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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF LISKEARD.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957.



To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Corporation of the Borough of Liskeard.

Your Worship, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

During the year 1957 the estimated total population of the Health Area increased by 220 as compared with 1956. There was a sizeable increase of 330 in Torpoint U.D. with smaller increases of 40 in Looe U.D. and 10 in Liskeard M.B. The estimated population fell by 60 in Liskeard R.D., 50 in St. Germans R.D. and 50 in Saltash M.B. Generally speaking there is in this part of Cornwall a small excess of live births over deaths, but in 1957 the position was reversed, and the total of live births - 691 - was one less than the total for deaths. The birth rate for the Health Area was 15.4 per 1000 of population as compared with the national figure of 16.1 per 1000. The still birth rate at 17.1 per 1000 total births was below the national figure of 22.4. The infant mortality rate at 17.4 per 1000 live births was also below the figure of 23.0 for England and Wales. I am glad to be able to report that during 1957 there were no maternal deaths.

During the year deaths in the Health Area totalled 692, an increase of 40 on the 1956 total. The death rate at 12.2 per 1000 of the population was slightly above the national rate of 11.5. The average age at death was 67 years for males, a small reduction on last years figure of 68 years. That for females was 73 years, the same as in 1956. Both figures are very close to those given by the Registrar General in the most recently published Abridged Life Tables for 1956 for England and Wales. Of the 692 persons who died during the year, 352 or 51% had attained or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death. The most prevalent cause of death was heart disease with various forms of cancer again holding second place. Of defined cancerous conditions, that affecting the windpipe and lung was most numerous although showing some reduction on the figure for 1956. It is again interesting to note that of the 21 persons who died as the result of accidents, in only 4 were motor vehicles implicated.

In recent years, and more particularly in my Annual Reports for 1956, I have written about the increase in deaths from bronchial and lung cancer and the probable connection between this disease and prolonged and/or heavy consumption of tobacco, especially in the form of cigarettes. There have been no great developments in the investigations which are going on into this important subject. I think it is generally agreed that as the factors which cause these cancers probably act over the course of many years the answers to the various problems posed by this disease will require the marshalling of facts, and figures over a long period before confident and generally accepted recommendations for prevention can be put forward. In the meantime the available evidence continues to suggest that cigarette smoking is the principal culprit, and one feels bound to continue to advise young adults to leave the tobacco habit alone since this is much more easily done than trying to break with it when once it has become firmly established.

The total number of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, rose sharply from 480 cases in 1956 to 1466 cases in 1957. This was brought about by a sharp epidemic of measles in the Rural Districts of St. Germans and Liskeard, and the Borough of Saltash. The epidemic commenced in the Liskeard Rural District in January and from there it spread to Saltash Borough and St. Germans Rural District finally dying out in the latter district as late as October 1957. In spite of the large number of cases of measles notified - 1270 in all - there were no deaths from the disease. It is also remarkable that in Torpoint U.D., Liskeard M.B. and Looe U.D. the incidence of the disease was very light. I have noted this apparent immunity of children in some districts immediately adjoining measles epidemic districts in other years but am quite unable to give any convincing reason for it. Of the more serious infectious diseases there were two cases of poliomyelitis, one case of paratyphoid infection, and two cases of diphtheria. The case of paratyphoid infection was contracted in France. In the case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis the diagnosis was in some doubt, and it appeared that the disease, if present, was contracted outside Cornwall. Of the two diphtheria cases one was a 35 year old man too old to have been included in the immunisation programme which commenced in 1940. The other case was a 2 year old boy whose parents had refused or more probably just not bothered to

have him immunised. Whilst we must expect the occasional case of diphtheria in adults too old to have been included in the immunisation campaign from 1940 onwards, it is disturbing to find the disease in a young child for whom protection can be so readily obtained. In spite of the almost complete absence of diphtheria amongst children in recent years parents must appreciate that this happy state of affairs will continue only so long as they continue to have their young children protected by immunisation.

Whilst dealing with notifiable disease it is opportune to refer to the scheme for immunisation (vaccination) against poliomyelitis. During the year 1957 vaccination using vaccine produced in Britain continued at a relatively slow rate and by the end of the year some 1560 children only had been protected and a further 1406 children registered by their parents in June/July 1957 were still awaiting vaccination. Towards the end of the year it became evident that the relatively small amounts of British vaccine which could be produced would seriously delay the extension of the scheme to all children up to the age of 15 years, and it was therefore decided to import supplies of vaccine from Canada and the U.S.A. As a result of this, and in expectation of ample supplies from these new sources registration was extended to cover all children born between 1.1.43. and 30.6.57. and in December 1957 close on 8000 registration/consent cards were sent out to parents of eligible children through Head Teachers in schools and through Health Visitors and District Nurses. By the end of the year there was every hope, and expectation that the scheme would go forward at a much accelerated rate during the first half of 1958, and this has proved to be the case. In this Health Area I was most fortunate in securing the participation of all the General Practitioners in the Area in the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme and they have in fact dealt with close on 70% of the children registered. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to them my very sincere thanks for the large part they have played in ensuring the success of this scheme. I must not close without including in these expressions of gratitude the Head Teachers of schools for allowing us to hold immunisation sessions in the schools, thereby dealing conveniently and expeditiously with large numbers of children. We hope and believe that the time spent and the effort put forth by all concerned will be repaid by a reduction in this disease.

As far as tuberculosis was concerned the year 1957 was a relatively good one with a reduction in the total number of cases notified to 21 as compared with 29 cases in 1956. The fall in the number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis from 28 in 1956 to 17 in 1957 was especially gratifying since this form of the disease is normally more serious for the patient, and the infection is more easily spread and passed on to others than in the non-respiratory form of tuberculosis. The main weight of the disease fell on adults, and no less than 8 of the 17 new cases of respiratory infection were in persons aged 45 years or more. This confirms the impression which has gained support in recent years that tuberculosis is tending to become a disease of middleaged and elderly people. From this it follows that persons over the age of 45 who suffer from chronic cough or other disability connected with the chest should not too lightly assume that it is some less serious condition such as bronchitis, but should seek advice, and should in particular co-operate in any suggestion or arrangements for X-ray examination of their chest. There were four deaths from tuberculosis during 1957, an increase of three on the 1956 total. Of these four persons dying of tuberculosis, three were aged 65 years or more at the time of death and it is open to doubt whether tuberculosis appreciably shortened their span of life.

During 1957 a further group of children close to school-leaving age (those born in 1944) were skin tested and where necessary given B.C.G. vaccination. The response to this scheme designed to afford some measure of protection against tuberculosis to susceptible adolescents is on the whole well received by parents of whom only 7 per cent refused outright to consent to skin testing and vaccination. Of the 677 children eligible for inclusion in the scheme in 1957 the number eventually found to need B.C.G. vaccine and given it was 494. The number of children showing evidence of exposure at some time to tuberculosis infection (indicated by a positive skin test reaction) was 58. Subsequent follow-up of these children uncovered two hitherto unknown cases of active respiratory tuberculosis. One was a parent of the positively reacting child, and the other was another positively reacting child who on X-ray examination was found to have the disease.

Efforts to improve the standard of hygiene amongst personnel handling food and in premises in which food is handled continued throughout the year. The attitude of owners and occupiers of food premises to requests and suggestions made by the Public Health Inspectors was generally co-operative and it has been possible to bring

almost all premises up to a satisfactory standard as far as equipment is concerned. In such circumstances it should be possible to handle, sell, and serve food cleanly but in this as in most other activities the weak link in the chain is the human being. If owners, managers and employees do not take an intelligent and conscientious interest and pride in their calling the assistance given by well designed and comprehensively equipped premises may well be set at naught.

In the sphere of housing the main activity has been confined to the building of houses to replace those being dealt with under slum clearance schemes at Saltash and Torpoint. In Liskeard Borough efforts to acquire a new housing estate site to the east of the town continued. The development of this site will enable a start to be made on schemes for the clearance of many old and unhealthy dwellinghouses in various parts of the town.

Since the end of the war the extension in the use of the caravan for temporary and permanent living accommodation has given rise to some concern. In a holiday area, such as Cornwall is, the demand for temporary accommodation in caravans is very great indeed during the summer months, and much of this is met by caravans assembled in large numbers on camps or sites. Before such sites can be established and laid out for permanent use permission to do so must be obtained under two different heads. In the first place permission under Town and Country Planning legislation is required, and here this is not infrequently refused since collections of caravans are held to be detrimental to the amenities of a locality, and to detract from the landscape value. If the site is large and adjoins a major road carrying a large volume of traffic, considerations related to traffic congestion, and road safety may determine the refusal of permission for the site. If the necessary planning permission is not forthcoming either directly or on appeal to the Minister the use to which the site can be put for stationing caravans or camping is limited to a period not exceeding 28 consecutive days in a year. In face of such limitations the owner is naturally not inclined to spend more than is absolutely essential to develop and equip the site for the relatively short period of use permitted in any one year. Whereas in a large site permitted by the Planning authority one usually finds permanent sanitary blocks with water-carriage sanitation, good arrangements for collection of refuse and litter, metalled roads, and a neat and tidy lay-out, such is not usually the case in sites which fail to obtain planning permission and where the opportunity to use the site for more than 28 days does not exist. These latter sites display a more temporary make-shift lay out, with the minimum of facilities needed to avoid creating public health nuisances and complaints from visitors using the site. In spite of these drawbacks as compared with the large approved site, very full use can be and is made of these unauthorised sites during the 28 days they are legally permitted to operate, particularly if these 28 days fall during the peak holiday months of July and August. In such circumstances and under heavy pressure by caravans and campers on barely adequate toilet and other facilities, standards of hygiene and sanitation on the site may fall seriously and actual nuisances may be created. It appears to me that if caravan and camp sites fail to satisfy the requirements of planning and public health legislation, then the present loopholes which exist and may even tend to encourage the use of poorly equipped and unsuitable sites in an irresponsible manner dictated only by the profit motive should be closed by appropriate legislative measures. Whatever ones personal view about caravanning and camping, there is no doubt that as a means of holiday making it has increased greatly in recent years and must be accepted and catered for. In the interests of those who take their holiday in this way, and the local residents of localities containing camping and caravan sites, it seems essential that proper safeguards for the maintenance of good standards of hygiene, preservation of the appearance and amenities of countryside and coastline, and against the aggravation of local road traffic problems should be so written into the law of the land as to do away with present anomalies in this subject.

Apart from some building at Saltash and Torpoint to meet the needs of families who have to move from premises in slum clearance areas there has not been a great deal of activity in housebuilding by District Councils in the Health Area. Negotiations for the acquisition of land at Liskeard to accommodate a new housing estate for the Borough of Liskeard continued throughout the year. Until a start can be made on the development of this estate it is impossible to make any start on slum clearance schemes in the older parts of the town. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has recently reminded Local Authorities of the need to cater for retired and elderly people in their housing programmes. In the post-war anxiety to provide housing for families with young children the special requirements of elderly folk were generally overlooked, and many have continued to live in old sub-

standard houses which with the passage of years are becoming increasingly dilapidated. In the past two years the slum clearance programme has brought to light many such old and very unfit properties with old persons as owner occupiers or more frequently as tenants. Although the houses are patently unfit and in some cases dangerous to the occupants it is extremely difficult to recommend closure or demolition in face of the uncertainty as to how the tenants will be rehoused. For most of the elderly tenants the lack of suitable alternative accommodation, other than in an institution, is a serious source of worry for which the only generally satisfactory solution is the provision in all future local authority building programmes of some dwellings for old folk.

In the field of water supply the main activity during 1957 was again in the Liskeard Rural District. The laying of distribution mains in the south-western section of the Rural District was completed before the end of the year and with the completion and opening of the treatment works and storage reservoirs of the Liskeard and District Water Board at St. Cleer in October 1957 ample supplies of filtered treated water became available for the 60 miles of mains now laid and serving the southern and western parts of the Rural District. In the autumn a start was made on the laying of mains and the installation of reservoirs and pumping plant to serve the northern part of the district. In other parts of the area which have for some years been generally well served by piped supplies minor improvements to extend and augment such supplies continued.

As far as sewerage and sewage disposal were concerned the only large scale work carried out was at Callington where a scheme costing £30,000 to renew old sewers in the town, and to construct treatment works was commenced. This will remove a long-standing nuisance caused by discharge of crude, untreated sewage in fields close to the town, and obviate the serious pollution of the River Lynher which this sewage caused. Further investigations required to finalise a scheme for sewage disposal for the Borough of Liskeard were just about complete by the end of the year. It now seems likely that the necessary public enquiry into this scheme can take place in the not too distant future.

I must apologise for the fact that this Annual Report will appear some weeks later than in previous years. The delay is due to the fact that I have during the first six months of 1958 been fairly heavily engaged in the poliomyelitis vaccination programme in schools and welfare clinics throughout the Health Area.

I should like to conclude this preface by again expressing my appreciation for the help and encouragement given me by Members of Councils and the various officers with whom I have worked during the year 1957.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF LISKEARD.

Health Committee.

Councillor S. W. E. Salter	...	...	...	Chairman
Councillor T. Phipps	...	...	...	vice-Chairman

together with seven other members of the Council.

Housing Committee.

Alderman P. S. Tank	...	...	...	Chairman
Councillor A. G. Westlake	...	...	...	vice-Chairman

together with all other Members of the Council.

Health Officers of the Authority.

- P. J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
- R. C. Sanderson, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.
- D. W. Sillifant, M.A.P.H.I., (Resigned 20.8.57)
Additional Public Health Inspector
- J. Stirling, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 2.12.57)
Additional Public Health Inspector

BOROUGH OF LISKEARD.

Area of Borough	2,704 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	4,320
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,432
Rateable Value of Borough	£54,433
Sum Represented by Penny Rate	226

Vital Statistics for 1957.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	29	35	64
	<u>Liskeard M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area</u>	<u>England and</u>
		<u>No. 7.</u>	<u>Wales</u>
Birth Rate per 1000 of population	16.3	15.4	16.1
Still births	None registered		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	54	62	116
	<u>Liskeard M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area</u>	<u>England and</u>
		<u>No. 7</u>	<u>Wales</u>
Death rate per 1000 of population	9.7	12.2	11.5
Maternal deaths	None registered		
Deaths of infants under one year of age	None registered		

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages.

Heart Disease	57
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")	17
Cancer (all sites)	13
Respiratory disease	8
Circulatory disease	7
Accidents	5
Digestive disease	3

Average Age at Death.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
72	80

The upward trend in the birth rate which was evident in 1956 continued during 1957 when it reached the highest figure since 1951. There were no still births, no infant deaths, and no maternal deaths during the year. The corrected death rate was below the corresponding rates for the Health Area, and England and Wales. The most common cause of death was again heart disease, and although the total number of deaths was 25 more than in 1956 the number of deaths attributed to cancer did not increase. The average age at death fell slightly for males and increased noticeably for females. Both averages are the highest in the Area due largely to the presence of special hospital and welfare accommodation for elderly folk in the town. Of those who died during the year, 67% had reached or passed the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Infectious Disease. The prevalence of infectious disease in the Borough was very low during 1957 when 15 cases only were notified. None of the more serious notifiable diseases occurred and there were no deaths attributable to infectious disease.

The following are details of actual numbers and case rate of infectious disease during 1957:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 of population</u>	
		<u>Liskeard M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
Pneumonia	8	1.85	1.02
Whooping Cough	3	0.69	2.23
Measles	2	0.46	24.79
Scarlet Fever	1	0.23	0.29
<u>Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.</u>			
Puerperal pyrexia	1	15.62	1.42

Tuberculosis. Two cases only of this disease were notified during 1957, of which one was a respiratory infection, and the other was a non-respiratory infection. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

The following are details of cases together with case rates during the year:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 1	-	-		
1 - 5	-	-		
5 - 15	-	1	None	
15 - 45	-	-	Registered	
45 - 65	-	-		
65 and over	-	1		
	-	2	-	-

	<u>Rate per 1000 of population</u>	
	<u>Liskeard M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7.</u>
New Cases	0.46	0.41
All known cases	7.87	6.85
Deaths	-	0.08

At the end of 1957 there were 29 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 5 known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis resident in the Borough.

National Assistance Act, 1948. No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply: The Borough enjoyed an adequate supply of water of excellent quality during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal: All necessary engineering and other documents have been completed and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and it is hoped that they will take at least the preliminary steps during 1958 to secure the provision of some satisfactory means of sewage disposal for the Borough.

Meat, Milk and Other Foods: In general, the standard of hygiene in shops, cafes and other establishments in which food is handled was satisfactory.

The inspection of the large quantity of meat passing through the slaughterhouse at Addington again weighed heavily on the Public Health Inspectors department, but in spite of this practically all carcasses intended for human consumption were dealt with. The need for this inspection is shown by the fact that close on 26½ tons of meat had to be condemned during 1957.

Food Poisoning: No cases were notified during 1957.

Clean Food Campaigns: No such campaigns were undertaken during 1957.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948: The administration of these Acts created no difficulties during 1957.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector: The report by the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor follows. I should like to express to Mr. R. C. Sanderson and Mr. J. Stirling my gratitude for the assistance they have given me during the year.

Category	1957	1956
Boiler Rooms	1	1
Boiler Houses	1	1
Boiler Rooms (Total)	2	2
Boiler Houses (Total)	1	1
Total	3	3

The following are details of cases together with cases taken during the year:

Age Group	Sex	Occupation	Address
0-1	M	Registered	...
1-2	F	Registered	...
3-4	M	Registered	...
5-6	F	Registered	...
7-8	M	Registered	...
9-10	F	Registered	...
11-12	M	Registered	...
13-14	F	Registered	...
15-16	M	Registered	...
17-18	F	Registered	...
19-20	M	Registered	...
21-22	F	Registered	...
23-24	M	Registered	...
25-26	F	Registered	...
27-28	M	Registered	...
29-30	F	Registered	...
31-32	M	Registered	...
33-34	F	Registered	...
35-36	M	Registered	...
37-38	F	Registered	...
39-40	M	Registered	...
41-42	F	Registered	...
43-44	M	Registered	...
45-46	F	Registered	...
47-48	M	Registered	...
49-50	F	Registered	...
51-52	M	Registered	...
53-54	F	Registered	...
55-56	M	Registered	...
57-58	F	Registered	...
59-60	M	Registered	...
61-62	F	Registered	...
63-64	M	Registered	...
65-66	F	Registered	...
67-68	M	Registered	...
69-70	F	Registered	...
71-72	M	Registered	...
73-74	F	Registered	...
75-76	M	Registered	...
77-78	F	Registered	...
79-80	M	Registered	...
81-82	F	Registered	...
83-84	M	Registered	...
85-86	F	Registered	...
87-88	M	Registered	...
89-90	F	Registered	...
91-92	M	Registered	...
93-94	F	Registered	...
95-96	M	Registered	...
97-98	F	Registered	...
99-100	M	Registered	...

At the end of 1957 there were 23 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified in the Borough during the year.

Water Supply: The Borough enjoyed an adequate supply of water of excellent quality during the year.

Food Hygiene: The standard of hygiene in shops, bars and other establishments in which food is handled was satisfactory during the year. The inspection of the large quantity of food passing through the establishments in the Borough was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and Surveyors. It is hoped that they will continue to carry out the necessary steps during 1958 to secure the provision of some satisfactory means of sewage disposal for the Borough.

Public Health: The standard of hygiene in shops, bars and other establishments in which food is handled was satisfactory during the year. The inspection of the large quantity of food passing through the establishments in the Borough was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and Surveyors. It is hoped that they will continue to carry out the necessary steps during 1958 to secure the provision of some satisfactory means of sewage disposal for the Borough.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Third Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate, in relation to environmental hygiene and the operation of the cleansing service during the year. The staffing position has been unsatisfactory during this period, mainly as a result of the lapse in time between the resignation of Mr. Sillifant and the appointment of Mr. J. Stirling, with the inevitable result of the Department not being able to keep abreast of all routine work or give the necessary attention to the provisions of the newly-introduced legislation.

Two recent statutes call for special mention, in view of the far-reaching nature of their requirements:

The Clean Air Act of 1956: Certain provisions have been in operation since 19th December, 1956, dealing in the main with smoke from new furnaces and industrial plant, and proposals for the creation of smoke-controlled areas, which of course do not affect this area to any marked degree. The opportunity to deal with smoke from domestic sources has been in the minds of the officers, with particular reference to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, and as far as possible only those fuel-burning appliances which would comply with the Act have been considered in relation to new houses.

The other Statute is the Rent Act, which came into operation on 6th July, 1957. It supersedes the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, and is designed, in the main, to amend various enactments relating to the control of Rents and the right to retain possession of houses.

Permitted increases in rents are linked with the condition of the property as to repair, and the adjustment of rents and agreements regarding repair are implemented mainly in relation to service. This has resulted in a little extra investigation and inspection, and a greater volume of clerical work on the part of the Staff.

The smooth working of the collection of house refuse on a strict weekly collection basis has been maintained, and is in no small measure due to the willing way in which the staff have worked together, and their sense of loyalty to the aims of the Department and the Council in general. We have also maintained, in would appear quite satisfactorily, a twice-weekly collection of refuse from food-preparing premises during the summer months.

It is with regret that I have to refer to the death of Mr. E. J. Hoar, the previous Borough Surveyor, who was to enjoy such a short period of retirement. One cannot speak too highly of his qualities and personality, and his ever-ready advice will be missed by this Department.

Once again, I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for help and encouragement to Dr. Fox and my colleagues on the staff for their help and support during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. SANDERSON,

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

**WATER
SUPPLY:**

During the year, the treatment plant works of the Liskeard and District Joint Water Board were officially opened, on 19th October, 1957, by the Chairman, Mr. K. G. Foster, County Alderman. The plant went into full operation after teething troubles and trials on 1st December 1957, but is still in the initial trial stages.

The water supplied to the Borough has been maintained without any wide variations in consumption. It is hoped that there will not be any necessity in the future for warnings as to shortage of water being issued. The supply is constant, of good quality, and at no time has it given rise to any concern.

**SEWERAGE
AND
DRAINAGE:**

The firm of consulting engineers completed their provisional plans for the sewerage scheme, including disposal, for Liskeard and it is hoped, after Ministry consideration, that it will be available for public inquiry and perusal, preparatory to submission to the Minister for final approval, early in 1958.

Drainage contributes considerably to the attainment and preservation of Hygienic circumstances in built-up areas, and attention has been paid to the inspection and testing of drainage systems in connection with both existing and proposed new buildings.

All drawings deposited for bye-law approval are examined for compliance with building bye-laws, particularly in respect of septic tanks. Drainage repair and reconstruction work is normally carried out expeditiously, but in view of the absence of adequate records of the drainage in the area, this may not be as satisfactory as is hoped.

**MEAT
INSPECTION:**

Once again, priority has been given to the inspection of meat for human consumption, and in view of the continuing requirements, namely that of an almost full-time inspector, this has had its effect on other aspects of Public Health duties. It must be of some satisfaction to the Council that the Minister has seen fit to give financial help to those Authorities in whose area meat killed and inspected is (in the main) for consumption outside their district. Once again it will be noted that there is a slight increase in the total number of animals slaughtered and inspected over the last year (see attached list for details of inspections carried out, Appendix "A").

CLEAN FOOD:

A large variety of food-stuffs call for routine inspection, in addition to the butcher's meat examined at the time of slaughter. In every case where food is sold, exposed for sale or intended for sale for human consumption, it is subject to examination as occasion demands. It will be seen from the following figures that quite a lot of other foodstuffs were condemned during 1957.

Tinned products	73 tins - 1 cwt., 24 lbs.
Other Foods	2 qr., 1 lb.

Premises used for the sale of food for human consumption:

Grocers	11
Licensed premises	10
Cafe with Bakehouse	1
Cafes	6
Bakehouses	2
Milk Shop	1
Fried Fish and Chips	2
Butchers	11
General Stores	5

It will be noted that there are no variations in the above figures from the last year. The requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, caused inspections to be undertaken during the year. It was not found possible to inspect as many premises or as often as would be desirable, this once again underlining the staffing situation difficulties.

MILK AND MILK A. Distributors of Milk.

SAMPLING:

Registered distributors of sealed, bottled milk.	7
Registered dairies	1

B. Designated Milk.

T.T. Dealers licences	Nil
T.T. Dealers supplementary licences	4
Pasteurised dealers licences	1
Pasteurised dealers supplementary licences	2

RODENT CONTROL: The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, places upon the Local Authority the duty of ensuring that the district is kept free from rats and mice. The importance of adequate repressive measures cannot be over-emphasized, and a sustained control of the rodent problem offers real benefits to the community. Since the War, Local Authorities have been encouraged to deal effectively with this problem through the advice and assistance of the Investigation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and further encouragement has been afforded by a Government percentage grant, which as such will cease to exist as from 1st April, 1959.

A member of the Borough staff attended two courses of rodent control during the previous twelve months, and has gained sufficient experience to relieve the Liskeard R.D.C. completely of their duties within the Borough boundaries.

The treatment of sewers, as laid down by the Ministry, has been continued during the year, and a new feature was the adoption of prolonged baiting, which ensures a greater proportion of the rat population having an opportunity of feeding upon the poisoned bait. To keep the bait palatable over the extended period, a mould inhibitor is used in the mix. It would seem, from the lessening in the numbers of complaints, that these measures are proving satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936: Once again the policy of co-operation with owners was found to be satisfactory. In spite of the many complaints that were received, on no occasion was it found necessary to invoke legal action.

The supervision of housing repairs once again accounted for a large portion of the inspector's time, due to the impact of the Rent Act, 1957, in that quite a number of householders have become more critical of the property they occupy, and also the view of the landlords that they may continue to recover the "Permitted Increase" in rent as a result of repairs executed. In view of the progress that has been made on the proposed new Housing Estate at Lake Lane, one may be permitted to hope that the ill-named Slum Clearance programme will be completed within the five years, as originally suggested by the Minister, but in view of the present Bank Rate, I have no doubt that this matter will receive more immediate consideration should the financial climate become more satisfactory.

IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Once again the story is repeated: two applications from the owner-occupier type, who are ready to improve and bring to a satisfactory standard their own dwellings, but the original and possibly most important aim is not being realised, in that very few rented houses are the basis of applications.

PUBLIC CLEANSING: A weekly collection of house and trade refuse, with some few exceptions of isolated buildings who receive a monthly collection, has continued to place a heavy burden on the only vehicle operating. In spite of absence for holidays or sickness, and the time lost on the occasion of national holidays, it is to the credit of the refuse gang that only minor upsets have occurred during the year. It is hoped that not only will the householders know the organised collection day, but within limits the time of the collection team's arrival. This is now in the trial period.

The controlled tip on the outskirts of the Borough is still a source of nuisance, particularly during holiday periods, when it would appear that the school-children set fire to it. The difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient and satisfactory covering material is emphasised on occasions like this, when with sufficient material and staff the complaint of burning refuse could be minimised.

MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOLS: There are now five schools within the Borough boundaries, and all amenities are maintained at a reasonable standard. Visits to the school kitchens have ensured that a satisfactory standard of food hygiene is maintained, with the co-operation of the Schools Meals Supervisors.

Petroleum and Carbide: The inspection of storage installations and supervision of essential repairs in the interests of public safety has been undertaken during the year. All petrol station owners have been circularised with the proposed Codes of Practice, which the Minister envisages coming into operation on 1st January, 1960. This step has been taken to give them as much opportunity and time as possible to comply with these Codes of Practice before compulsion.

Pet Animals Act: One licence to keep a pet shop was issued, and conditions continue to be satisfactory.

APPENDIX 1.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1957.

DISEASE.	ST. GERMAN'S	LISKEARD	SALTASH	TORPOINT	LISKEARD	LOOE	HEALTH AREA
	R.D.	R.D.	M.B.	U.D.	M.B.	U.D.	No. 7.
Heart Disease	71	76	40	8	57	26	278
Cancer (all sites)	35	25	13	11	13	10	105
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")	26	21	18	7	17	4	93
Respiratory disease	25	11	7	7	8	4	62
Circulatory disease	5	8	6	2	7	2	30
Accidents	2	6	4	4	5	-	21*
Digestive disease	2	1	3	1	3	2	12
Genito-urinary disease	3	4	1	2	-	1	11
Diabetes	2	4	-	1	1	-	8
Suicide	3	1	1	-	1	-	6
Tuberculosis	1	2	1	-	-	-	4

* Includes 4 deaths in motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2.

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1957.

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST. GERMAN'S	LISKEARD	SALTASH	TORPOINT	LISKEARD	LOOE	HEALTH AREA
	R.D.	R.D.	M.B.	U.D.	M.B.	U.D.	No. 7.
Coronary disease, angina	22	33	21	2	4	9	91
Hypertension with heart disease	6	3	1	1	-	2	13
Other heart disease	43	40	18	5	53	15	174
Cancer of lung and bronchus	7	4	2	-	-	2	15
Cancer of stomach	5	2	1	4	2	-	14
Cancer of breast	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Cancer of uterus	2	1	2	-	1	-	6
Other cancers	17	14	8	7	10	6	62

APPENDIX 3.

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1957.

DISTRICT	0 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 45	45 - 65	65 - 75	75 yrs. and over	ALL AGES
	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years		
St. Germans R.D.	3	1	5	41	52	100	202
Liskeard R.D.	4	-	7	29	49	86	175
Saltash M.B.	2	-	4	22	24	48	100
Torpoint U.D.	5	-	2	11	11	18	47
Liskeard M.B.	-	-	1	13	29	73	116
Looe U.D.	1	-	1	11	12	27	52
Health Area No. 7	15	1	20	127	177	352	692

APPENDIX 4.

AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH -- 1957.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
St. Germans R.D.	67	74
Liskeard R.D.	69	73
Saltash H.B.	65	75
Torpoint U.D.	65	59
Liskeard H.B.	72	80
Looe U.D.	68	76
Health Area No. 7	67	73

APPENDIX 5.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 -- 1957.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>		<u>DEATHS.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	-	-
5 -15 "	1	1	-	-
15 - 45 "	5	4	1	-
45 - 65 "	5	2	-	-
65 years and over	1	1	2	1
TOTALS	15	8	3	1

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
NEW CASE RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	0.25	0.16	0.41
MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	0.06	0.02	0.08

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION IN THE SIX COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 -- 1957.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u> As 31.12.57.	<u>DEATHS</u>
St. Germans R.D.	0.19	6.59	0.06
Liskeard R.D.	0.50	5.46	0.14
Saltash H.B.	0.94	7.93	0.13
Torpoint U.D.	-	9.32	-
Liskeard H.B.	0.16	7.87	-
Looe U.D.	0.53	7.45	-
Health Area No. 7	0.41	6.85	0.08
Corwall County	0.65	7.39	0.12

APPENDIX 6.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS AND SEXES - 1957.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
15 - 45	-	-
45 - 65	7	-
65 - 75	4	-
75 and over	2	2
TOTALS	13	2

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1957.

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Health Area No. 7	0.254	0.039	0.293
Cornwall County	0.244	0.049	0.293
England and Wales	0.366	0.059	0.425

ANIMALS INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

MEAT INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR 1st. Jan. -- 31st Dec. 1957.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,994	707	359	15,116	9,566	-
Number inspected	2,994	707	359	15,145	10,882 #	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	12	16	8	66	15	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	180	236	-	365	127	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	1.6%	35%	2.2%	2.8%	1.3%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	-	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	52	-	-	141	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.2%	8.0%	-	-	1.3%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned: 26 tons, 8 cwt., 2 grs. 11 lbs.

Includes 1366 pigs killed at St. Austell and inspected at Addington, but less 50 pigs killed at Addington and not inspected due to lighting breakdown.