

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Liskeard Borough.

Contributors

Liskeard (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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The
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Borough of Liskeard
for the Year
1938.

To the Mayor and Members of the Corporation of the Borough of Liskeard

I now present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the Borough	...	...	2,704 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Midsummer 1938)	...	...	4,120
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1937 according to Rate Books	...	...	1,225
Rateable Value of the Borough	...	...	£26,874
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£109 2s. 9d.

Liskeard is a market town and the shopping centre for a large agricultural district.

A large Granite Works and a Wool Combing Factory employ a considerable number of people.

Many men and boys are employed in the motor garages, of which there are several in the town.

The motor transport through the Borough is very considerable, especially during the summer holiday season.

Liskeard is an admirable centre for visitors, since very good accommodation can be obtained and the town is the centre of an extensive district including miles of glorious moors and coast lines on either side of unparalleled beauty.

There are no conditions of occupation or environment which are likely to have a prejudicial effect on the health of the public.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—				<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	...	...		35	19	16
Illegitimate	...	...		2	1	1
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				...	...	9.05
Birth-rate for England and Wales				...	...	15.1

There were 4 Still Births.

DEATHS—				<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				...	...	...
Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population				60	26	34
Death-rate for England and Wales				...	...	10.3
				...	...	11.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	54.05
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	57.14
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	8
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.

6 Residents died in places outside the Borough during 1938.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

**England and Wales,
London,
126 Great Towns and
148 Smaller Towns.**

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births				
Live	15. 1	15. 0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths				
All Causes	11. 6	11. 7	11. 0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	00.0	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs of age	5. 5	7. 8	3. 6	13. 1
Maternal Mortality				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	} Not available.		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	} Not available.		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
Notifications				
Puerperal fever	}	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53
Puerperal pyrexia				
	14.4			{ 15.46

Public Health Officers of the Borough.

(a) MEDICAL—

The post of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time appointment and is held by J. G. Morgan, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Dr. Day, the County Tuberculosis Officer, attends a Clinic at the Public Assistance Institution, Lamellion House, once a month for the treatment of Tuberculous cases and also for consultations with any Medical Practitioners when necessary.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth, carries out any Bacteriological or Pathological investigations which may be necessary.

Dr. Rentoul conducts an Orthopædic Clinic at the Public Assistance Institution, Lamellion House, once a month, and an experienced Orthopædic Sister attends once a week for the treatment of approved cases.

Dr. B. B. Metcalfe is the Medical Officer to the Public Assistance Committee and Institution and is also the Public Vaccinator.

(b) OTHER OFFICERS—

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. E. J. Hoar, is the Sanitary Inspector. He is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, a qualified Sanitary Inspector and also a qualified Meat and Food Inspector.

Infant Welfare.

There is a Voluntary Welfare Centre, which is organised by a strong Committee of Ladies, and is doing excellent work. There is a large regular attendance of mothers and their children. Many more mothers from the outlying country districts would like to attend, but the distances they have to travel make this impossible in many cases. The Medical Officer and the Liskeard Town Nurse, attend regularly.

During this year a well planned and well built Welfare Centre has been erected in the centre of the town.

Most of the money for this has been raised by Voluntary Subscriptions. This Centre is used jointly by the Infant Welfare Centre and the County Orthopædic Clinic and is managed by a Joint Committee of individuals interested in these social welfare activities.

Ambulance Facilities.

A new and up-to-date Motor Ambulance has been purchased by Voluntary Subscriptions and handed over to the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, and is in constant demand for the transport of Accident and Medical and Surgical Cases.

There is absolutely no provision for the transport of Infectious Cases.

Fever Hospital.

At present there is no Hospital for the Isolation and Treatment of Infectious Diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc.

However, on October 28th, 1937, a Conference was held at the Guildhall at Bodmin, and the subject of an Infectious Diseases Hospital for the combined Districts of the Municipal Boroughs of Bodmin, Fowey, Launceston, Liskeard and Lostwithiel, the Urban Districts of Looe, Padstow and St. Austell, and the Rural Districts of Camelford, Launceston, Liskeard, St. Austell and Wadebridge was thoroughly discussed.

Such a Hospital would be a great boon. Infectious Cases could be sent at once by Motor Ambulance to such a Centre.

At present all such cases have to be treated at home and very often the means of isolation are very unsatisfactory. Cases which are a danger to the community owing to limited accommodation and similar reasons, have to be sent into another County to a suitable Hospital for isolation and treatment. Naturally this is a very unsatisfactory and expensive procedure.

Liskeard Cottage Hospital.

This Institution is a great boon to Liskeard and District.

During 1938, the following numbers were treated by this Hospital :—310 In-patients, 300 Out-patients, 222 Patients were X-Rayed.

Patients treated free during the year were :—In-patients 66, Out-patients 137, X-Ray Patients 67.

Under the Plymouth Voluntary Hospitals 1d. in £ scheme 131 in-patients were treated in the Hospital, occupying beds for 2672 days; 11 out-patients with 98 attendances, and 76 X-Ray cases.

Water.

As you will doubtless recall it was decided by this Town Council to adopt a scheme embodying a complete overhaul of the existing water supply.

During the early part of January, samples of this water were sent for Bacteriological Analysis.

The resulting report stated that the water could not be regarded as satisfactory for drinking purposes.

Therefore it was decided on the advice of the Consulting Water Engineers to make temporary arrangements for the chlorination of the water. This was at once done.

Samples have been taken and sent for Bacteriological Examination at quarterly intervals since and the Reports have been good.

In fact the last report dated November 11th, 1938, states :—"Judged by the above examination the water is suitable for drinking purposes from a bacteriological point of view."

Schools.

The Sanitary Condition of all the Schools in the Borough has been satisfactory and it has not been necessary to close any of them.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are no changes to report in this system, which is by no means satisfactory.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1938.

Water Supply.

The intake at Trekeive Steps, St. Cleer, also the stoneware aquaduct between the intake and the reservoir, have been frequently inspected, also cleaned and cleared of weeds, etc.

It has been necessary to make a weekly inspection of the intake so as to regulate the quantity of water required to feed the reservoirs and to remove debris from the face of the intake screens.

The stoneware aquaduct is very defective and permits the entry of surface water from the fields and moors through which it passes.

A temporary chlorinating plant was fixed at the reservoir in February, 1938, and all samples of water taken since that date have been found to be clear of any bacteriological contamination.

The provision of the above plant has entailed a daily visit to the reservoirs to charge the plant and clear the screens, fixed to prevent the entry of fish into the reservoirs.

New Mains.

A 3" branch main has been put down in Castle Hill, to replace a defective 2" pipe. With this exception no new mains were laid, all work being deferred for inclusion in the large scheme which has been approved by the Ministry of Health.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No alterations have been made in the methods of collection or disposal since the Report of 1937.

Complaints have been received of the flooding of property at the New Road caused by the sewer being of insufficient size to carry the drainage of new properties connected to it.

Scavenging and Street Cleaning.

This work is carried out by direct labour and the built-up portion of the town is cleaned at least once a week and the business portion every day.

A considerable amount of work is caused by people throwing discarded cartons and paper on the highway.

Collection of House Refuse.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made, except at the outskirts of the town, where the collection is once in two weeks.

The refuse is taken by the contractor to an old quarry and dumped. This year it has been found possible to bury the refuse almost every week with clean earth, there having been a considerable amount of excavation work carried on in the district.

The cost of collection is very high owing to the fact that the bins have to be collected from the back-yards. A considerably saving would result if the bins were placed in such a position that the lorry could drive up to the bins instead of the waste of time entailed by the man having to collect the bins.

Infectious Diseases.

Only three cases of infectious diseases were dealt with—two of Diphtheria, one of Scarlet Fever. The premises were disinfected by means of a formalin spray or lamp, these being the only methods available.

There are no arrangements for the isolating of persons suffering from an infectious disease, except for a temporary arrangement—the Plymouth Isolation Hospital, who have received cases that it has been found impossible to isolate at their own homes in any way.

In instances of three and four roomed houses it is impossible to isolate the patient and where there are other children the risk of the spread of the disease is very great.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of Factories	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Workshops	...	...	...	...	40
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	16
Defects found	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

Common Lodging Houses.—*None.***Milk Shops and Dairies.**

Producers and Retailers in Borough	...	...	15
Producers and Retailers from outside Borough			3
Retailers only	...	...	6
Producers and Wholesalers	...	...	26

Of the above there are two producers of T.T. milk, ten accredited producers, two retailers of T.T. milk.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses	...	2
Number of Licenced Slaughter-houses	...	6
Number of Licensed Knacker's Yards	...	1

Meat Inspection.

Number of Notices of Slaughter received	...	3620
Number of Carcases inspected	...	2683

Meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption: 64 pigs' heads T.B., 1 calf carcase T.B., 2 pigs' carcases T.B.

Housing Act, 1936.

Inspection of District.

Number of houses inspected for defects and permitted numbers of persons allowed to occupy each house	57
Number of houses overcrowded	Nil
Number of houses with bedrooms occupied in excess of standard	1
Houses with defects and of which the owners have been informed on the form giving the permitted number allowed to occupy each house :—	
Number of houses showing signs of dampness	22
Number of houses without through ventilation	3
Number of houses Statutory notices served ...	4
Number of houses Informal notices served ...	1
Number of houses repaired as result of above	5

Inspections made under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of premises inspected	6
Statutory notices served—	
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ... 1 }	2
House in state of disrepair 1 }	
Informal notices served—	
Houses in state of disrepair	3
Defective drains	1

Result—

Number of houses closed as dwellings by owners	2
Number of premises made sanitary or work done	4

New Houses.

Plans approved—

Houses to be erected by the Local Authority	20
Houses to be erected by private enterprise ...	3

Houses completed—

Houses erected by the Local Authority ...	8
Houses erected by private enterprise	15

II

Improvement Area. Higher Lux Street.

The position as to notices and orders issued on properties in the above area is as follows:—

Smith's Court—6 houses reconstructed under the Housing Rural Workers Act.

„ „ 2 houses demolished by Town Council

„ „ 2 houses on which a demolition order was served have not been demolished

Quiller's Court—All houses demolished.

Nicholl's Court—5 houses on which notices were served in to comply with the requirements of By-laws.—No action at present taken by the Owner.

Clearance Areas.

Godfrey's Court—6 cottages demolition order served.
No action taken to demolish houses.

Gut Lane —6 cottages demolition order served.
No action taken to demolish houses.

Barn Place —7 cottages in process of being demolished.

Individual Unfit Houses.

House at Church Street adjoining and below the level of the Churchyard. Demolition order held in abeyance.

Two houses at Heathlands Lane partly demolished.

Two houses at Moorswater demolished.

Overcrowding Survey.

The inspection and recording of houses for the purpose of obtaining the permitted number allowed to occupy each house has now been completed.

The totals for the years 1937 and 1938 are as follows:—

Number of houses inspected and recorded ... 499

Houses with bedrooms occupied in excess of standard but houses not overcrowded ... 119

Houses overcrowded in 1937	...	...	...	4
Houses still overcrowded in 1938 (Houses being constructed by Local Authority to re-house tenants)	...	...	...	4
Houses with defects of which the owners have been informed on the form giving the permitted number allowed to occupy each house.				
Number of houses showing signs of dampness	...	...	...	185
„	„	with gullies indoors	...	7
„	„	with cast iron D traps	...	4
„	„	without means of disposal of waste water	...	4
„	„	with defective water closets	...	22
„	„	„ rain water gutters	...	9
„	„	without through ventilation	...	16
„	„	sharing water closets with adjoining houses	...	120

E. J. HOAR, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	57
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	79
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	22
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	5
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	4
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—</i>	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	11
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	16
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	2
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	12
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	0
(e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	0

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
15 ...	—	1	1	—	...	—	—	—
25 ...	—	1	—	—	...	—	—	—
35 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	1	—
45 ...	1	—	1	—	...	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	1	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
and upwards	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	2	—	...	—	2	1

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Diphtheria	2	1	0
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Pneumonia	9	1	1
Other diseases generally notifiable (specify disease)—Erysipelas	1	0	0
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease)	0	0	0

Factories.**1. Inspection of Factories,**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.
(See Sanitary Inspector's Report).

2. Defects found.

NIL.

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

NIL.

The general health of the Borough has been very good and I have nothing further to report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. MORGAN,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Borough of Liskeard.*

THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK
Held at the City of Albany
January 1st 1881
IN SENATE
January 1st 1881
REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
LAND OFFICE

ALBANY:
J. B. LEECH, PRINTER.
1881.

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