplicates the supply into the South Hams area and dispenses with the necessity to boost on the 9in. main in peak periods.

STANDPIPES.

During the year, 12 standpipes have been disconnected—the majority of them were at Stoke Fleming, Aveton Gifford and Modbury.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES. Due to the success of the Board's waste detection policy, farms are now allowed to take a water supply for troughs in fields.

SAMPLING. During the year, 138 samples of Moorland Water were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results were as follows :—

Grade 1	.....	114
Grade 2	.....	8
Grade 3	.....	6
Grade 4	.....	10
		<hr/>
		138

In addition, 14 samples submitted to the Laboratory for plumbosolvency were reported as satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

AVETON GIFFORD. Work on constructing a new sewage outfall for this village is proceeding satisfactorily.

BLACKAWTON. Although a considerable amount of subsoil water has been prevented from entering the new sewage system by diverting it into other channels, it has been found necessary to carry out further work to deal with flooding at the works. This is being attended to with all speed.

CHIVELSTONE, EAST PRAWLE. Complaints having been received of untreated effluent being discharged into a stream from which cattle drink, a scheme is being prepared to construct a rotary filter to treat the effluent.

EAST ALLINGTON. A pond which received the major portion of sewage from this village before the new sewage works were constructed has been filled in and a nuisance which has existed for many years abated.

LODDISWELL. A large amount of construction work has been carried out at this sewage outfall works. The sludge beds which had been weakened have now been supported by a concrete wall and the walls of filter bed and channels receiving the effluent have been repaired.

MALBOROUGH. A new scheme to deal with the sewage from properties on the northern side of the village and from a nearby camp is in course of preparation.

SOUTH MILTON. The Council's Engineers have been asked to prepare a revised scheme for dealing with the drainage of this village which, at present, discharges into an open stream.

STOKE FLEMING. Work is proceeding on the construction of new sewers and on the new sewage sea outfall for this village.

STOKENHAM (BEESANDS). An informal visit was paid by an Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 18th March, 1953, to enquire into the drainage of this village. The Minister decided however that the scheme submitted would have to be deferred for the time being.

STOKENHAM VILLAGE. Extensions to the public sewer have been carried out so that new properties can be drained into it.

STOKENHAM (CHILLINGTON). The Council have asked their Consulting Engineers to prepare an outline scheme and report for draining this village.

The sewage is at present discharged into septic tanks, and these have been found inadequate to deal with the large volume of sewage and surface water.

STOKENHAM (KELLATON). The present septic tank system, having failed to deal adequately with the sewage from this hamlet, a new sewage treatment works is being planned.

WEST ALVINGTON (WOOLSTON). Renovations to this sewage outfall have been carried out to deal with additional sewage now being discharged into the system from new properties.

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
BLACKAWTON	The Grove	10
BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS	Goveton	4
CHIVELSTONE (East Prawle)	Higher Park	10
CHURCHSTOW	Woodlands	12
EAST ALLINGTON	Laburnum Way	8
EAST PORTLEMOUTH	Cross Lane Cottages	10
KINGSTON	Yelland's Park	22
LODDISWELL	Ashwood Park	30
LODDISWELL	Oakwood Park	4 (temporary)

POST-WAR HOUSING—*continued.*

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)
STOKENHAM (Kellaton)	Hill Park	8
STRETE	Hyne Town	6
THURLESTONE	Island View	7 (temporary)
THURLESTONE	Parkfield	10
THURLESTONE (West Bucklland)	Valleyside	6
WEST ALVINGTON	Townsend Road	8
WEST ALVINGTON	Townsend Road	4 (temporary)
WEST ALVINGTON	Longfields	12

TOTAL	304
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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.	No. of Houses.	No. of A/P Bungalows
AVETON GIFFORD	Icy Park	10	5
BLACKAWTON	The Grove	13	
BIGBURY (St. Ann's Chapel)		22	
CHIVELSTONE (East Prawle)	Higher Park	6	
SLAPTON		10	
STOKE FLEMING (Bidders Close)		21	6
STOKENHAM (Beeson)		14	
STOKENHAM (Holbrook)		6	
STRETE	Hyne Town	4	
THURLESTONE			5
WEST ALVINGTON	Longfields		4
		106	20

Further contracts for dwellings are in course of preparation :—

BLACKAWTON	.....	.....	4
CHARLETON	.....	.....	12
CHURCHSTOW	.....	.....	12
EAST ALLINGTON	.....	.....	16
KINGSTON	.....	.....	8
MALBOROUGH	.....	.....	6
MODBURY	.....	.....	10
SOUTH HUISH (Galmpton)	.....	.....	12
STOKE FLEMING (Bidders Close)			9
STOKENHAM (Holbrook)	.....		6
STRETE	.....	.....	12
THURLESTONE	.....	.....	3
TOTAL			118

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

COMPLAINTS. 39 complaints were received and dealt with, 4 by formal action including one in which Court proceedings were necessary. The remainder were dealt with by informal action.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES. 97 inspections have been made to shops, ice-cream vendors, bakehouses and butchers' shops.

DISINFECTIONS. 17 premises were disinfected due to the occurrence of infectious disease and a further five 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 25 applications were received, 13 applications related to individual caravans, 12 applications related to land used for camping purposes. One refused.

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.

REGISTERED PREMISES. A further 7 properties were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1948, for the sale of ice-cream. The total number of premises now registered for this purpose is 37.

There are two dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

INSPECTIONS. 97 inspections were made of shops, ice cream vendors, bakehouses, butchers' shops, dairies and other premises in the area.

In addition to work carried out within the Rural District, the Council's Sanitary Inspector carried out meat inspection duties at the Dartmouth Abattoir whilst their Inspector was away.

Unsound food condemned in the district during the year was as follows :—

		cwts. qrs. lbs.		
Meat (home-killed)	.....	5	0	17½
Meat (imported and canned)		3	2	13
Other Foods	.....	0	2	26
		9	2	0½

All carcase meat, including home-killed and imported, that was condemned during the year was returned to the Abattoir at Dartmouth for disposal.

Miscellaneous items were disposed of at the refuse tips.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY. In October, the Rural District Council in conjunction with the Urban District Council, staged a Local Government Exhibition. The Public Health Department organised a stand and endeavoured to emphasise the importance of the clean Food Campaign in the following ways : posters, literature, exhibits, slides, kindly supplied by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, and film shows kindly arranged by the Ministry of Food.

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	8	4		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	20		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—		
TOTAL	37	24		

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council provided free treatment for private properties and particular attention was paid to Council property, *e.g.* refuse tips and sewage works, etc.

At the Local Government Exhibition in October, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries provided a stand showing their exhibits and in addition, showed a number of films dealing with damage caused by pests and the treatment necessary for their destruction.

The following work was carried out during the year :—

	Local Author- ity.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Agri- cultural.	Others includ- ing. Business Premises.	TOTAL.
PROPERTIES INSPECTED.					
(a) As a result of notification	—	231	23	9	263
(b) As a result of survey or otherwise	20	1718	149	26	1913
TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE	119	1949	172	35	2275
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND TO BE INFESTED BY RATS					
(Major)	20	12	55	—	87
(Minor)	20	947	—	15	982
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES FOUND TO BE SERIOUSLY INFESTED BY MICE					
	—	47	—	6	53
NUMBER OF INFESTED PROPER- TIES TREATED	20	914	55	21	1010
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREATMENTS MADE	42	1026	76	34	1178
NUMBER OF DEAD RATS PICKED UP	576	428	738	110	1852
ESTIMATED KILL					9000

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council provide a fortnightly collection of incombustible household refuse throughout the district. This is disposed of in five refuse tips within the area.

Regular inspections are made of all tips especially with regard to rodent and insect control.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1954.