

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Liskeard R.D.C.

Contributors

Liskeard (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

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LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL:

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1947.

LISKEARD :
SNELL AND COWLING, LTD., PRINTERS.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD ... Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators—

Dr. A. G. AITKEN	...	...	...	Callington.
Dr. W. H. KING	...	...	...	Fowey
Dr. BAKER	...	...	...	Polperro
Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD	...	...	...	Liskeard
Dr. M. COOPER	...	...	...	Looe
Dr. TREGARTHEN	...	...	...	Pensilva

Sanitary Inspector
Meat and Food Inspector
Milk and Dairy Inspector
Building Surveyor

} Mr. G. ROGERS, M.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., Liskeard.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE
SOUTHERN RURAL DISTRICT BOARD

FOR THE YEAR 1911

REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AND TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Liskeard Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1947.

I am glad to say we can look back on a satisfactory year. There has been no serious epidemic of Notifiable Infectious Disease, although Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during part of the year.

Once again, and possibly for the last time as your Medical Officer, I would call your attention to the very valuable work of the St. John Ambulance Association in our area. All emergency calls, whether accident or sickness, have received immediate attention, the ambulance being ready at all times during the day or night and manned by voluntary personnel less in number perhaps, than in days gone by, but more efficient by their experience and more enthusiastic to carry on the tradition of their Association in spite of the small number of active members. Our debt is the greater to them.

Our District Nurses have again been, as I am sure they always will be, a comfort to the sick and ailing, ever ready to answer not only the calls of their maternity work, but also the many minor household accidents and ills that come within their scope.

As in former years, the Liskeard Cottage Hospital has received patients from many parts of the Rural District. The Nursing Staff well deserve our thanks for their untiring work.

The Diphtheria Immunisation of Children Service has continued satisfactorily. A table is given elsewhere in this Report showing the number of children in various age groups that have been immunised. One child only was a victim of the disease, and had *NOT* been immunised. There were no deaths.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the District	...	...	...	104,851 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population	...	...	...	13960
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1947 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	4564
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	...	£64349
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£274

Social Conditions.

There are no industries in the Rural District which are prejudicial to public health. Agriculture and Dairy farming are carried on extensively, and both these ensure a healthy outdoor life for those engaged in them.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	258	133	125
Illegitimate	... ..	18	8	10
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	19.77		
Birth-rate for England and Wales		20.5		
STILL BIRTHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	4	3	1
Illegitimate	... ..	1	1	0
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births		17.8		
DEATHS—		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	12.75		
Death-rate for England and Wales		12		
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—				
Puerperal Sepsis	... ..		
Other Puerperal causes	... ..		
			Nil.	

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	32.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate			
Live Births	...	...	31.00
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate			
Live Births	...	...	55.5
DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	...	...	29
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Chief Causes of Death.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	1	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	—
Diabetes	4	—	4
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	21	11	10
Heart Disease	65	31	34
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	—
Bronchitis	15	6	9
Pneumonia	7	5	2
Other Respiratory Disease	3	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	—
Nephritis	6	4	2
Premature Birth	3	2	1
Congenital Birth Injuries	3	3	—
Suicide	2	2	0
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
All other Causes	13	7	6

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.—The Summer of 1947 was, on an average, a dry one but in most parts of the District there was no acute water shortage reported. At Pōlruan, the water level in the reservoir continued to drop during the early Summer and only by shutting the main valves at night and opening them in the morning was a reasonable supply maintained to all parts of the Town.

No case of pollution of any public water supply came to light during 1947.

The Parishes in which one or more Villages are provided with a piped water supply are shown below and comprise ten out of the twenty—one parishes forming the Liskeard Rural District. No great progress has been made with regard to the District Water Scheme although a preliminary meeting with representatives of the Liskeard Borough Council indicated that the two Councils would be willing to come to terms over the source of a supply which would be capable of supplying the greater part of the Rural District.

Parishes with one or more Villages having a piped water supply :—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Pop. of Parish.</i>	<i>Pop. supplied direct to houses.</i>	<i>Number supplied from stand Pipes.</i>
Broadoak	209	40	nil.
St. Cleer	1485	850	37
Lansallos	1424	1237	nil.
Lanteglos	1320	1000	150
Linkinhorne	1139	30	50
Liskeard	922	nil.	300
St. Martin	283	100	nil.
Menheniot	1089	200	50
Morval	530	10	nil.
St. Neot	918	140	100

In the Village of Golberdon a sample of water was taken from a public well and analysed. The quality was not found to be good and steps were taken to cleanse the well thoroughly. After a lapse of time a further sample was taken and when analysed was found to be satisfactory and suitable for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Only one sewer extension was made during 1947, viz. a length of 375 feet of six inch glazed stoneware pipes, from Turners Cross, Pelynt to the sewage disposal works. It will take the drainage from three private houses and eight Council Houses. In general, the existing systems in the various Parishes have been well maintained and gave little or no trouble.

HOUSING.—Progress in the Council's post war Housing Programme was made during 1947. The first pair of Swedish Timber Houses was completed at the end of 1946 and the remaining eight houses were ready for occupation during the early part of 1947. Forty-five traditional houses were under construction during the year and ten of these were completed and occupied before December.

Schemes for the erection of other houses in many Parishes of the District were in preparation during the year and the selection of further sites was made. Some difficulties have been experienced in the selection of housing sites due to the lack of piped water supplies in many Villages. Modern houses require a piped water supply and although in a number of Villages the housing need is great, the required accommodation cannot be provided for the reason given.

Where land of a suitable kind is available and a good supply of water at hand, it is expected that house construction will continue without relaxation.

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

<i>Premises</i>	<i>M/c line No.</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	55	30	nil.	nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	30	25	nil.	nil.
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
TOTAL ...	85	55	nil.	nil.	nil.

Cases in which defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>M/c line No.</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found.</i>				<i>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
		<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	9	9	—	—	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>M/c</i>	<i>No. of line out-workers No. in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prose- cutious</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel— Making, etc., Cleaning and washing	13	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	70	2	—	—	—	—	—

A. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change has been made in the arrangements for the examination and analysis of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs. Milk and pathological examinations are carried out by Dr. E. Wordley, Plymouth. Foodstuffs by the County Analyst.

B. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are perfectly satisfactory and adequate. The Ambulance is staffed and driven by members of the Liskeard Division of the St. John Ambulance Association. They undertake the removal of non-infectious cases, accident and maternity cases. The total number of cases dealt with during 1947 was 212, including 13 road accidents and 17 maternity cases, and a total mileage of 7421 miles was covered.

One or more members of the Women's Division accompany the Ambulance when female cases are being removed. The work of both the men and women of this organisation is excellent and it is impossible to over-praise their gratuitous work. They have worked 575 hours during the year.

Nursing in the Home.

C. GENERAL AND MATERNITY.

Local Nursing Associations provide Nurses who are Certified Midwives in co-operation with the Cornwall County Council. Practically the whole of the Rural District is covered by the work of these local associations.

It is with pleasure that I record the very excellent work carried out by the District Nurses in the area.

INFECTIOUS.

The District Nurses are forbidden to undertake the nursing of infectious diseases. When necessary these are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Truro. Minor infectious diseases are treated at the County Council's Hospital at Newquay, when necessary.

D. CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No new Clinic or Treatment Centres have been opened in the Rural District during 1947.

E. HOSPITALS.

PUBLIC—The Public Assistance Hospital, situated in the Borough of Liskeard, receives cases from the Rural District of Liskeard and elsewhere.

VOLUNTARY—The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital, also situated in the Borough of Liskeard, has been used extensively by the inhabitants of the Rural District. This Hospital contains 27 beds (12 general—8 female and 4 male), 5 private wards, 3 emergency beds and 7 cots.

In 1947 there were 269 In-patients, and 25 major and 84 minor operations were performed. The Out-patients department dealt with 549 patients. Under the Plymouth 1d. in the £ Scheme 109 In-patients were treated and there were 194 Out-patient attendances.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD ... Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators.

Dr. A. G. AITKEN	...	...	...	Callington.
Dr. W. H. KING	...	...	...	Fowey.
Dr. BAKER	...	...	...	Polperro.
Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD	...	...	...	Liskeard.
Dr. M. COOPER	...	...	...	Looe.
Dr. TREGARTHEN	...	...	...	Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth, undertakes the pathological examination of material submitted.

The County Tuberculosis Officer has his offices at the County Hall, Truro.

(b)

Sanitary Inspector	}	Mr. G. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Liskeard.
Meat and Food Inspector		
Milk and Dairy Inspector		
Building Surveyor		

PUBLIC ANALYSTS OF WATER.

CHEMICAL—Messrs. Benedict Kitto & Sons, London.

BACTERIOLOGICAL—Mr. Wm. Partridge, Holborn,
London.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

There was an increase in the number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year. Whooping Cough and Measles were the most prevalent, the former in the last half of the year, and the latter in the first, second and last quarters. Neither of the two cases of Diphtheria which were notified had been immunised against this disease.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 ...	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>i.e.</i> Born in Year ...	<i>1947</i>	<i>1946</i>	<i>1945</i>	<i>1944</i>	<i>1943</i>
Number Immunised ...	3	77	119	52	48
Age	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>		<i>TOTAL</i>	
<i>i.e.</i> Born between Years	<i>1938—1942</i>	<i>1933—1937</i>		<i>UNDER 15</i>	
Number Immunised ...	85	54		438	

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	10	nil.
Whooping Cough	82	nil.
Measles	113	nil.
Pneumonia	19	7
A/c Poliomyelitis	3	nil.
Erysipelas	1	nil.
Diphtheria	2	nil.
Chickenpox	15	nil.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

The County Tuberculosis Officer is always available for consultation with the doctor concerned. Pathological specimens are examined and a diagnostic X-Ray plant is in use at Tehidy Sanatorium.

The new X-Ray apparatus recently installed at the Passmore Cottage Hospital, Liskeard, is also being used for Diagnosis.

The County Tuberculosis Officer attends twice monthly at Liskeard, for a periodic survey of cases in the area.

I am, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

E. S. TOOGOOD, M.A. (OXON.) M.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Golden Bank, Liskeard.



