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Contributors

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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1948.



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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year, 1948.

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. R. C. HUNT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMAN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1948.

The health of the district has continued to be very satisfactory and there has been little infectious disease during the year.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on the 5th July, 1948, the hospital services were taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, and the local Health Authority (Devon County Council) become responsible for the ambulance services.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,050.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Book—949.

Number of unoccupied houses—Nil.

Rateable Value—£21,536.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£86.

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 :

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	49	22	27
Illegitimate	2	2	—
	—	—	—
	51	24	27

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 16.72

Still Births Nil — —

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : Nil.

Deaths 49 23 26

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 16.06.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births).
No. 29 Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births		Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—
7. Other forms of T.B.	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of b.cav. and oesoph. (M) Uterus (F)	1	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1

15.	Cancer of Breast	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	4	3
17.	Diabetes	—	3
18.	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions	2	4
19.	Heart Disease	10	6
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	—
21.	Bronchitis	2	—
22.	Pneumonia	1	—
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	1	—
28.	Nephritis	—	2
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	—	—
32.	Congenital Malformations	—	—
	Birth Injuries	—	—
	Infant's Disorders	—	—
33.	Suicide	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	—	—
35.	Other Violent causes	—	—
36.	All other causes	1	7
		23	26

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 Kings- and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Public Health Laboratory Service has taken over the Bacteriological Laboratory, formerly administered by the Devon County Council, and are carrying on providing a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk and water supplies.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria Anto-Toxin is available, free of cost, through the general practitioner service, and stocks are kept at local hospitals.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Devon County Council on the 5th July took over the District Nurses and Midwives of all Nursing Associations and at the end of the year there was one District Nurse/Midwife working the area. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. All nurses 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 is one practising midwife in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on Wednesdays each week. The attendance has been very good during the year.

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, held at the Mutley Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

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 Cot	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 ambulance service of the Devon County Council. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Devon County Council is now responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities and cases of infectious disease are removed as in the past by the Swilly Isolation Hospital.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council also provides medical transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1948.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	3	—
Measles	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	49	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
	58	4	—

There was little infectious disease in the district during the year under review. A few cases of measles (2) were notified. There was no case of Diphtheria and only 4 of Scarlet Fever.

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 messengers, 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.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

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	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 ; 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.—No sewerage scheme of note has been carried out during the year.

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

HOUSING.

As forecast in the report for 1947, the Contract for 30 houses at Rack Park was completed on 21st August, 1948.

A further six houses have been commenced which will be completed and occupied by February, 1949.

A contract was signed in December for the erection of a further twelve houses of different design (later increased to sixteen), and it is hoped the 16 houses will be completed by March, 1950.

A further two dwellings were provided during the year by the conversion of " Roselands " into two self-contained houses.

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

Various foodstuffs—8 cwts. 37 lbs.

Various tinned foods—274 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 4

Rooms and furniture are disinfected with a formalin spray.

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

NUISANCES, ETC.

Number of complaints received and investigated	7
Nuisances discovered as result of above	7
Number of notices issued	9
Premises on which nuisances were abated	—
Number and nature of nuisances abated (drains, w.c.s) —	3
Houses renovated or repaired	6
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions (including new Council houses)	272
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	121

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. J. C. ...

General Remarks

2nd ...

3rd ...

4th ...

5th ...

6th ...

7th ...

8th ...

9th ...

10th ...

11th ...

12th ...

13th ...

14th ...

15th ...

16th ...

~~July~~ Dr Rm Shaw 349

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