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**Contributors**

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*Report*

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

*For the Year 1945.*



**Kingsbridge :**

**LUGGER BROS., PRINTERS, 83, FORE STREET**

# *Kingsbridge Urban District Council*

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Annual Report*  
OF THE  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
For the Year 1945.

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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 Sanitary Inspector* : MR. E. GELLENDER, A.R.S.I.,  
1/1/45–15/8/45.

MR. R. C. HUNT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
17/9/45.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS TREEBY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

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

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—2,870.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to the Rate Book—910.

Number of unoccupied houses—9.

Rateable Value—£321.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£83. 7s. 1d.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce. Unemployment has not had any prejudicial effect on the general health of the community.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.



## **VITAL STATISTICS.**

Live Births—Male, 21. Female, 24. Total, 45.

Live (legitimate)—Male, 16. Female, 21. Total, 37.

Live (illegitimate)—Male, 5. Female, 3. Total, 8.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population—15.67.

STILL BIRTHS—5. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—100.00.

DEATHS—30. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—10.45.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births—44.44.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—54.05.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—7.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—Nil.

The conditions of occupation, and of environment, on the whole have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality.

## **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 Rural District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority, and Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN—Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.



THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district :

Men's Ward .....	6 beds
Women's Ward .....	6 beds
Children's Cots .....	2
Private Wards .....	2 (one bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:—None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

The arrangement referred to is provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County, and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

NURSING IN THE HOME—The Kingsbridge Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

MIDWIVES—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 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 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 Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.



**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
DURING THE YEAR 1945.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .....	10	4	—
Diphtheria .....	1	1	—
Erysipelas .	7	—	—
Measles .....	36	—	—
Pertussus .....	2	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	2	—	2
	58	7	2

The increased number of notifications of Infectious Diseases was largely due to the prevalence of measles in the district. The cases occurred chiefly in the months of May and June, and were of a mild character.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—I would again emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**—Close co-operation is maintained with the Devon County Council Health Visitors. The parent of every child in the district receives a birthday card for the child when he, or she reaches one year advising immunisation, the Health Visitors visit, follow up and advise ; every effort being made to get the child protected. Frequent clinics are arranged in the district.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

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	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	1	—	1	2	—	—	—

AMBULANCE.—For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER SUPPLY** (Moorland Supply) from Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board.

The Water Supply is derived from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, and is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw water are made by the Water Board; four samples of water going into supply were submitted for analysis, and were satisfactory.

No trace of lead was detected in chemical examinations of this water.

The water is chlorinated.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The system is satisfactory.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—No alteration in the system, which is satisfactory in all respects.

**HOUSING.**—Overcrowding continues.

A layout for the erection of 88 houses at Rack Park has been submitted to the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped to commence building the first instalment of 30 houses in July, 1946.



FOOD SUPPLY.—Amounts of unfit foods condemned and destroyed :

Various foodstuffs, including tinned—1cwt. 1qr.

Various tinned foods—326 tins.

MILK.—Number of cowkeepers or dairymen on registers at end of year : Retail, 9 ; Wholesale, 5 ; Total, 14.

BAKEHOUSES.—Number in district—4.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—None in use, but the original three are still kept for future use.

DISINFECTIONS.—Number of houses disinfected :

Ordinary Infectious Diseases	.....	8
Tuberculosis	.....	—

During the past year the steam disinfector at the Ministry of Health Intermediate Hostel, Lee Mill, has been used for the disinfection of bedding and clothing.

Rooms and furniture are disinfected with a formalin spray.

SCHOOLS.—The three County Schools are in a satisfactory condition.

During the year seven notices were received referring to 43 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	.....	1
Whooping Cough	.....	9
Measles	.....	15
Chicken-pox	.....	9
Mumps	.....	9

NUISANCES.

No. of complaints received	.....	12
No. remedied	.....	10
No. of notices issued	.....	4

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*