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Contributors

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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1963

J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.
KINGSBRIDGE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1963

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.

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 1963.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,200.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1963 according to the Rate Book—1,063.

Number of unoccupied houses—36.

Rateable Value as at 1st April 1963—£120,088.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£205/14/2.

Kingsbridge remains the social and economic centre of the South Hams area of South Devon.

My remarks for the year 1962 are still apposite. During this year the County Council commenced its review of the county development plan and it will probably be that Kingsbridge will assume a slightly greater importance in that plan in the future. If this be so then we may expect some increase in the population which will bring with it inevitable problems, but whatever these may be, I feel that the healthy life of the community will not be adversely affected.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	51	27	24
Illegitimate	...	7	3	4
		<hr/> 58	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 28

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 18.125

Still Births	...	—	—	1
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Deaths	48	24	24
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 15.00

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	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	17.24
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Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				19.62
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Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				—
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
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Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			—
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CAUSES OF DEATH

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

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 1963

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles ...	3	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
	3	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1963

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY. The South Devon Water Board became the South West Devon Water Board during the year, and whilst that brought up many administrative problems, no effect whatever was noticeable from the water supply point of view.

The supply remains adequate in quantity, soft, slightly acid in origin, and of highly satisfactory chemical and bacteriological purity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Last year I suggested that consideration might well be given to the problem of sewage disposal. Although again, no major extensions of the system were carried out in 1963, I understand from the Engineer that several extensions are planned, and that the Council is considering some improvement in conditions in the Estuary.

If Kingsbridge is to assume greater significance in the future, with a possible increase in the population, I feel that this problem will become sharper as time goes on and I shall be glad to give what help is required in cleaning up the Estuary.

HOUSING. The tenth housing scheme for the Council was substantially completed toward the end of the year, and concurrently with it the clearance programme continued.

Eleven houses in Ebrington Street and five houses in Fore Street were dealt with, and as a result four were ordered to be demolished and twelve were declared unfit for habitation with undertakings not to re-let being accepted.

One house was bought by the Council where the owner/occupier had maintained it in good repair.

Design work was well on for Housing Scheme No. 11, and that and the clearance programme will go hand in hand in the future.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. I do not feel much comment is needed here. The town is clean and tidy and the refuse collection service quite satisfactory. Refuse disposal remains as in previous years.

FOOD

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

Greengrocer, 5; Grocer, 13; Butcher, 5; Restaurants, 5;
Wet Fish Shops, 2; Fried Fish Shops, 2; Baker, 5.

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	...	...	...	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.				7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	...			3

3. The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 32. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town is good.

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.

6. In 1963 the number of cans of food condemned was 323.

APPENDIX

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

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	241	—	—	984	—	—
Number inspected	241	—	—	984	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis						
Whole carcasses condemned			Nil			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18			16		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	7.49			1.63		
Tuberculosis only:	..		Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	11
(b) alleging housing defects	...	...	...	...	187
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	4
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	201
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	2
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	—
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	...	...	...	...	164
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	...	...	...	...	191

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 (1)	No. in Register (3)	Inspect'ns (4)	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosec'd (5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	9	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	48	12	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1964.



