

[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Kingsbridge U.D.C.

Contributors

Kingsbridge (Devon, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1949

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1949



Lugger Bros., Printers, Kingsbridge.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1949



Printed by the Council

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year, 1949.

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 GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1949.

The health of the district has continued to be very satisfactory.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,110.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to the Rate Book—957.

Number of unoccupied houses—Nil.

Rateable Value—£22,135.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£88. 6s. 10d.

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	39	18	21
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 23

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 13.18

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

Deaths	44	19	25
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.14.

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	24.39
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Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.38
---	-------

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
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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	.....	—	1
7.	Other forms of T.B.	.....	1	—
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	.....	—	—
15.	Cancer of Breast	.....	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	.....	2	2
17.	Diabetes	.....	—	1
18.	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions	.....	—	3
19.	Heart Disease	.....	9	9
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	.....	—	1
21.	Bronchitis	.....	2	1
22.	Pneumonia	.....	1	2
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	—	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	.....	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	.....	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	.....	—	—
28.	Nephritis	.....	—	1
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	.....	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	.....	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	.....	1	—
32.	Congenital Malformations	.....	—	—
	Birth Injuries	.....	—	—
	Infants' Disorders	.....	—	—
33.	Suicide	.....	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	.....	1	—
35.	Other Violent causes	.....	—	—
36.	All other causes	.....	—	2
			19	25

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.—The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

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

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—There is one District Nurse/Midwife working the area. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. The nurse is 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 Cots	.....	.....	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 Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1949.**

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—
Measles	113	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
	129	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	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.

RACK PARK ESTATE.

During the year 12 new houses were completed, making a total of 42 Houses erected since 1946.

A commencement was made in October on the erection of 20 two bedroomed flats.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Amounts of unfit foods condemned and destroyed :

429 tins Various.
6 Bottles Various.
36-lbs. Tinned Meat.
600½-lbs. Meat.
24-lbs. Fruit.
280½-lbs. Fish.
37¾-lbs. Cheese.

ICE CREAM.—Twelve samples were submitted for examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.—Number in district—4.

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

DISINFECTIONS.—Routine disinfections has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

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

Main Water was taken into the temporary Girls' Grammar School (Twyford).

NUISANCES, Etc.

No. of complaints received and investigated	.....	.....	6
Nuisances discovered as result of above	.....	.....	5
No. of Notices issued : Informal	.....	.....	1
Statutory	.....	.....	4
Premises on which nuisances were abated	.....	.....	4
No. and nature of nuisances abated—Drains, and W.C.s	.....	.....	2
No. of inspections re Infectious Disease	.....	.....	10
Deficient or impure Water	.....	.....	1
Houses renovated or repaired	.....	.....	3
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council Houses			173
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health			151

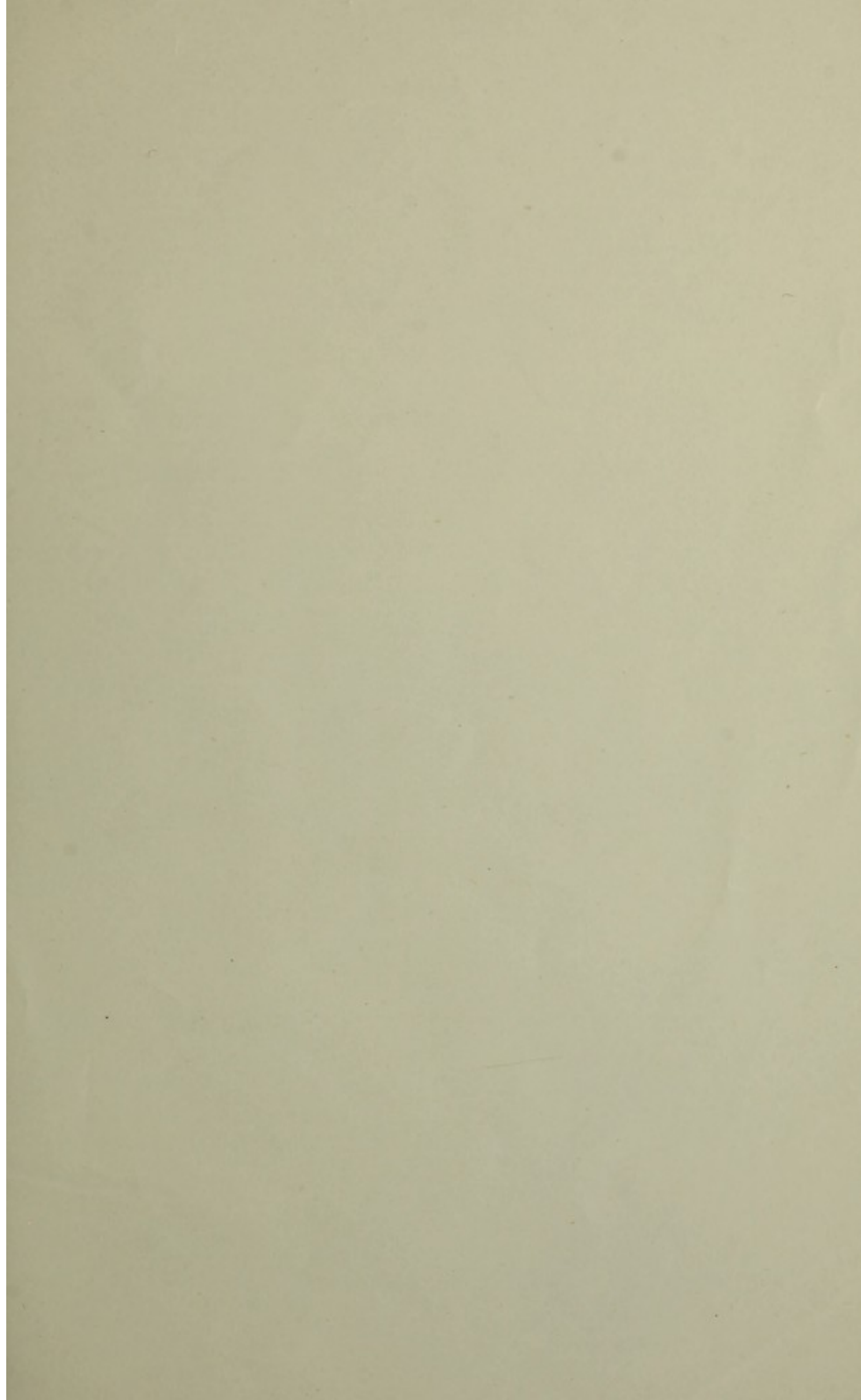
I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

JULY, 1950.



NUISANCES, &c.

No. of complaints received and investigated	6
Nuisances discovered as result of above	13
No. of Notices issued : Informal	1
Statutory	1
Provisions of which notices were issued	4
No. and nature of nuisances abated—Drains, and W.C.s	2
No. of inspections re Infectious Diseases	10
Deficient or Impure Water	1
Houses renovated or repaired	3
Total number of inspections in connection with execution of new houses and conversions, including new Council Houses	173
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	151

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALE.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1930.