

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Kingsbridge R.D.C.

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Kingsbridge (Devon, England). Rural District Council. no2011196201

Publication/Creation

1957

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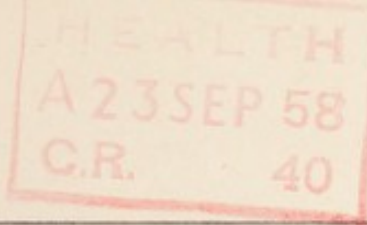
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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1957



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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. R. B. WALKER, 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 Public Health Inspector : MR. N. HARRIS, A.I.A.S.,
C.R.S.I.
Public Health Inspector : MR. D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1957.

The Report is in two parts, the second part contains details of matters to which reference is made in the text of the first part.

The area is mainly agricultural, although on the coast many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits. The beauty of the whole area, coast and inland, attracts many visitors throughout the year, the largest number, naturally, being during the summer months. Catering for these visitors is one of the main sources of livelihood for many of the residents of the district. There are situated geographically within the district, the Urban Districts of Kingsbridge and Salcombe.

PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The personal health services are provided by various bodies, by far the greater part being under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, Devon County Council and the Local Executive Council. The environmental health services are controlled by the District Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Plymouth for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water, ice-cream, foodstuffs, etc.

There has recently been published The Devon County Health Handbook which gives details of the health and allied social services in the County of Devon. Much of its information refers to the County as a whole, but there are details of the various services provided in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This year the table showing the Parochial distribution of infectious disease is omitted as it is felt it is not of great value. The whole question of notification of infectious diseases is, I think, sorely in need of review.

There have been changes in the times of exclusion for various infectious diseases from County Schools. These bring local practice in line with recommendations issued jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Inoculations against Poliomyelitis have been continued this year by the County Health Services and by the family Doctors. It is undoubtedly a great step forward in the prevention of the spread of this disease. Apart from personal hygiene and general sanitary measures, there are no special steps which can be taken to localise an outbreak.

There is one measure which, while it will not reduce the spread of the disease, may reduce its effect. During the polio season, it is important that anyone who does not feel well should not over-exert themselves. Over-exertion in one incubating the disease gives an increased risk of paralysis.

It is as well for the more fearful to bear in mind that they are twenty times more likely to be killed on the road than to die from polio, and twice as likely to be killed as to contract paralytic polio.

FOOD POISONING.

The district has remained free from any serious outbreaks of food poisoning. The milder forms of gastro intestinal disturbance do occur, but rarely come to the knowledge of the Health Department. If they do, the information is often so late that it is impossible to trace the cause.

WATER SUPPLY.

The chief water supply is by the South Devon Water Board.

During the year, there has been considerable extension of their mains. Water is frequently sampled by them, copies of results of analysis are forwarded by the Public Health Laboratory to this department. The bacteriological standard of the water remains very high. The reservoir behind the Avon Dam is now providing a reserve of water.

Although the district is widely covered by the Water Board's mains, a considerable amount of work is still done sampling and advising concerning private supplies.

SEWERAGE.

Sewage disposal works at South Milton and an extension of the sewer from Stokenham to Torcross outfall were completed during the year.

The Ministry's Inspector has held an informal inquiry into the provision of sewage disposal works at Churchstow and provision of temporary measures to give sewage from Ringmore some treatment.

At the present time, two men are employed full-time and one part-time on the maintenance of sewers and sewage disposal works. A number of new works have been constructed within the past few years, many having mechanical pumping equipment installed in them. A position has now been reached where additional works will call for additional staff in order to carry out effective maintenance.

There has been some difficulty in the supervision of the dumping of contents of cesspit emptiers. It is felt very strongly that the indiscriminate dumping on land of the contents of septic tanks can constitute a serious danger to the health of the public, either directly, or indirectly, by affecting the health of cattle.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Conveniences at Thurlestone have been completed. It is hoped that before next season it will be possible to build conveniences at East Portlemouth where there is a great need for them.

HOUSING.

Some further slum clearance has been undertaken, but there is still no clear picture of the housing needs of the district.

Areas have been represented at Chillington, Strete, Modbury and Loddiswell, and an individual house at Brownston.

Modbury has, to some extent, been tackled as a whole and considerable progress has been made.

There does still seem to be a need for a considerable number of houses in the area, whether new or improved. One of the difficulties in a country district is that the bad houses, from a housing point of view, are so often picturesque. Those who only look from the outside are anxious to preserve without improving. It is sometimes possible to do both, improve and retain the character, but cost is so often prohibitive. It is difficult to steer a course between destroying too much of the old and being so blinded by its attractions that little or none at all is cleared.

Improvement Grants are a great encouragement to people to improve old housing. The grant provides for modern amenities in addition to ensuring that all necessary repairs are carried out at the same time. Forty applications for grant were received during the year and 30 were approved.

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS.

Represented	17
Confirmed	15
Not confirmed	Nil
Demolished	1
Families rehoused		6

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of caravans and tents in the district during the summer increases annually. On the whole, those on caravan sites are well run and a fairly high standard is maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

There has been some inspection of food premises during the year, but until staff increases occur, it is not possible to carry out inspection and supervision in a manner to be desired.

In a district such as this, one of whose chief industries is catering for holiday makers, there is sufficient work in connection with food premises and camping sites for one full-time Inspector during the summer. It is not only a question of inspection, but also one of advising and educating, so that standards may be constantly improving. Every catering establishment from the four-star hotel to the cottage serving an occasional tea can and should, under the new Regulations, be visited.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There has been a 20 per cent. increase in the number of carcasses inspected during the year.

The increase covered all types of animal except pigs, where the number inspected was about the same as the previous year.

This work does involve a great deal of time and travelling. Much of the time is not within office hours, and the arrangement whereby the Salcombe Inspector assists with meat inspection is most necessary and has been of great help.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection, throughout the district of incombustible refuse is still maintained although not without some difficulty during the peak holiday period when the volume of refuse collected from the seaside areas increases threefold, and great difficulty is experienced in getting to and from the refuse tips on the congested roads.

A number of requests were received for a more frequent collection of refuse. It is estimated that a weekly collection would involve an increased expenditure of £1,500 per annum, consequently the matter has been shelved for the time being.

PART II.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,980.

Rateable Value—£128,754.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—Est. £521. 2s. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	160	77	83	14.52
Illegitimate	14	5	9	
	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 92	

				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
STILL BIRTHS :	1	—	1	5.71

				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
DEATHS :	155	80	75	12.93

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	22.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71.4

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	17.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71.4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	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	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	16
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	6	4
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	10	16
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	5
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	2
24. Bronchitis	8	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	8	10
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
34. All other Accidents	5	1
35. Suicide	4	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 75

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1957.

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	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	8	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, no action was necessary under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal and detention in a County Welfare Establishment for aged persons.

WATER SUPPLY.

WATER SAMPLING.

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
South Devon Water Board	448	38
Private supplies	16	26

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS.

No. of sites.	No. of Caravans licensed.	Individual Caravans licensed.
13	876	13

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Complaints investigated	9
Infectious Disease	9
Inspections of Camping Sites	40
Houses inspected under Public Health Act	89
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	53
Factories	14
Food Premises	61
Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Farms, etc.	38
Dairies	3
Schools	10
Rodent Control	17
Water Supply	50

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

During the year, visits were made as follows :—

Slaughterhouses	875
Butcher Shops	23
TOTAL	898

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	4
Cows	191
Heifers	443
Steers	581
Calves	411
Sheep	10953
Pigs	1355
TOTAL	13938

The total weight of meat condemned was 7 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. and 9 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

APPENDIX.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1024	195	411	10953	1355	—
Number inspected	1024	195	411	10953	1355	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	2	4	9	30	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	171	58	4	663	40	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.88	31.79	3.13	6.32	3.17	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	26	Nil	Nil	16	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.25	13.85	Nil	Nil	1.18	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

Bakehouses	6
Butcher Shops	11
Fishmongers and Fryers	1

Ice Cream—Manufacturers	1
Retailers	46
General Stores	59
Dairies	2
Restaurants and Cafes	18
Hotels, etc.	74

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 :

Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Sale of Ice Cream	52
Manufacture of Preserved Food	8
Amount of food condemned during the year	59 lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 14	6

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade 1	18
Grade 2	1
Grade 3	3
Grade 4	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

PART 1 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)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupier Prosecuted. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	11	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	24	13	—	—

RODENT CONTROL.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL			AGRICULTURAL	
	Local Author'y	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	All other (inc. Business Premises).	Total of cols. (1) (2) and (3).	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	28	4097	394	4519	748
2. Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	63	4	67	8
(b) Survey under the Act	28	263	7	298	31
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	21	9	30	14
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspec- tions	204	847	97	1148	153
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	2	—	—	2	2
Minor	21	343	6	370	12
(b) Mice—Major	—	12	—	12	6
Minor	—	24	4	28	8
5. Number of infected pro- perties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A.	23	379	2	404	1
6. Total treatments carried out—including retreat- ments	42	412	4	458	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (<i>i.e.</i> Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	74				

HOUSES.

Number of pre-war houses erected by the Council

TOTAL
69

	HOUSES		BUNGALOWS		TEM- PORARY	
	Tradi- tion	New Tradi- tion	Tradi- tion	New Tradi- tion		
Number of post-war houses up to December, 1956	264	158	32	4	30	488
Houses constructed in year ending December, 1957	—	—	6	—	—	6
Houses in course of construction, 1958	—	—	5	—	—	5
						568

I am, Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

September, 1958.

Medical Officer of Health.

