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Contributors

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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Devon

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1956

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KINGSBRIDGE:
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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

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. L. J. HILL, A.M.I.MUN.E.,
M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1956.

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

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,140.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to the Rate Book—986.

Number of unoccupied houses—17.

Rateable Value—£24,691.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£95. 2s. 5d.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	37	14	23
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	39	15	24

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.42.

Still Births — — 1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 12.73.

Deaths 55 28 27

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 17.51.

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		2
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	.....	51.28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		54.05
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) .....	.....	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

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

GENERAL PROVISIONS 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 District, Kingsbridge Rural District, and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provided a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, on 3rd June, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the General Practitioner Service or at Schools, School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and Vaccine Lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

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, and acts as a County Staff Sister in the area, dealing with matters relating to the off-duty of Nurses in her group.

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, except the first Wednesday in each month. 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 Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury, and another at Kingsbridge.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

X-RAYS.—The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple, and Plymouth.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association as in-patients at Exeter and Ivy-bridge, 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 Hartley House, Mannamead, 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 Scott Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.—The Ambulance Service throughout Devon is operated in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Voluntary Organisations. Infectious cases for the Plymouth Infectious Area are carried, by agreement, in the Plymouth City Infectious Ambulance.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles	76	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
	85	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956.

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

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY (Moorland Supply) from South Devon Water Board.

The Water Supply 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.

During the past year 83 samples of Moorland Water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows : Grade 1—82 ; Grade 4—1.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The year 1956 proved that the previous years' work was satisfactory. No troubles in the system occurred during the year that were not normal day to day maintenance items.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The system continues to function satisfactorily and during the year opportunity was taken to make improvements at the disposal site.

HOUSING. Towards the end of the year a start was made on the site preparation for a contract for Old Persons Dwellings. At the end of the year, the actual erection of the dwellings had not started.

No new houses were completed during the year.

96 houses and 40 flats have been erected since the war and an old building converted into four houses.

Including 77 pre-war houses, the Council now owns 177 houses and 40 flats.

FOOD STUFFS CONDEMNED. 120 tins various, 17 tins Meat, 148 tins Milk, 48 tins Coffee, 11 tins Fish, 28-lbs. Dried Fruit, 1 Bullock carcase (fresh), 2 heads, 121-lbs. Beef, 74-lbs. fresh Pork, 8-lbs. cooked Beef, 16 packets various.

FOODS.

1. The number of types of food premises in the area are as follows :

Greengrocer, 5 ; Grocer, 14 ; Butcher, 5 ; Restaurants, 6 ; Wet Fish Shops, 1 ; Fried Fish Shops, 2 ; Baker, 4.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

2. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Icecream	.....	.....	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	.....	.....	20
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.			4
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954		.....	3

3. The numbers of inspections of food premises in the year was 49. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town is good.

4. No new educational activity was undertaken during the year but a pleasing feature is the absence of animals in food shops. It is encouraging to observe that the vast majority of people who have dogs with them, either exclude them from the shop or keep them strictly on a lead.

5. THE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specializing in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

6. It was not necessary during the year for any special examination of a stock or consignment of food to be undertaken.

7. It is the policy to discourage the manufacture of icecream and in fact, only one producer carries on business in the town. This is done in well-equipped modern premises with modern equipment in good condition. The normal shop or business selling icecream, sells only pre-packed icecream from one or other of the major well known manufacturers.

8. All occupiers of premises dealing in food in any way were given copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations and visits were made to explain what the Regulations meant. The public has been quick to co-operate, particularly with regard to the Regulation dealing with smoking in food shops, and I am satisfied that the Regulations are now being faithfully observed.

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
(b) alleging housing defects	.....	.....	.....	.....	166
(c) other complaints	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Nuisances proved	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Minor housing repairs dealt with	.....	.....	.....	.....	134
Other complaints remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Informal letters sent	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Statutory Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health					42

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

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

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. in Register.	Inspect'ns.	Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosec'd
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	1		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity	42	6		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' pre- mises)	—	—		
TOTAL	47	7		

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

September, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health.

PROCESSED MANUFACTURES ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1901

The following is a list of the factories in which the processes of manufacture are carried on in the district of the Registrar of Factories, London, in the year 1901.

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