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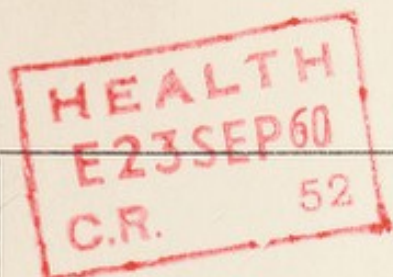
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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT


of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1959



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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR, 1959.

- 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.
Chief Public Health Inspector : MR. D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector : MR. N. HARRIS, A.I.A.S.,
(Retd. March, 1959) C.R.S.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector : MR. R. N. NICHOLS, F.I.A.S.,
A.M.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Temporary Public Health Inspector : MR. J. E. MILLER, M.B.E., E.D.,
M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1959.

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.

The Devon County Health Handbook 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.

There were a large number of cases of measles during the year, and an increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever. There were no cases of poliomyelitis. Three new cases of tuberculosis were notified. This is the same as the year before, but less than in any previous year.

FOOD POISONING.

There was one isolated case of Sonne Dysentery which occurred in a child, a visitor to the district. There were no further cases either in the rest of the family after their return home, or in any other part of the district. The source was not traced and there was some evidence that it originated outside the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

The chief supply is by the South Devon Water Board. During the very dry summer the quantity of water resulting from the reservoir formed by the Avon Dam proved invaluable. The new filtration plant was in operation in time to ensure that the quality was of first-class standard.

SEWERAGE.

CHILLINGTON. It is hoped that the work of extending the sewers and constructing a new disposal works will be put in hand at an early date.

KINGSTON. Although a scheme for the village has been prepared and approved, matters regarding the site have delayed the start of the work.

MALBOROUGH. The disposal arrangements for sewerage from the northern part of the village is still most unsatisfactory and a scheme for pumping into the sewerage system on the south side is urgently required.

GENERAL. The Consulting Engineers are preparing schemes for the construction of sewers and modern disposal plants in a number of villages including Galmpton, Sherford, Charleton and Strete.

Disposal arrangements are not entirely satisfactory at Frogmore and a comprehensive scheme is required for this area.

MAINTENANCE. The task of maintaining the numerous existing works throughout the district has been considerably helped by the employment of additional labour, and the standard of maintenance is satisfactory; this has been borne out by the results of samples of effluent taken by the Devon River Board from various works.

One large breakdown occurred during the year at Torcross when the main sewer became choked. Investigation revealed that approximately 200ft. of 8in. cast iron sewer had been washed away along the foreshore. The replacement of the pipes presented some difficulties due to the prevailing tidal conditions and to the fact that the sewer was about 8ft. under the shingle.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences at East Portlemouth which are required so urgently, were not completed during the year. Even when this convenience is completed it is thought that it will be insufficient to serve all the beaches on the Eastern side of the mouth of the estuary. There is still an urgent need for conveniences at other beaches, throughout the district. It appears greatest at Strete Gate and Thurlestone Sands, whilst Bantham, Wonwell, Soar Mill and Lannacombe may have to be considered sometime in the future.

HOUSING.

An additional public health inspector was appointed to carry out a housing survey. The complete report of the state of housing in the district will prove of inestimable value in planning clearance action and building policy.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During the year 64 applications were received for Discretionary Improvement Grants and 18 applications for Standard Grants. 30 Discretionary Grants were approved, the grants totalling £8142. 12 Standard Grants were approved. It is interesting to note that of the 64 discretionary applications 30 were in respect of owner/occupied properties and 34 related to tenanted properties. Of the standard applications the ratio was somewhat different, there being 10 for owner/occupied and 8 for tenanted properties. The large number of grants given to properties which are occupied by tenants is most encouraging and in my opinion stresses the value of the Improvement Grant System.

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS.

Represented	.....	.....	7
Confirmed	.....	.....	7
Not confirmed	.....	.....	—
Demolished	.....	.....	4
Families rehoused	.....	.....	7

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of licensed moveable dwellings has remained substantially the same. It is hoped that there will be comprehensive legislation in the future which will make the supervision and control of camping easier and more effective. Most site operators are very co-operative, and the sites are extremely well run. The great majority of campers are efficient and considerate in their camping, but a small minority, which is increasing in numbers, are filthy in their habits, inconsiderate and ill-equipped. They park by the roadside and use the countryside as dustbin and convenience indiscriminately, and are giving touring camping and caravanning an undeservedly bad name.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There has been no progress with the inspection and supervision of food premises and catering establishments. This work should be carried out during the summer at which time there is a great deal of other additional work.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The amount of meat inspected remains about the same. It is interesting to note that the percentage of bovine tuberculosis as noted in meat inspected was 0.93% (cows only). In 1958 it was 5.1% and in 1957, 13.85%. The district was included in a tuberculosis eradication area in March, 1959.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The fortnightly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, but great difficulty was experienced during the holiday period when the large influx of visitors strained the service to breaking point. Additional staff and a new vehicle will be required to maintain a fortnightly service next year. It is of interest to note that during the past five years the amount of refuse collected has increased from 9,069 to 10,600 cubic yards per annum.

The general position with a fortnightly collection, especially during the summer months, is not entirely satisfactory, and I would strongly recommend that consideration be given to the possibility of providing a weekly collection of refuse especially during the months of July, August and September.

LITTER.

Although the litter act was in force during the year it did not have the desired effect in this district, particularly in the area of Slapton Sands where conditions were extremely bad. The control of litter is not simply a matter of legislation but also of enforcement, which cannot economically be done by authorities alone, but must depend upon the co-operation of the general public.

PART II.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,720.

Rateable Value—£128,063.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—Est. £513.1531.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Legitimate	160	86	74	
Illegitimate	8	2	6	14.33
	<hr/> 168	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 80	
				Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births.
Illegitimate live births	8	2	6	4.76
				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
Still Births	5	2	3	28.90
Total live and still births	173	90	83	

INFANT DEATHS (DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE).

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> —	<hr/> 3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	17.86
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.50
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125.00
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	17.86
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	17.86
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	46.24

		Rate per 1,000 total Deaths, live and still births.
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	1	5.78

		Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.
DEATHS	Total. 149	Males. 68
		Females. 81
		12.71

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—
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	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	9
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	16	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	3
20. Other Heart Disease	9	19
21. Other Circulatory Disease	1	3
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	7
24. Bronchitis	4	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	5	10
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
34. All other Accidents	2	4
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	68	81

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Whooping Cough	3
Measles	150
Scarlet Fever	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Sonne Dysentery	1
Erysipelas	1

TOTAL 182

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	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.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS.

No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans licensed.	Individual Caravans licensed.
15	1001	14

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	49
Litter Act	20
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	182
Visits in connection with complaints	39
Infectious Disease	23
Inspections of Camping Sites	62

Houses inspected under Public Health Act	121
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	141
Factories	17
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	64
Public Conveniences	11
Rodent Control	13
Water Supply	12
Water Samples	33
Rent Act	1
Improvement Grants	193
Disease of Animals Act	15
Slaughter of Animals Act	1
Miscellaneous	19
Petroleum Regulations	21
Dangerous Buildings	15

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

During the year, visits were made as follows :—

Slaughterhouses	853
Butchers' Shops	21
TOTAL	874

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	2
Cows	323
Heifers	399
Steers	478
Calves	277
Sheep	11143
Pigs	1860
TOTAL	14482

The total weight of meat condemned was 5 tons 18 cwts. 3 qrs.

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)	879	323	277	11143	1860	—
Number inspected	879	323	277	11143	1860	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	9	3	30	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	165	188	5	323	43	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.77	60.99	2.89	3.17	2.63	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	3	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.23	0.93	—	—	0.32	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

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

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	11
Fishmongers and Fryers	1
Ice Cream—Manufacturers	1
Retailers	53

General Stores	60
Dairies	3
Restaurants and Cafés	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	53
Manufacture of Preserved Food	8
Amount of food condemned during the year	34-lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 14	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade 1	30
Grade 2	1
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	—

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 Prosec'd (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	14	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	25	17	—	—

No defects were found.
There are no out-workers.

RODENT CONTROL.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL			AGRICUL- TURAL	
	Local Authority	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	30	4129	433	4592	748
2. Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	69	9	78	2
(b) Survey under the Act	30	522	48	600	214
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other pur- pose)	—	23	10	33	4
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	193	614	82	889	243
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	3	—	—	3	—
Minor	20	537	9	566	24
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	13
Minor	—	28	5	33	9
5. Number of infected pro- perties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.	23	565	14	602	11
6. Total treatments carried out —including retreatments	43	729	16	788	11
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 Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	1
10. Number of "Block" con- trol schemes carried out	97				

HOUSES.

HOUSING SURVEY.

Parish.	CATEGORIES.					Totals x
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	*Un- classified	
Charleton	64	13	16	2	9	104
Kingston	50	25	7	4	3	89
Malborough	145	61	13	6	21	246
Modbury	171	52	38	13	33	307
Ringmore	53	14	5	—	16	88
Thurlestone	180	18	15	7	17	237
West Alvington	86	42	5	8	3	144
	749	225	99	40	102	1215

* Unclassified buildings relate to those not normally used for human habitation.

x The total figures do not include Council Houses.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Number of pre-war houses erected by the Council 69

	HOUSES		BUNGALOWS		TEM- PORARY.	HOUSES PUR- CHASED RECONDI- TIONED.	
	Tradi- tion.	New Tradi- tion.	Tradi- tion.	New Tradi- tion.			
Number of post-war houses up to April, 1960	265	158	63	4	30	4	524
Houses in course of construction, 1960	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
						Total	602

I am, your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1960.

