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LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1959

P. J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1959

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

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tregarthen and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of No. 7 Health Area fell by 500 in 1959 to a total of 50,730. Of individual County Districts St. Germans Rural District, Torpoint Urban District and Liskeard Municipal Borough all showed decreases; there was no change in Liskeard Rural District and Saltash Municipal Borough and Looe Urban District had small increases. The corrected birth rate of 14.0 per 1,000 of population was below the 1958 rate and was also below the national rate of 16.5 live births per 1,000 of the population. The number of still-births fell by 7 to a total of 13 as compared with 1958 and brought the still-birth rate slightly below that for England and Wales.

The corrected death rate of 12.4 per 1,000 of population was slightly above the national figure of 11.6 and the excess of deaths over live births was 61 suggesting a higher than usual proportion of elderly persons in the population of South East Cornwall. There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy and childbirth and infant deaths fell by 6 to a total of 9, bringing the infant mortality rate well below that for the country as a whole.

The prevalence of diseases causing death was substantially unchanged with heart disease, cancer and "strokes" in that order at the head of the list. Of the specifically defined forms of cancer that affecting the stomach was the most frequent cause of death with cancer of the lung and bronchus following very closely behind it.

The incidence of infectious disease (not including tuberculosis) was not particularly heavy during 1959 when 615 cases in all were notified. Cases of measles, of which 444 were notified, made up two-thirds of the total. Of the more serious forms of notifiable disease one case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis and one case of meningitis only were notified. If previous impressions are any guide I would have expected some increased prevalence of poliomyelitis in association with the hot dry summer weather of 1959. The fact that one mild case only occurred leads one to hope and believe that the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign has produced this wholly desirable result. It is yet too early to express any firm or useful opinion on the duration of the immunity which the vaccine provides but there are suggestions that a further (fourth) injection will be necessary to provide really satisfactory immunity of reasonable duration. Whilst the response to this prophylactic measure was quite good in those up to 15 years of age in the 15 to 25 year age group the interest shown was very poor, and the majority in this age group have not bothered to avail themselves of this measure of protection against poliomyelitis. This scheme has now been extended to include persons up to the age of 40 years, but here again preliminary impressions are of very limited interest by those in the 25 to 40 year age group.

In recent years reports have been received of a mild epidemic type of gastro-enteritis and during the summer of 1959 it was fairly prevalent amongst visitors and local residents in this Area. The disease, the main features of which are vomiting and/or diarrhoea is normally of short duration and clears up in 24 to 48 hours without any specific treatment. Although bearing a superficial resemblance to food poisoning it differs from it in that no food poisoning germs can be found in the stools, and spread of the disease resembling as it does the passage of the common cold suggests that the infecting organism is probably air-borne from the upper respiratory tract of the sufferer. The cause is unknown but is thought to be a virus as yet unrecognised and unclassified.

At the present time the only communicable disease which gives cause for concern, and remains as a reminder of less happy days is tuberculosis. Whilst it is true that we no longer see the tragic deaths of young adults and talented and useful members of the community in the prime of life there is still an appreciable amount of tuberculosis infection about. At one time some ten years ago high hopes were entertained that with more effective remedies and methods of treatment coupled with improved techniques for discovering cases and a more enlightened attitude to the disease the days of tuberculosis as a major communicable disease were numbered. These hopes have proved to be over-optimistic, and we now know that the problem although it will be eventually reduced to insignificant proportions cannot be expected to resolve and disappear rapidly. More efficient methods of treatment are in some cases a two-edged sword. In the majority of cases quick and effective cures are achieved, but in a certain minority of cases the drugs do no more than keep alive as potential or possible sources of infection persons who would otherwise have died of the disease, and thereby ceased to menace others. The more enlightened attitude to this disease which has been more and more in evidence since the war has not unfortunately been effective in the older section of the community who are very unwilling to accept any suggestion that they might be sources of infection. It is a common finding that elderly contacts of cases are unco-operative or frankly unwilling to attend contact investigations designed to find the source of infection, and they seem very reluctant to attend mass radiography sessions when these are held in a locality. As far as the No. 7 Health Area is concerned there has been a moderate increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis discovered over the past two years. After a progressive steady fall from 1953 to 1957 the incidence of new tuberculous infection discovered in 1959 was back to the level of 1954. Whereas up to 15 or 20 years ago the main impact of this disease was on the young adult there has in recent years been a shift in the incidence to those in the middle-aged and elderly section of the population and in 1959 the percentage of cases aged 45 years and above at the time of notification was as high as 38%. If any lesson is to be learned from this it is surely that people, who because of their age might have regarded themselves as being safe from the risk of tuberculous infection, should not hesitate to seek advice and should submit to necessary investigation when any chest condition shows a tendency to become chronic or even slow to clear. This is particularly important if as grandparents they have contact with and possibly charge of small children.

Last year I wrote at some length about noise and the role it probably plays in helping to bring about mental strain and fatigue. I was gratified to see that not long after I had committed my sentiments to paper a lively attack on the problem and menace of loud and uncontrolled noise got under way in the correspondence columns of at least one national daily newspaper. This resulted in the formation of a Noise Abatement League or Society, and subsequently a Private Member's Bill on the subject was brought before Parliament, and received general support. I sincerely hope that this and any

future legislation which might be found necessary will deal firmly and effectively with the increasing volume of unnecessary and unpleasant noise which is such an unwelcome feature of our modern life.

I have on many previous occasions referred to the important, almost indispensable part which members of the general public can and indeed must play if a really satisfactory standard of food hygiene is to be achieved in this country. Those of us who are charged with advising on clean methods of food handling, and on suitable equipment to help achieve this, can do no more than exercise a general supervision of personnel and premises concerned in the handling of food. My own impression is that the greatest danger to clean food stems not from inadequate premises and equipment, but from unhygienic practices by those handling the food. These exist and continue partly because those concerned see no need for high standards in handling food, partly because owners, managers and employees in premises handling food know little of the simple rules for avoiding the transmission of infection through food, but most of all because the great mass of the British public are not really interested in the way in which their food is handled. We have known for some time that our neighbours from Europe, and especially from the Scandinavian countries do not think highly of our attitude to food hygiene. I was interested to read recently an account by a very experienced senior Public Health Officer of a visit to America during which he found amongst the general body of United States residents a much keener appreciation of the need for cleanliness in food handling, and a much less tolerant and laissez-faire attitude toward those who fail in their duty to the customer in this respect. Whilst it is probable that some of this attitude arises from the knowledge that in America illness presents a serious financial problem to the individual or family, it also shows a more critical and more enlightened view of the problem. I do not believe that even the most apathetic of consumers likes the idea of eating dirty and perhaps dangerous food, but until customers take a stronger line with employees and managements, real progress to the goal of really clean food will be slow and discouraging. I think the final word on this subject might rest with our transatlantic cousins whose slogan "Protect yourself yourself" is to the point and makes good sense.

For some considerable time the Cornwall Branch of the Association of Public Health Inspectors has been engaged in the formulation of standard conditions which owners and operators of caravan and camping sites would be required to comply with before a licence under the Public Health Act 1936, Section 269 would be granted by a County District Council. These new standard conditions are so designed as to achieve clean, hygienic and healthy conditions for caravan dwellers and campers and any new sites should therefore be satisfactory from the public health point of view. These new standard conditions have been generally adopted throughout the County, and their operation will I feel sure in the course of time enhance the good name of Cornwall as a place for a caravan or camping holiday.

In recent years we have seen in Devon and Cornwall a less desirable type of itinerant holiday-maker. I refer to those people who either elect or are forced to spend their nights sleeping in cars on roadside verges and lay-bys. That this way of spending a holiday is uncomfortable and fatiguing is largely a matter for those who do it, although I can believe that the participants in a "holiday" of this sort cannot be much of an asset to the organisation which employs them when they return to work. That they should cause the countryside adjacent to their halting places to become untidy, foul and insanitary from their litter and dejecta is something we are all entitled to complain about. My own view of these people is that they are for the most part feckless and irresponsible by nature having either failed to make proper

arrangements in advance for their holiday accommodation, or in choosing this way of living without care or consideration for those who have to suffer the trail of filth which they leave in their wake. The fact that the practice has been seen to continue when there is accommodation on camping sites or in hotels, guest houses and farmhouses in the vicinity suggests that however much accommodation is made available some of these people will continue to spend their holidays in this cheap and nasty way. It will however be interesting to see if the provision of more camping sites to which these itinerants could gain admission and on which sanitary arrangements would be provided will do anything to reduce the size of the problem, and the degree of nuisance to landowners and the general public which it brings about each summer.

The report of the Medical Research Council with the title "Sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches in England and Wales" which was published in December 1959 has occasioned much comment and not a little hostile criticism. This latter critical attitude stemmed from the fear that the negative findings of the Research Committee in their investigation into an association between bathing in water polluted by sewage and disease might lull local authorities into a false sense of security and complacency about their sewage disposal arrangements. In my view this criticism though well-motivated by anxiety to see the problem of sewage contamination of coastal waters and inland waterways tackled, was hasty, ill-conceived and hardly just to the Research Committee. We are all aware of the potential danger which sewage constitutes when present in water and on beaches frequented by bathers. It was in an effort to define and measure more precisely the extent and nature of the hazard to health that the Committee undertook a long and searching enquiry into the matter. At the end of this enquiry they had no alternative but to report that they could discover no evidence that bathing in sewage contaminated water caused disease. I was not surprised at this finding since I have never encountered any case of disease which I could honestly attribute to bathing in sewage contaminated water nor have my colleagues in general practice in this part of Cornwall ever drawn my attention to any such instance. It does not at all follow that because bathing in contaminated water does not appear to be dangerous to health that we can with impunity continue to discharge crude sewage into coastal waters or indeed any waterway. In my Annual Report for 1955 I urged that the necessity for proper means of sewage disposal be assessed largely on questions of public decency and amenity, and less on any potential threat to health. The negative findings of the Research Committee support the view I then took and make it more necessary than ever that this problem be approached from the aesthetic angle. Our claim to be a civilized nation with a high standard of living rings very hollow if we are not prepared to deal energetically with our present disgusting habit of fouling coastal waters, inland watercourses, and land with our dejecta.

Whilst on the subject of sewage disposal I want to refer to a difficulty which is beginning to be felt in the operation of sewage disposal plants. The end result of present methods of treating sewage is the production of a solid residue known as sludge. This material has to be removed regularly from the disposal plant, and it is here that the difficulty arises. Sludge although containing nitrogenous material which renders it suitable as a type of manure, is unpleasant to handle, and may spread organisms of human, animal, and plant disease to animals and crops. For these reasons it is far from easy and sometimes impossible to get farmers to remove sludge for use on land. As each year more sewage disposal plants are constructed and brought into operation the problem will become more acute. The most promising solution

lies in a system which combining specially treated sewage sludge with selected parts of household refuse can produce an acceptable odourless and safe form of compost for use on agricultural land and in market and private gardens. This has the merit of helping to deal with two otherwise troublesome end-products of human existence — sewage sludge, and household and trade refuse — and the conservation and return to the land of nitrogenous materials and humus which might otherwise be lost. The major drawback is the high capital cost of such a plant making it necessary in the case of smaller authorities for several to combine together to provide one on a joint user basis, and this in turn would involve expense in transporting household refuse and sludge from those parts of the district served which are remote from the plant. In spite of this the increasing difficulty of disposing of sludge and of finding sites for properly controlled disposal of household refuse may compel Councils to adopt this or some other system to solve their problems.

With some easing in the demand for houses it has been possible for Councils to devote more attention to housing specifically designed for elderly people. As the drive to clear away old, unhealthy, sub-standard houses and cottages continues many instances of old persons living under very unsatisfactory housing conditions are coming to light. These old people are relieved of much worry if they feel that when the dwelling they live in has to be closed or demolished they can be rehoused in an old person's flat or bungalow instead of having to go to a home or an institution.

In concluding this preface I should like to again express my thanks to all those who in any way have assisted and encouraged me in my work during the year 1959.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tregarthen and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

Public Health Committee.

COUNCILLOR J. D. BARNECUT, Chairman.
COUNCILLOR W. H. BESWETHERICK, C.C., Vice-Chairman.

Housing Committee.

COUNCILLOR S. BALL, C.C., Chairman.
COUNCILLOR R. S. BARRETT, Vice-Chairman.

Health Officers of the Authority.

P. J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
Health Area Office, West Street, Liskeard. Telephone—Liskeard 3373.
G. ROGERS, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor.
G. M. LAWRY, M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg., Deputy Public Health and
Building Inspector.
G. O. COWLING, Assistant Surveyor.
Council Offices, Luxstowe, Liskeard. Telephone—Liskeard 2379.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

Area of Rural District	...	...	...	104,803 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	13,870
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	5,312
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£94,133
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£370

Vital Statistics for 1959

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	106	96	202
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	16.5	14.0	16.5
	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	3	2	5
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	24.2	20.3	20.7
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	81	83	164
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.1	12.4	11.6
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under one year of age	2	1	3
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.9	14.3	22.0

Principal Causes of Death at all Ages

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	78
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	26
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")	...	...	...	...	20
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	11
Accidents	...	...	...	...	6
Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3
Genito-urinary disease	...	...	...	...	3
Digestive disease	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	3

Average Age at Death

Males	Females
67	71

There is nothing in the above figures that calls for special comment. Although the number of deaths from cancer was substantially unchanged, there were no deaths from cancer of the lung and windpipe — the last clear year in this respect being 1952. Of those who died during 1959 the percentage who had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death was 47%.

Infectious Disease. The incidence of infectious disease was again relatively light during 1959 when the total notified was 114. Of this total 80 cases were due to measles and amongst the various diseases notified none were serious.

The following are details of actual numbers and case rates of notifiable disease occurring during 1959 :—

Disease	Cases	Rates per 1,000 of population	
		Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
Measles	80	5.77	8.75
Whooping cough	13	0.94	1.24
Pneumonia	8	0.58	0.95
Scarlet fever	7	0.50	0.77
Dysentery	4	0.29	0.08
Acute rheumatism	1	0.07	0.02
		Rate per 1,000 total births	
Puerperal pyrexia	1	4.83	4.68

Tuberculosis. There was a moderate increase in the number of new cases of this disease notified during 1959, but there was a fall in the number of deaths attributed to tuberculosis. The incidence of the disease was fairly evenly distributed over all age groups from 15 years to old age.

The following are details of new cases, deaths, case rates, and mortality rates during 1959 :—

Age Group		New Cases		Deaths	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5	...	—	—	—	—
5—15	...	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	1	1	—	—
25—45	...	—	3	—	—
45—65	...	1	1	—	—
65 and over	...	1	1	1	—
		3	6	1	—

				Rate per 1,000 of population	
				Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
New cases	...	...	...	0.65	0.77
All known cases	...	...	...	4.83	6.23
Deaths	...	...	...	0.07	0.06

At the end of 1959 there were 59 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 8 known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis residing in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948. No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during 1959.

Water Supply. With the exception of the parish of Menheniot most parts of the Rural District now enjoy adequate and reliable supplies of wholesome water. Now that the previous uncertainty about the administration of water supply matters has been resolved by the formation of the new East Cornwall Water Board it is hoped that the benefits now enjoyed by the rest of the Rural District will be extended to Menheniot, and those few other localities which at present are without satisfactory water supplies.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. There was good progress in this sphere of activity during 1959. The scheme at Dobwalls was completed and brought into action during the year, a beginning on the scheme for Menheniot village was made during the summer and towards the end of the year a tender for schemes in Lanreath, Duloe, and Tredinnick was accepted by the Council. There are still many villages and hamlets where the coming of adequate supplies of piped water and the consequent increase in the volume of sewage produced is creating problems which will have to be solved by the provision of proper systems of sewerage and sewage disposal. At the present time the most pressing need exists in the large inland village of Pensilva, and the Chief Public Health Inspector mentions many other localities in which similar problems on a smaller scale will have to be faced in the next five years.

Food. A reasonably good standard was achieved, and maintained in all premises in which food was handled and prepared in the Rural District, and owners and managers of such premises were generally co-operative in adapting and improving food handling arrangements to ensure hygienic handling of food.

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the Rural District during 1959.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959. The operation of these Acts in the Rural District caused no difficulty during 1959.

Public Swimming Baths. There are no public swimming baths in the Liskeard Rural District.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector. This report by Mr. G. Rogers follows. I am happy to place on record my thanks to Mr. Rogers, and his assistants Mr. Lawry and Mr. Cowling, for the help I have had from them during the past year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Before writing my section of the Annual Report for the year 1959 I took the opportunity of perusing the Annual Reports of previous years, which are in my office. The first one available was for the year 1912 and the factor of comparison with 1959 was an indication of activity in the sphere of sewerage. During that year schemes were being drawn up and/or sewers laid in nine

villages. Unfortunately only in the case of Pelynt was any form of treatment works provided — the outfalls in the other cases being either to rivers or land irrigation. These schemes were a mixed blessing because, over the years, with the connection of water closets they have, frequently, caused considerable nuisances at the outfalls.

It is perhaps surprising that apart from a scheme for the village of Polperro, little progress was reported in the years between 1912 and 1951.

The section of this year's report dealing with sewerage is indeed very encouraging and shows that the Council intends to progress with these much needed facilities with the same vigour that has been undertaken with the regional water scheme. With the progress already made in the provision of water and electrical services in the Rural District it can be anticipated in the foreseeable future that all the villages and hamlets will be provided with amenities comparable with the Urban areas.

The provision of an wholesome supply of piped water is always a boon, but the dry summer of 1959 made the supply to the Northern section of the district particularly welcome. Its arrival in that area was at a time when many of the private wells were becoming dry and a serious shortage of water would have prevailed in the village of Pensilva comparable with that reported by me 30 years ago, in 1929. In that year I wrote that the question of a better water supply for this village is one of the important items which will have to be considered by the District Council, and although three decades have passed since that was written, nevertheless, it is gratifying to record that this comparatively large village is now provided with the much needed and vital amenity.

During the year under review, the East Cornwall Water Board Order was made, which provided for the formation of the new Board in 1960. Its effect was that apart from the completion of schemes already approved, the Council's work as a Water Undertaking Authority was terminated. This Authority has every reason to be proud of its achievements in practically completing its Regional Water Scheme. It has brought a wholesome and copious supply of water to a very wide and scattered Rural District, benefiting not only the domestic dwellings but also the agricultural and tourist industry.

One can only hope that the new Water Board will complete this Council's set task and as a matter of urgency will lay a main from St. Cleer Reservoir to Bin Down, and so enable a much needed supply to be provided for the village of Menheniot and the hamlet of Doddycross. Then there remains the villages of Bray Shop, Golberdon and Linkinhorne. In close proximity to Golberdon and Linkinhorne there is already a trunk water main and the new Board could easily lay on services to these villages without great difficulty and should be without undue delay.

No water supply derived from shallow wells can be considered safe, and the Council as a Public Health Authority cannot be content with a water supply from such a source. The new Water Board must be cajoled into doing what you know is most essential, at the earliest opportunity.

Over the years the pattern of housing problems has changed considerably. In 1912, a major evil was over-crowding which occurred in many parts of the district due to large families and the presence of lodgers. With the decline of the mining industry, the trend for smaller families and an influx of retired people into the area, there is no longer a serious problem and during the year under review no cases of Statutory over-crowding were detected.

Each year the number of tenanted private dwellings decreases and more become owner/occupied. Apart from farm workers' cottages it is being largely left to the Local Authority to cater for the demand for rented dwellings. The area has an attraction for the person retiring from the industrial areas and on becoming vacant many cottages are being sold and not re-let. From a Public Health aspect there is much to commend this, in that considerable improvements are being carried out to the properties, in almost every instance.

Finally it is interesting to reflect that in the 1912 report the Council were told that two qualified Inspectors were absolutely necessary for this area. With the enormous increase of work in the Department which has occurred over the years, it can only be reflected that the Department is, to say the least, not overstaffed.

Water Supply.

Distribution Mains. Southern Area. These mains gave little or no trouble during the year and required only normal maintenance. This was confined to washing out each section and turning the sluice valves to ensure that they were in working order. Quite a number of new connections were made to the mains and the consumption increased to nearly double that of the previous year. By December the recorded consumption was 255,000 g.p.d. Extensions were carried out between Sclerder and Trelawne Cross and from Talland Beach to Porthallow.

Northern Area. Progress in the sections 5A and 5B to serve the Northern area continued rapidly and before the summer of 1959 water was available at Pensilva and other parts of St. Ive Parish as well as Upton Cross, Plashford, Darley Ford and adjoining hamlets. It is true that numerous house connections were made and that in most of these, water was largely taken for drinking purposes. Towards the end of the year, the daily consumption was 40,000 gallons. During 1959 the whole of these sections were completed, including mains, reservoirs, and pumping works. Extensions were made to Sutton and Plushayes in the Parish of Linkinhorne, and Gang to Bicton in the Parish of St. Ive. Thus, by the end of the year, almost the whole of the Northern part was served.

St. Neot. The springs at the source of the St. Neot water supply were reduced in flow towards the end of the summer and only by the co-operation of the owner of Trevenna in closing down his hydraulic ram for long periods, was it possible to maintain a reasonable supply to the village. In order to ensure that the available water shall be adequate for all future requirements, it was decided to approach the owner of Hobbs Park with a view to collecting springs on the property and piping the water to the reservoir. If agreement is reached the work will be carried out in 1960.

Menheniot Village. For the first time in its history the springs in the well at Trewint failed to provide a supply to meet the village requirements. Householders were advised to avoid any waste and it was just possible to maintain a good service. A time switch was installed to operate the pump every two hours allowing an interval between each pumping for the well to recover.

At various times throughout the year, mechanical or electrical breakdowns occurred and attention was given on every occasion without delay. The most difficult fault to trace was located in a float switch and was caused by a fine piece of wire $\frac{3}{8}$ " long which at times caused a "short" which operated the switch and stopped the pump. It was expected that this system would be troublesome and it has been so, but the works must be maintained until the trunk main is laid from the St. Cleer reservoir.

During the summer, samples of water were taken from the source of the village supply at Trewint and subjected to bacteriological examination. The results indicated that there was considerable bacterial contamination which showed very little improvement right throughout the summer. Consumers were advised to boil all water before using it for drinking purposes.

Polperro. An extension of a branch main was made between Jac-na-parc and Landavidy cottages in 2" polythene tubing at a cost of some £300. The work was carried out as specified and a great improvement in the supply resulted.

Later in the year the new main passing the reservoir at Trenderway was connected to the Polperro mains and the reservoir itself was bypassed. This increased the pressure considerably in all parts of the village and was a definite improvement.

Seaton. The source of this supply at Keveral Woods diminished in flow during the summer in spite of the fact that no water from these springs passed into the adjoining district. A very detailed test was carried out and leaks were found in some private service pipes. Repairs were made at once and there was a noticeable improvement in the supply.

Warleggan. The dry spring and summer of 1959 had the effect of reducing the flow of water from the Holy Well springs which form the source of the Warleggan water supply. There was, however, more than an adequate supply for the needs of the householders but due to an air lock in the intake pipes and seepage through a porous strata, there was a shortage for a few days. A collecting chamber was re-built, a broken pipe replaced and an air lock in the system removed. The result was entirely satisfactory. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out at the same time and the quality was seen to have fallen from that obtained earlier. It was considered that, although there was no obvious source of contamination near the springs, it would be unsafe to rely on ordinary protection works. After consideration of the matter the Council decided to chlorinate the water and gave instructions for the appropriate work to be carried out.

Rilla Mill, Maders, Hessenford, Widegates, No Mans Land and Great Tree. These villages are supplied with water from the South East Cornwall Water Board and during the summer an acute shortage was felt. The Board's officials were very helpful and a reasonable share of the limited supply was given. Unfortunately, when the supply was at its lowest, a burst occurred in the Board's trunk main at Berrio Bridge. This created a serious state of affairs, for although Looe, one of the constituents of the South East Cornwall Water Board was without water for some hours, some of these villages were cut off for two days. This could not be avoided as it took some time for the service reservoir to fill, since Looe, situated at a lower level was drawing heavily upon the supply. The residents of the villages affected managed to cope, and there were no serious complaints.

Merrymeet, Pengover and Crift. In June, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government asking for consent to lay the 14" diameter main from the treatment works at St. Cleer to Menheniot village, passing through and serving the above villages, or to lay a temporary system, utilising the 2" pipeline laid to serve the Royal Cornwall Showground at Merrymeet. At the September meeting, it was reported that approval had been received to proceed with the temporary supply to Merrymeet, Pengover and Crift, but it was suggested that the distribution mains in the villages be permanent. A tender of £6,388. 16. 0. was accepted from Messrs. Reed & Mallik and work was commenced in December. When this scheme has been completed almost

the whole of Liskeard Rural District will be served with an adequate and wholesome piped water supply—an achievement looked forward to anxiously many years by ratepayers, Council and officials alike.

The deep well at Merrymeet, also in the Parish of Menheniot completely failed during the summer, and water was supplied to householders by road transport.

Farm Water Supplies. The exceptionally dry summer of 1959 was responsible for an increasing number of farmers applying for mains water. Many new connections were made and for the first time in the history of this Rural District, any farm could draw unlimited supplies without the slightest risk of any shortage being felt.

In cases where application is made for a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food towards a farm water supply from a private source, the approval of the Local Authority is required if water is to be used for domestic purposes. An inspection of the source is made and samples taken.

None of these supplies can be chlorinated or filtered and it is of some importance to ascertain that there is no likelihood of serious contamination and that there is adequate protection work at the source.

Nine applications for approval for use of private water supply for domestic purposes were dealt with during 1959, and of these, seven were approved.

Water Supply for Domestic Purposes. Considerable difficulty was anticipated in inducing owners of property in the Northern Section of the district to have their properties connected to the mains. This was expected because many in this area are owner/occupied and in several instances piped supplies had been taken from shallow wells into the houses at not inconsiderable expense. These wells from a Public Health aspect are suspect and my object has to be to supply mains water to all dwellings where this is at all possible.

The summer of 1959 was a welcome ally, for such was the period of dry weather that wells which had never been known to fail in fact did so. This resulted in a clamour for connections to the mains and much time which would have had to be spent in persuading owners informally and by the service of notices was avoided.

Not only was the effect felt in the Northern Area, but in the Southern Section where some owners had previously been reluctant to connect.

(a) Quality.

With the advent of the Regional Water Scheme many public and private wells have now been dispensed with and the danger of the consumption of untreated water in the Rural District has been considerably lessened.

The following is a report on the result of bacteriological examination of water samples during 1959 :—

1. South Hill Shallow well—tap in kitchen off roof storage tank. Glebe Farm House, South Hill.
Satisfactory. 15.1.59.
2. South Hill Shallow well—field at Glebe Farm, South Hill.
Moderate degree of bacterial contamination.
15.1.59.
3. Lanreath Deep well—Pigscoomb, Lanreath.
Unsatisfactory. 20.1.59.

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|-----|-------------|-----|---|
| 4. | St. Martin | ... | Land spring at Keveral. Satisfactory.
11.3.59. |
| 5. | Morval | ... | Land springs at Morval Estate — tap at
Tregarland. Unsatisfactory. 11.3.59. |
| 6. | St. Neot | ... | Land spring — Tamar Farm, St. Neot.
Satisfactory. 16.3.59. |
| 7. | Pelynt | ... | Stream — Trelaske, Looe. Unsatisfactory.
17.3.59. |
| 8. | Pelynt | ... | Stream at Trelaske, Looe. Satisfactory.
17.3.60. |
| 9. | Liskeard | ... | Tap at Trewidland C.P. School. Satisfactory.
27.4.59. |
| 10. | St. Martin | ... | Tap at Trenode V.A. School. Satisfactory.
27.4.59. |
| 11. | Liskeard | ... | Dobwalls C.P. School. Satisfactory.
27.4.59. |
| 12. | Linkinhorne | ... | Land spring — tap at Minions. Unsatisfactory.
28.4.59. |
| 13. | Pelynt | ... | Trelawn. Land spring intake. Satisfactory.
30.4.59. |
| 14. | Linkinhorne | ... | Pipe from spring at Minions. Slight bacterial
contamination. 5.5.59. |
| 15. | St. Cleer | ... | Shallow well at Higher Langdon. Slight bacterial
contamination. 5.5.59. |
| 16. | St. Cleer | ... | Bore — from storage reservoir at South Treviddo.
Satisfactory. 28.5.59. |
| 17. | St. Cleer | ... | Tap in house at South Treviddo. Unsatisfactory.
28.5.59. |
| 18. | St. Winnow | ... | Land springs collection chamber at Bofarnel Farm.
Satisfactory. 28.5.59. |
| 19. | St. Ive | ... | Pensilva C.P. School. Tap in canteen.
Satisfactory. 1.6.59. |
| 20. | St. Cleer | ... | Tap in canteen Darite C.P. School. Satisfactory.
1.6.59. |
| 21. | St. Neot | ... | Tap in cloakroom St. Neot C.P. School.
Satisfactory. 1.6.59. |
| 22. | Linkinhorne | ... | Metafilter in School, Upton Cross C.P.
Satisfactory. 1.6.59. |
| 23. | Lanteglos | ... | Tap at Polruan C.P. School. Reasonably
satisfactory. 15.6.59. |
| 24. | St. Veep | ... | Tap in canteen Lerryn V.A. School. Satisfactory.
15.6.59. |
| 25. | Pelynt | ... | Tap in cloakroom Pelynt V.C. School.
Satisfactory. 15.6.59. |
| 26. | Lanreath | ... | Lanreath V.C. School. Satisfactory.
15.6.59. |
| 27. | Broad oak | ... | Tap in cloakroom Braddock V.A. School.
Satisfactory. 15.6.59. |
| 28. | Warleggan | ... | Land spring — Mains Warleggan R.D.C.
Satisfactory. 18.6.59. |
| 29. | St. Winnow | ... | Land spring source. Bofarnel. Satisfactory.
18.6.59. |
| 30. | Warleggan | ... | Land spring — Mains Warleggan R.D.C. supply.
Shop at Mount. Satisfactory. 18.6.59. |
| 31. | Warleggan | ... | Land spring — Mains Warleggan R.D.C. supply.
Satisfactory. 18.6.59. |

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|-----|-------------|-----|-----|---|
| 32. | St. Cleer | ... | ... | Intake main, Treatment Works, St. Cleer.
Satisfactory. 15.7.59. |
| 33. | Lansallos | ... | ... | Polperro C.P. School Tap. Satisfactory.
15.7.59. |
| 34. | Lanteglos | ... | ... | Tap, Shop, The Quay, Polruan. Satisfactory.
23.7.59. |
| 35. | Lanteglos | ... | ... | Inlet to main reservoir, Polruan. Satisfactory.
23.7.59. |
| 36. | Lanteglos | ... | ... | Tap in kitchen. School, Polruan. Satisfactory.
23.7.59. |
| 37. | Lanteglos | ... | ... | Tap, Townsend Garage, Polruan. Satisfactory.
23.7.59. |
| 38. | St. Martin | ... | ... | Source of land spring, Penvith. Satisfactory.
30.7.59. |
| 39. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Land spring source, Pengover. Satisfactory.
26.8.59. |
| 40. | St. Keyne | ... | ... | Deep well, tap at Old Rectory, St. Keyne.
Unsatisfactory. 15.9.59. |
| 41. | St. Neot | ... | ... | Shallow well, from pump, Four Hole Cross. Some
bacterial contamination. 23.9.59. |
| 42. | Liskeard | ... | ... | Land spring — overflow from storage reservoir
Bokenna, Dobwalls. Satisfactory. 23.9.59. |
| 43. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Spring in field at Pengover. Satisfactory.
6.10.59. |
| 44. | St. Cleer | ... | ... | Tap at Darite C.P. School. Satisfactory.
7.10.59. |
| 45. | St. Cleer | ... | ... | Tap at St. Cleer C.P. School. Satisfactory.
7.10.59. |
| 46. | St. Ive | ... | ... | Tap at Pensilva V.C. School. Satisfactory.
7.10.59. |
| 47. | Linkinhorne | ... | ... | Upton Cross C.P. School. Satisfactory.
7.10.59. |
| 48. | South Hill | ... | ... | Tap at South Hill V.C. School. Satisfactory.
7.10.59. |
| 49. | St. Neot | ... | ... | Land spring, Stone Chamber, Trewindle.
Satisfactory. 14.10.59. Also direct from source.
Satisfactory. |
| 50. | St. Neot | ... | ... | Shallow well, Ivy Craig, St. Neot. Unsatisfactory.
14.10.59. |
| 51. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Land spring — tap at Pengover farmhouse.
Unsatisfactory. 27.10.59. |
| 52. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Deep well. Menheniot School Canteen.
Satisfactory. 27.10.59. (From storage tank). |
| 53. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Tap off main at Menheniot School Canteen.
Unsatisfactory. 27.10.59. |
| 54. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Land spring. Tap in house at Churchtown.
Unsatisfactory. 28.10.59. |
| 55. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Land spring. 1, Council House, Warleggan.
Unsatisfactory. 28.10.59. |
| 56. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Warleggan Mains. Satisfactory.
29.10.59. |
| 57. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Spring No. 3 at Intake. Satisfactory.
10.11.59. |
| 58. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Spring No. 2 at Intake. Satisfactory.
10.11.59. |
| 59. | Warleggan | ... | ... | Spring No. 1 at Intake. Satisfactory.
10.11.59. |

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|-----|-------------|-----|-----|---|
| 60. | Liskeard | ... | ... | Shallow well at Two Waters Foot. Slight bacterial contamination of faecal origin. 10.11.59. |
| 61. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Shallow well at Trewint. Unsatisfactory. 12.11.59. |
| 62. | Linkinhorne | ... | ... | Land spring, from tap at Trelabe. Satisfactory. 19.11.59. |
| 63. | St. Martin | ... | ... | Spring chamber at Penvith. Unsatisfactory. 25.11.59. |
| 64. | Lansallos | ... | ... | Mains supply. Little Valley, Polperro. Satisfactory. 25.11.59. |
| 65. | Morval | ... | ... | Trenode V.A. School tap. Satisfactory. 25.11.59. |
| 66. | Liskeard | ... | ... | Tap at Dobwalls C.P. School. Satisfactory. 25.11.59. |
| 67. | Liskeard | ... | ... | Trewidland C.P. School. Reasonably satisfactory. 25.11.59. |
| 68. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Shallow well at Trewint. Satisfactory. 3.12.59. |
| 69. | Menheniot | ... | ... | Land springs at Factory Cottages, Menheniot. Gross pollution with excretal organisms, unfit for drinking. |

(b) Quantity.

The spring and summer of 1959 was exceptionally dry and a considerable number of wells and springs and streams dried up completely. There was, however, a more than adequate supply available in the Council mains from the treatment works of the Liskeard & District Water Board and there was no shortage whatsoever in the area covered. The only public well at Doddycross in the Parish of Menheniot failed completely and water had to be transported there in tanks.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the severe shortage in the supply from the South East Cornwall Water Board coupled with a burst in a main during the period of heaviest demand, did cause some inconvenience in some of the villages and hamlets covered by them.

(c) Bacteriological Examination.

Sixty-nine samples were examined bacteriologically and the results are shown in Section (a) of this report.

(d) Plumbo Solvency.

No cases reported during the year. There is a very limited use of lead pipe in this District for water services.

(e) Contamination of Supplies.

With the advent of an excellent water distribution system this problem is becoming less and less important. As reported earlier, the Menheniot village supply was found to be polluted and in spite of careful and prolonged examination, no obvious cause was found. The well at the source is constructed in a sound manner, but it is quite impossible to say where the springs feeding the well actually originate, nor what possible contamination takes place on its course to the well. Residents were advised to boil the water before using it for drinking purposes.

Several private sources were found to be contaminated and owners were advised on protective measures which could be taken. These, however, for reasons already given, were not always successful.

(f) Parishes with one or more villages having a piped water supply.

Parish	Population of Parish	Population supplied to houses	Population supplied by standpipes
Boconnoc	189	90	Nil
Broadoak	233	100	Nil
St. Cleer	1,616	1,100	Nil
Duloe	572	350	Nil
St. Ive	1,158	600	Nil
Lanreath	390	230	Nil
Lansallos	1,504	1,350	Nil
Lanteglos	1,234	1,200	Nil
Linkinhorne	1,228	500	120
Liskeard	978	580	Nil
St. Martin	427	230	Nil
Menheniot	1,073	304	20
Morval	539	80	Nil
St. Neot	932	200	100
Pelynt	486	260	Nil
St. Veep	334	200	20
St. Pinnock	339	100	Nil
South Hill	404	40	Nil
St. Winnow	365	80	Nil
St. Keyne	132	80	Nil

Sewerage.

The work of the Department in the management of sewerage systems and sewage disposal works will considerably increase in the future when the Council's sewerage programme develops. Frequent sampling of the effluent at various stages of the works will have to be taken and supervision of the operation of the plant will have to be carried out by this Department. Undoubtedly, the River Board will be exercising rigid control on the standard of effluent from the new works and the Council will have to regard sewage works management as a growing and important part of their responsibilities. The scattered nature of the District which necessitates separate works for individual villages and hamlets, adds to the problems of management. Undoubtedly, in the near future, the Council will have to give consideration to the employment of additional manual labour for this purpose.

A major problem will be in the disposal of sludge as farmers are very reluctant to take it for use as land dressing.

The following are comments on the various systems :—

Seaton Sea Outfall. Complaints were received during the year alleging that water along the Seaton and Downderry beaches was polluted by sewage. An inspection of the beaches and the area in the vicinity of the sewer outfall was made but no evidence whatsoever could be found to justify the complaint. The system, therefore, in my opinion, worked satisfactorily.

St. Cleer — Treatment Works. The works were visited twice weekly by the Council's workmen and on each occasion the Dortmund Tanks were desludged. In addition the filter media is raked and the equipment regularly serviced. The effluent was sampled by the Cornwall River Board and was

classed as satisfactory. A typical report showed that the B.O.D. demand in five days was 17 p.p.m. and suspended matter 12 parts p.p.m. This compared very favourably with the Royal Commission recommendations where the figures were 20 and 30 respectively.

Polruan Sea Outfall. No special attention was required.

Polperro Sea Outfall. Trouble was experienced during the year due to back-flooding of the sewer at times of heavy storms. Investigations have been made regarding the possibility of storm water overflows to relieve the sewers at times of freak discharges and it is to be hoped that these will be installed in 1960.

Pelynt Treatment Works. The village of Pelynt was served by a treatment works which was constructed in 1914. It was designed at a time when there was no piped water in the village and with the advent of this and an increased discharge of surface water, the works are undoubtedly inadequate to produce the standard of treatment effluent now expected. The Council will, no doubt, have to give consideration to a scheme for reconstruction of these works at some future date.

Bodinnick. No special attention was required.

Dobwalls. The new treatment works and sewerage system for the village of Dobwalls was completed during the year. A large part of the village was already connected to the existing unsatisfactory sewer and these premises were automatically connected to the new system. This meant that the works immediately received a considerable discharge of sewage. Owners of property in the remainder of the village which had no drainage were contacted and towards the end of the year the majority of the premises in the village were connected to the new system.

Menheniot. In May, 1959, the Council accepted a tender of £20,423. 1. 5. from Messrs. Rowse & Sleep, Ltd., for the construction of a sewerage system, pumping plant and sewage treatment works to serve the village of Menheniot. By the end of the year most of the sewers had been laid and the construction of the treatment works was in progress.

Lanreath, Duloe and Tredinnick. In November, 1959, the Council accepted a tender from Messrs. Northcotts of Exeter, Ltd., in the sum of £26,094. 4. 6. for the construction of sewerage systems and treatment works for the three villages mentioned above.

Sewerage : Other Systems. Consideration was given by the Council on the future sewerage and sewage disposal programme. It was agreed that the Council's Consulting Engineers be requested to prepare in order of priority the following schemes with a view to their submission to the Minister of Housing & Local Government for approval.

Pensilva, Upton Cross, Minions, East Taphouse, Highway,
Trewidland, Common Moor, Crows Nest, Widegates,
Mortha, Polperro.

During the year under review, the Engineers had commenced the preparatory work on the Pensilva scheme.

Public Conveniences. These have been quite well maintained during the year and except for repeated attention to coin locks, chiefly at Polperro, no difficulties were experienced. The Council had decided to provide washbasins, cold water taps, soap dispensers, and paper towel cabinets at the Polruan, Lerryn and Polperro conveniences, in an effort to facilitate personal hygiene.

These will be fitted before the summer of 1960.

For a considerable time during 1959, efforts were made to acquire premises near the ferry slipway at Bodinnick to provide a public convenience, so urgently needed. Not until the end of the year under review was agreement reached and provision made for the toilets for male and female, a store for use by the Ferry Manager, and a section of the building to be removed to provide an improved access to the ferry.

It is hoped that the work of building and conversion will commence early in 1960, so that the much needed toilets will be available for the following summer months.

The Council has also had in mind the provision of new conveniences at Crumplehorne, Polperro; Talland Sands; and St. Saviour's Hill, Polruan, but one of the greatest problems is the purchase of a suitable site. This, I have no doubt, will be overcome within the next few months.

Refuse Collection. Almost every village and hamlet, together with a considerable number of individual houses, in scattered parts of the Rural District, have received a weekly refuse collection throughout the year. Other and more isolated premises have a collection every two weeks, or every month. The vehicles gave no particular trouble except that a $7\frac{1}{2}$ cu. yd. van has almost had its life and will have to be replaced next year.

Litter. An increased number of litter receptacles were placed in lay-bys and on road verges and did much to obviate the disfigurement of the countryside by bottles, tins and paper. There are careless and thoughtless persons in every community but in the main, it can be said that if litter bins are placed in the positions frequented by picnickers and suchlike, they will be used.

Refuse Dumps. Regular treatment by pressure sprayers using various powder insecticides kept the breeding of flies on refuse dumps down to a minimum and not one complaint was received on this subject throughout the summer. It is obvious that to be effective, treatment on the tips must commence early and be continuous.

Moveable Dwellings. With the dry summer the year showed the greatest influx of campers that I have ever known. Conditions were ideal for this type of holiday and most of the licensed sites were full, and in some cases, such was the demand that "overflows" were put on unlicensed land adjoining.

During the year two new sites were licensed by the Council as follows:—

Trelawne Camp, Nr. Looe.

This camp will initially cater for 100 caravans. A toilet block comprising eight ladies' and six men's water closets and 14' of urinal was erected. The block also provided for three wash-hand basins for each sex. A complete drainage system with a modern treatment works approved by the River Board has been installed. A gully trap connected to the system was provided under each water standpipe.

Dovers Camp, Nr. Looe.

This site will be entirely for the tourist and predominantly will cater for tents. Accommodation for 80 tents and 20 caravans is anticipated. The following facilities have been provided:—

Ladies' Toilet, comprising five water closets, four wash-hand basins and a sink.

Gent's Toilet, comprising four water closets, urinal and four wash-hand basins. In addition, gully traps have been provided under water standpipes.

The following improvements have been carried out to existing licensed sites :—

Killigarth Camp, Nr. Polperro.

An additional toilet block erected, comprising :—

Men's : Three water closets and three wash-hand basins.

Ladies' : Three water closets, three wash-hand basins and sink.

Butterdon Mill, Nr. Liskeard.

Two water closets with necessary drainage to replace existing bucket closets.

Great Tree Camp, Nr. Looe.

An additional toilet block erected, comprising :—

Ladies' : Six water closets and two wash-hand basins.

Men's : Six water closets, urinal and two wash-hand basins.

Great Kellow Camp, Polperro.

Three water closets, urinal and two wash-hand basins with necessary drainage have been provided. These will replace chemical closets.

Roadside camping increased considerably during the year and this problem apparently is common to many Local Authorities.

During the year 17 licences were in operation authorising the use of individual moveable dwellings.

Rodent Control. During the year the Council assumed responsibility for the treatment of farms against rodent infestation. It was considered that there would be extensive demand from farmers for this service, but, in fact, this has not materialised to the extent originally anticipated.

Nevertheless, this work has added to the Rodent Operator's duties and he has had to give priority to farms, often at the expense of private houses. Obviously this must be the correct procedure otherwise a reservoir of infestation would quickly develop under the conditions which agricultural holdings afford. Undoubtedly, if it were possible to carry out a survey of farms more infestations would be discovered which would require treatment.

One factor could be that many farmers are carrying out effective disinfection themselves through the medium of Warfarin, which facilitates the work of the amateur.

Regular disinfection of the Council's refuse dumps was carried out and any private dwellings were treated free of charge. There was no infestation in sewers and treatment was unnecessary.

During the course of other routine Public Health duties in the District, which comprise visits to farms, houses and food premises, careful check is made at all times for any evidence of rodent infestation.

Food.

1. Meat Inspection. The majority of meat consumed in the Rural District was obtained from the abattoir at Liskeard which is operated by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation. The abattoir is situated within the Borough of Liskeard and the meat inspection is carried out by the Borough Public Health Inspectors.

A limited amount of slaughtering was carried out during the year at one of the licensed slaughterhouses at Lerryn. Details were as follows :—

Inspections :

64 pigs

13 sheep

Condemnations :

Nil

Nil

Routine visits were made to the fifteen butchers' shops and on each occasion meat exposed for sale was examined.

2. (i) Food Premises.

Cafés and Restaurants...	...	...	...	25
Hotels and Guest Houses	...	...	...	26
School Canteens	...	...	...	18
Public Houses	...	...	...	20
Clubs	...	...	...	2
General Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	64
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	15
Bake-houses	...	...	...	2
Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers	...	...	...	4

(ii) Registered Food Premises.

(a) Section 15, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	87
Sale of other food preparations	...	...	...	7

(b) Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-54.

Number of Dairies Registered	...	...	...	11
Number of Registrations for Distributor of Milk	...	...	...	30

3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises.

Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	50
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	...	18

During the year, seven applications were received for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream. Compliance with the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, and the Food Hygiene Regulations were effected and in each case registration was made.

In accordance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, only designated milk is permitted to be sold throughout the Rural District, and this operated satisfactorily. A large quantity of the milk now consumed in the District is pasteurised and is obtained from the factory of Messrs. Dawe's Creameries (Saltash) Ltd. The following samples of milk were taken during the year :—

Samples :	Result :
5 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk for statutory test.	Conformed with standards of T.T. milk.
8 samples of Pasteurised milk for statutory test.	Conformed to the standard of pasteurised milk.
1 sample of Tuberculin Tested / Pasteurised milk for statutory test.	Conformed to the required standard, for T.T. and Pasteurised milk.
1 sample of ordinary raw milk for Tuberculin Test.	The inoculated guinea-pig showed no evidence of infection with Myc. Tuberculosis at post mortem examination.

One sample of cream was taken from a small factory which was exporting the produce in hermetically sealed tins. The bacteriologist's report was satisfactory.

The following licences to use a special designation in relation to milk sold in the District were granted by the Council during the year :—

Dealers' Licences —	Pasteurised	...	...	28
	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	16
	Sterilised	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences —	Pasteurised	...	...	4
	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4

Condemned Food. The disposal of condemned food is carried out by burying at the Council's refuse dump. Tinned foods are first punctured and all food treated with a solution of fluoresan before burying.

Examination of Food. Routine visits were made to various retail food premises and general examinations made of food exposed for sale. It was not necessary to issue any formal condemnation certificates as it is becoming the general practice for unfit food to be returned to the wholesaler.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the District but, as indicated above, there are 87 premises from which it is sold to the general public. Thirty samples of ice cream were taken from premises for examination by the methylene blue test, and the results are as follows :—

Grade (i)	...	...	...	13
Grade (ii)	...	...	...	4
Grade (iii)	...	...	...	1
Grade (iv)	...	...	...	12

The results are very disappointing and those samples which were graded in 3 and 4 were practically all taken from loose ice cream in opened cans. Undoubtedly, the increase in the sale of unwrapped ice cream from a public health aspect is to be deprecated. There are many factors aiding bacterial contamination including the metal servers and the fact that where queues are being formed and served, the Conservators are open for some time.

Visits were made to the premises and the importance of cleanliness of the "servers" was stressed, but I am not too hopeful of the success that this will achieve. It is perhaps unfortunate that there is no legal action which can be taken against persons whose samples continually fall in the low grades.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. In an area which caters for the tourist, food hygiene must occupy an important part of the Department's duties. Routine visits were made to the food preparing premises in the District and generally conditions were reasonably satisfactory. One of the difficulties is that staff are seasonal workers and as such cannot have the same interest as a full time employee would have. In fact, in many of the premises one finds different personnel each year. It is difficult therefore, to carry out much educational work in connection with personal hygiene, etc. During the peak season, the premises are working often at over-capacity and this factor also does not encourage a high standard of hygiene. Nevertheless, in the main, I have found the proprietors of these premises co-operative and willing to accede to my advice and requirements. No particular educational activity was given during the year and in a district such as this, routine visits are the most practical method of achieving results.

Two certificates of exemption were given during the year. One was in respect of a greengrocer's shop and the other a grocer's shop. Both certificates were with regard to washing facilities which cannot be provided until a sewer is available.

Visits have also been made to the various retail traders. I have endeavoured to encourage the use of refrigerated display cabinets in village shops and I am pleased to report that they were installed in five food shops during the year. Three shops were provided with sinks and hot and cold water supply was provided over an existing sink. One grocer's shop was enlarged and reconstructed, one was lined internally with glazed hardboard, and in the case of another, the walls of the store were re-plastered.

A new modern café was erected at Seaton to replace the old unsatisfactory building.

A café at Talland was completed, reconstructed and provided with drainage, water supply, etc., to comply with the requirements of the regulations. Three new cafés were brought into use in Polperro by adapting existing buildings and in each case compliance with the regulations has been effected.

One existing restaurant kitchen was provided with a wash-hand basin with hot and cold water supply.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957. Following delegated powers from the Cornwall County Council three licences were granted during the year to operate plant for boiling of waste foods. In one case, there was a new building erected in which to operate the plant.

School Sanitation. During the year, water closets were installed at Dobwalls and Pensilva schools to replace bucket closets. In the former the drainage was connected to the Council's sewerage system and in the latter case a septic tank was installed. Now that mains water is available at Upton Cross, it is hoped that improved facilities will soon be provided in the comparatively large school there.

Licensed Premises. Following representations to the owners, improved sanitary accommodation has been provided to two licensed premises in the District.

Housing.

1. Council Housing. During the year, two one-bedroom bungalows and two two-bedroom houses were completed at Lanreath and two one-bedroom bungalows at Polperro.

Five dwellings at St. Neot and five at Menheniot were in course of erection.

2. Private Housing. Three private dwellings were completed.

3. Reconditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses. The following are details of the Council's activity in this sphere :—

Discretionary Grants :

Number of applications received — dwellings	...	71
Number of dwellings in respect of which Completion		
Certificates were issued	...	27
Total approved expenditure	£48,447. 0.	7d.
Total amount of Grants made	£6,261. 0.	0d.

Standard Grants :

Number of applications received — dwellings	...	21
Number of Completion Certificates issued	...	Nil

In addition to modernisation with the aid of Improvement Grants, major reconditioning was carried out to nineteen dwellings in the District. The scale of reconditioning was of such an extent to save the dwellings as units of accommodation.

In previous reports I have stressed the value of Improvement Grants in this District and will not repeat myself. The year was of importance in that the Housing and House Purchase Act reached the statute books. It introduced the new Standard Grant and modified the conditions of the Discretionary Grant. Owners of property have now a golden opportunity to improve their premises and it is hoped that they will take full advantage of this. There are many materials now on the market which will facilitate reconditioning and are particularly useful in remedying dampness and other defects.

4. Slum Clearance. From 1955 up to the end of 1959 I have reported to the Council on 108 premises. Undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted during the year in respect of 22 houses. Four families were re-housed in new Council houses from slum dwellings.

Housing Management. Towards the end of the year the number of Council owned dwellings had increased to 542. The Council had purchased three old but structurally sound houses on which repair notices had been served on the owners. During the year these were improved and modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants.

In addition, improvements were carried out to four existing Council houses in the District. Again with the assistance of Improvement Grants these dwellings were provided with modern solid fuel cooking appliances, hot water systems, wash-hand basins, fuel bunkers and concrete paving.

Undoubtedly, the Council has a considerable task in modernising its pre-war houses for many of them still have bucket closet sanitation and no proper drainage systems. It is to be hoped that further schemes will be put in hand in 1960.

For the first time the Council appointed two men to form a small direct labour force to undertake repairs. Without doubt, repairs are now being attended to much more quickly.

During the year, 26 houses were inspected on change of tenancy and in addition, numerous visits were made to the estates and individual houses.

Drainage to Private Premises. During the year, 47 premises were provided with house drains connected to the Council's sewers. In addition, 57 premises were provided with drainage to septic tanks. This included the examination and testing of 11,248 feet of drains.

The year saw a considerable increase in the use of pitch fibre pipes for house drains. This material has many advantages and, no doubt, we shall see more of its use in the future.

The single stack system of plumbing is gradually gaining favour in the District. Apart from the aesthetic aspect, which is certainly improved by the decrease in the number of pipes on the external walls of buildings, the system avoids the use of hopper heads for bath wastes, which nearly always smell from an accumulation of scum.

Public Health Control of New Buildings. This control is carried out by my Department through the provision of the Public Health Act and the Building Byelaws made thereunder. The importance of this work cannot be over emphasised as its purpose is to prevent the many structural and other defects which have caused slums in the past.

During the year under review plans were examined and approved by the Council in respect of 181 proposals. This, of course, covers alteration and addition as well as new buildings. Visits were made to works in progress and in all cases, foundations, damp-proof courses, site concrete and drainage were inspected as well as a final inspection being made.

Petroleum Regulations. The enforcement of the above Regulations continued to occupy a considerable amount of time during the year under review. All new installations of petroleum storage tanks were carried out strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Home Office Code and various stages of the construction and installation of these pumps are examined. The tanks and pipelines were subjected to an air test of 10 lbs. per square inch for 24 hours under the supervision of my Department.

During the year a commencement was made in carrying out "ullage" tests on tanks which have been installed for 20 years or longer.

The Council has resolved that in 1960, all electrically operated petroleum service tanks shall comply with the Code in respect of associated electrical equipment. This has necessitated a considerable amount of communication with licencees in connection with the necessary modification and/or replacement of pumps.

APPENDIX 1.
Principal Causes of Death — All Ages — 1959

Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Heart disease ...	73	78	32	16	53	27	279
Cancer (all sites)...	40	26	20	10	15	19	130
Vascular lesions of the nervous system (stroke)...	36	20	17	7	16	11	107
Respiratory disease	14	11	6	6	2	2	41
Circulatory disease	11	3	7	3	4	—	28
Accidents ...	7	6	1	2	1	—	*17
Genito-urinary disease ...	4	3	1	—	1	3	12
Digestive disease ...	2	3	1	—	1	—	7
Suicide ...	2	3	1	—	1	—	7

* Includes 3 motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2.
Types of Heart Disease and Cancer Causing Death — 1959

Type of Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Coronary disease, angina ...	32	30	20	6	8	10	106
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	5	—	1	3	2	13
Other heart disease.	39	43	12	9	42	15	160
Cancer of stomach	4	4	4	3	1	3	19
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	6	—	4	2	4	2	18
Cancer of breast...	5	3	2	—	—	2	12
Cancer of uterus...	1	3	—	—	—	1	5
Leukaemia ...	2	—	1	—	—	1	4
Other cancers ...	22	16	9	5	10	10	72

APPENDIX 3.
Deaths by Age Groups — 1959

District	0-5 years	5-15 years	15-45 years	45-65 years	65-75 years	75 years & over	All Ages
St. Germans R.D. ...	6	1	2	39	61	105	214
Liskeard R.D. ...	4	—	9	33	41	77	164
Saltash M.B. ...	—	1	2	24	31	35	93
Torpoint U.D. ...	—	—	2	9	13	23	47
Liskeard M.B. ...	—	1	1	15	28	60	105
Looe U.D. ...	—	—	1	15	14	36	66
Health Area No. 7 ...	10	3	17	135	188	336	689

APPENDIX 4.

Average Age at Death — 1959

District	Males	Females
St. Germans R.D. ...	69	72
Liskeard R.D. ...	67	71
Saltash M.B. ...	68	72
Torpoint U.D. ...	72	71
Liskeard M.B. ...	75	76
Looe U.D. ...	73	74
Health Area No. 7...	71	73

APPENDIX 5.

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Deaths in Health Area No. 7 — 1959

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 years ...	1	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	1	2	—	—
15—25 years ...	1	5	—	—
25—45 years ...	6	8	—	—
45—65 years ...	5	2	—	—
65 years and over ...	6	2	1	2
Totals ...	20	19	1	2

	Males	Females	Total
New case rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.39	0.37	0.77
Mortality rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.02	0.04	0.06

Case Rates and Mortality Rates per 1,000 of Population in the Six County Districts in Health Area No. 7 — 1959

District	All known Cases		
	New Cases	at 31.12.59	Deaths
St. Germans R.D. ...	0.78	6.16	—
Liskeard R.D. ...	0.65	4.83	0.07
Saltash M.B. ...	0.81	6.98	0.13
Torpoint U.D. ...	0.67	7.73	—
Liskeard M.B. ...	1.64	7.96	0.23
Looe U.D. ...	0.26	5.82	—
Health Area No. 7 ...	0.77	6.23	0.06
Cornwall County ...	0.61	7.23	0.07

APPENDIX 6.
Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus
Deaths by Age Groups and Sexes — 1959

Age Group	Males	Females
15—45 years	—	—
45—65 years	7	2
65—75 years	6	1
75 years and over ...	2	—
All ages	15	3

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population — 1959

	Males	Females	Total
Health Area No. 7 ...	0.296	0.059	0.355
Cornwall County ...	0.280	0.041	0.321
England and Wales ...	0.401	0.063	0.464

PART VII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 11)

NIL RETURNS

APPENDIX
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the Year 1959 for the Rural District
of Liskeard in the County of Cornwall.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities†	34	28	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	30	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority‡ (excluding out-workers' premises).	18	25	Nil	Nil
Total ...	109	83	2	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	—	—

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).



