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KINGSBRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1961

— :: —

J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.  
KINGSBRIDGE

# **Kingsbridge Urban District Council**

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**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47

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**CLERK TO M.O.H.**

**J. E. MILLER**

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47

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**ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**

Council Chambers, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2122

**KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1961**

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Medical Officer of Health: R. B. WALKER,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: W. H. COWPER,  
M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: L. J. HILL,  
A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1961.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,220.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1961 according to the Rate Book—1,073.

Number of unoccupied houses—18.

Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1961—£49,456.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£204.

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   | ... | 45    | 21 | 24 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 3     | 2  | 1  |
|              |     | —     | —  | —  |
|              |     | 48    | 23 | 25 |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.91.

|              |     |   |   |   |
|--------------|-----|---|---|---|
| Still Births | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
|--------------|-----|---|---|---|

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 20.83.

|        |     |     |     |    |    |    |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | 41 | 16 | 25 |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.73.

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

|                                  |     | Deaths | Rate per<br>1,000 Total<br>(Live and<br>still births) |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| *Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | ... | —      | —                                                     |

### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

|                                   |     |     |     |       |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | 41.66 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|

|                                                     |  |  |  |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------|
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births |  |  |  | 41.66 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------|

|                                                         |  |  |  |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births |  |  |  | — |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|

|                               |     |     |     |   |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|

|                                |     |     |     |   |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | — |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|

|                                       |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | — |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|

### CAUSES OF DEATH

|     |                                         |     |     |     |     | M. | F. |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 1   | Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System  | ... |     |     |     | 1  | —  |
| 2   | Other forms of Tuberculosis             | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 3   | Syphilitic Disease                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 4   | Diphtheria                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 5   | Whooping Cough                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 6   | Meningococcal Infections                | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 7   | Acute Poliomyelitis                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 8   | Measles                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 9   | Other Infective and Parasitic Disease   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 10  | Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach             | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | 1  |
| 11  | Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | —  |
| 12  | Malignant Neoplasm, Breast              | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | 1  |
| 13  | Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus              | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 14  | Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | 1  |
| 15  | Leukaemia, Aleukaemia                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 16  | Diabetes                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 17  | Vascular Lesions of Nervous System      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  | 3  |
| 18  | Coronary Disease, Angina                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  | 6  |
| 19  | Hypertension with Heart Disease         | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 20  | Other Heart Diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  | 6  |
| 21  | Other Circulatory Disease               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | 2  |
| 22  | Influenza                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 23  | Pneumonia                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | 2  |
| 24  | Bronchitis                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | 1  |
| 25  | Other Diseases of Respiratory System    | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 26  | Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum           | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 27  | Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea      | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 28  | Nephritis and Nephrosis                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | —  |
| 29  | Hyperplasia of Prostate                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | —  |
| 30* | Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion         | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 31  | Congenital Malformations                | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 32  | Other defined and ill-defined Diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | 2  |
| 33  | Motor Vehicle Accidents                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 34  | All other Accidents                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
| 35  | Suicide                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  | —  |
| 36  | Homicide and Operations of War          | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  | —  |
|     |                                         |     |     |     |     | 16 | 25 |



## 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 Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

**LABORATORY FACILITIES.** The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

**PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.** The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1961

| Disease       |     | Total Cases |    | Admitted    | Deaths |
|---------------|-----|-------------|----|-------------|--------|
|               |     | Notified    |    | to Hospital |        |
| Measles       | ... | ...         | 50 | —           | —      |
| Scarlet Fever |     | ...         | 1  | —           | —      |
|               |     |             | 51 | —           | —      |

### TUBERCULOSIS

#### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1961

| Age Periods          | New cases   |    |             |      | Deaths      |    |             |      |
|----------------------|-------------|----|-------------|------|-------------|----|-------------|------|
|                      | Respiratory |    | Non.        |      | Respiratory |    | Non.        |      |
|                      |             |    | Respiratory | Non. |             |    | Respiratory | Non. |
|                      | M.          | F. | M.          | F.   | M.          | F. | M.          | F.   |
| Under 1 year         | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 1—5 years            | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 5—15 years           | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 15—25 years          | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 25—35 years          | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 35—45 years          | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 45—55 years          | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| 55—65 years          | 1           | —  | —           | —    | 1           | —  | —           | —    |
| 65 years and upwards | —           | —  | —           | —    | —           | —  | —           | —    |
| Totals               | 1           | —  | —           | —    | 1           | —  | —           | —    |



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**WATER SUPPLY.** The supply of water to the area remained, as before, the responsibility of the South Devon Water Board.

I have no need to comment on the quality of the supply which remained on its former highly satisfactory level. The board were concerned with one or two minor cases of a falling off in pressure during periods of very heavy demand, but, while these cases will be corrected with subsequent benefit to the convenience of the few houses concerned, the slight fall in pressure on occasion in no way affected the population from the public health point of view.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** Toward the end of the year work started on a small extension to the sewerage system to make provision for the development of further land for housing purposes.

Apart from this, the existing system remained as before.

Consideration was given to the possibility of investigating a new machine for sewage disposal, but at the end of the year, information was still awaited from the manufacturers about the equipment, and I anticipate further information during 1962.

**HOUSING.** During 1961 the plans and other essential work for a new estate were completed and agreed by all parties concerned.

The contractors started work in November on the construction of roads, sewers, etc., and the house building contractors will move in as soon as possible.

As a complement to this, the slum clearance programme was considered and the methods of dealing with unfit houses, together with the timing, was decided. More of this will show in next year's report.

A number of people applied for standard grants throughout the year, and in no case was it found necessary to recommend any grant to be refused.

While much publicity has been given, both nationally and locally, to the system of grants that are available, not overmuch use is being made of this service. While I am in agreement with the general idea, I feel that better financial arrangements ought to be available to those people wishing to become owner-occupiers of houses, with the possibility that new houses would then be built for owner-occupation.

The system of improving older houses, while in itself to be recommended, is in my view, apart from considerations of architecture and aesthetics, less to be preferred than the building of new homes.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.** I have no need to comment on the system of refuse collection and disposal; it remains good from both aspects.



## FOOD

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

Greengrocer, 5 ; Grocer, 14 ; Butcher, 5 ; Restaurants, 5 ; 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                                              | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.                              |     |     |     | 4  |
| Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954 | ... | ... | ... | 3  |

3 The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 37. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remained highly satisfactory.

4 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 specialising in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

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

## APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

|                                                                              | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed<br>(if known)                                                  | 237                         | —    | —      | 715                   | —    | —      |
| Number inspected                                                             | 191                         | —    | —      | 613                   | —    | —      |
| <b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>                       |                             |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                    |                             |      | Nil    |                       |      |        |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned .. .. .          | 11                          |      |        | 9                     |      |        |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease, etc. .. .. . | 5.76                        |      |        | 1.46                  |      |        |
| Tuberculosis only : ..                                                       |                             |      | Nil    |                       |      |        |
| Cysticercosis                                                                |                             |      | Nil    |                       |      |        |

## NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

|                                                                                          |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) alleging nuisances                                                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23  |
| (b) alleging housing defects                                                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 248 |
| (c) other complaints                                                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14  |
| Nuisances proved                                                                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Minor housing repairs dealt with                                                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 218 |
| Other complaints remedied                                                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Informal letters sent                                                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Statutory Notices                                                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| Total number of inspections in connection with erection<br>of new houses and conversions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
| Total number of inspections in connection with Public<br>Health                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 111 |



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

### PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

#### Part 1 of the Act

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

| Premises                                                                                                                       | No. in<br>Register | Inspect'ns | Numbers of<br>Written Occupiers<br>Notices Prosec'd |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1)                                                                                                                            | (3)                | (4)        | (5)                                                 | (6) |
| (i) Factories in which<br>Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6<br>are to be enforced by Local<br>Authorities ... ..                      | 5                  | 3          | —                                                   | —   |
| (ii) Factories not included<br>in (i) in which Sec. 7 is<br>enforced by the Local<br>Authority ... ..                          | 42                 | 16         | 1                                                   | —   |
| (iii) Other Premises in<br>which Sec. 7 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority<br>(excluding out - workers'<br>premises) ... .. | —                  | —          | —                                                   | —   |
| Total .. ..                                                                                                                    | 47                 | 19         | 1                                                   | —   |

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

October, 1962.

Medical Officer of Health.





