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LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1971

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

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The population of No. 7 Health Area as estimated on the 30th June, 1971 was 55,190 - an increase of 1,790 over the corresponding date in 1970. Liskeard Rural District showed the largest increase of 800, and was closely followed by the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 660. In the Borough of Liskeard a sizeable increase of 350 was estimated, and there were much smaller increases at Torpoint and Looe. In the St Germans Rural District there was a fall of 120 in population.

The number of live births registered during 1971 rose sharply to 855 an increase of 86 over the previous year. This produced a corrected birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 of population - some 3.1 per 1,000 above the corresponding figure for England and Wales. Of these 855 live births 64 were illegitimate births and represented 7.5% of all live births. This was one half per cent below the national figure. With an undoubted increase in sexual promiscuity, one might reasonably apprehend an increase in births of children outside wedlock. On the other hand the gradual increase and spread of knowledge about contraception, and the readier availability of abortion may more than offset the effects of sexual permissiveness and we could well see some reduction in the number of illegitimate births. The rates for still-births and for infant mortality were below those for the country as a whole. Unfortunately one 28 year old mother died during 1971 from a haemorrhage complicating childbirth.

There were 779 deaths, an increase of 11 over the total for the previous year. This yielded a corrected rate per 1,000 of population of 11.8 which was only fractionally higher than the rate for England and Wales. As is usual heart disease was responsible for the highest number of deaths, and caused 39% of all deaths. Cancer in all its forms caused 20% of all deaths, and the most lethal single form of cancer was that affecting the lung which caused 35 deaths. Of the 779 persons who died during 1971, some 373 or 49% of the total had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

The incidence of notifiable disease was again quite light during the year. In all 109 cases were notified, and apart from 4 cases of infective jaundice which can cause permanent damage to the liver, and very occasionally has a fatal outcome, none of the more serious types of notifiable disease occurred. The one case of malaria which was notified involved a young man from Nigeria, who was undergoing training in a Naval Establishment. Of the 109 cases notified, 44 were measles, 35 whooping cough and there were 18 cases of scarlet fever.

During the year 14 new cases of tuberculosis were notified a sizeable increase over the admittedly low total of 8 new cases in 1970. Of the new cases 10 were respiratory infections, and in 4 other parts of the body were involved. In 8 of the cases males were affected and 9 out of the total of 14 infections were aged 45 years or more at the time of infection. In two instances death was attributed to tuberculosis, the persons involved being a female aged 65 years, and a male aged 71 years.

In carrying out the regular annual campaign for the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination of 12 year old schoolchildren a 12 year old girl was found to have a strongly positive tuberculin reaction. Further investigation of this child and the family contacts disclosed that she and her mother were suffering from active tuberculosis, and from the condition of the mothers lungs it appeared that her infection had been present for some time and had probably been passed from her to her daughter. Some six months later a third member of the family - a boy aged 7 was found to have X-ray evidence of early tuberculosis. During 1970 of 558 schoolchildren who had their tuberculin test read, some 527 were found to need B.C.G. vaccination and were given it.

In closing this general preface I would again offer to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve my sincere thanks for the assistance and understanding I have received from them during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P.J.FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 19 new cases of tuberculosis were notified
a similar increase over the preceding year total of 5 new cases
in 1927. Of the new cases 12 were pulmonary tuberculosis, and in
7 other parts of the body were involved. In 5 of the cases males
were affected and 9 out of the total of 14 infections were aged 25 years
or more at the time of infection. In the remaining 3 cases was attributed
to pharyngeal, the patients involved being a female aged 65 years, and
a male aged 71 years.

In carrying out the regular annual campaign for the tuberculosis
League and B.C.G. vaccination of 15 year old schoolchildren a 15 year old
girl was found to have a strongly positive tuberculin reaction. Further
investigation of this child and the family contacts disclosed that she and
her mother were suffering from active tuberculosis and from the
consumption of the mother's lungs it appeared that her husband had been
prevented from doing this and had probably been away from home for
months. From the mother's father a further member of the family - a boy
aged 7 was found to have a very extensive and severe tuberculosis. During
1927 of 726 schoolchildren who had their tuberculin test made, some 527
were found to need B.C.G. vaccination and were given it.

In closing this annual report I would again like to mention and
offer to the citizens of the County District Council I want to acknowledge
for the assistance and co-operation I have received from them during the
past year.

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RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor K.J. Trewin
Councillor F.L. Mitchell

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor H.G. Preston
Councillor F.G. Saunders

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

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Mr. G.M. Lawry, A.I.A.S., A.I.H.M., M.A.P.H.I., Mun. B.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Manager.

Mr. C. Rayner,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

Mr. G.O. Cowling,
Assistant Surveyor.

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Liskeard, PL14 3DZ.

Telephone : 42379

Area of Rural District	104,803 acres
Population	14,520
Number of Inhabited Houses at 1.4.71.	5,984
Rateable Value at 31.12.71.	£376,641
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31.3.71.	£3,352.06

Vital Statistics for 1971

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	112	106	218
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :	18.0	19.1	16.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births	2	2	4
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births :	18.0	8.1	12.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths :	101	95	196

Vital Statistics for 1971 (Continued)

	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of population :	11.5	11.8	11.6

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	1	3	4

	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births :	18.0	12.9	18.0

There was one maternal death involving a 28 year old pregnant woman.

Principal Causes of Death at all Ages

Heart disease	83
Cancer (all sites)	37
Stroke	26
Respiratory disease	18
Circulatory disease	4

Allowing for 4 infant deaths there was an excess of births over deaths of 18 during the year. Of the 218 live births, 18 were illegitimate births. This represents 8.3% of all live births. The corresponding figure for the Health Area was 7.5%.

Ischaemic heart disease which arises from the cutting off of the blood supply to the heart muscle was the commonest form of fatal heart disease. Of the defined forms of cancer, that affecting the lung and windpipe was most prevalent as a cause of death and was responsible for 9 deaths.

Of those who died during 1971 some 45% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis)

With a total of 24 cases notified, the incidence of this group of diseases was light during 1971. None of the more serious forms of notifiable disease occurred during the year. The five cases of food poisoning involved the parents and three children in a family which had just moved to Cornwall from East Sussex. Just prior to moving they had given a farewell party and many of their friends who attended this party suffered from attacks of gastro-enteritis. The organism responsible was identified as Salmonella Saint-Paul, and it appears highly likely that the food which carried this infection was turkey flesh.

The following are details of cases and case rates:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population</u>	
		<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
Measles	15	1.03	0.80
Food poisoning	5	0.34	0.13
Whooping Cough	2	0.14	0.63
Scarlet Fever	1	0.07	0.33
Infective Jaundice	1	0.07	0.07

Tuberculosis

A respiratory infection involving a 53 year old man was the only case of this disease notified during 1971. No deaths were attributed to this disease.

At the end of the year there were 19 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 5 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act 1948

No action under section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply

With the great bulk of the residents receiving adequate supplies of wholesome water from the East Cornwall Water Board, concern was limited to checking small private water supplies and where necessary advising on measures to reduce or eliminate pollution of such supplies.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Even where these arrangements are largely absent or are inadequate, there is generally speaking little or no threat to the health of the community, and the pressures to provide modern methods of sewage disposal are based almost wholly on grounds of amenity and higher living standards and scarcely at all on grounds of Public Health.

With these considerations in mind the Council continued through the Consulting Engineers to plan new schemes for those parts of the Rural District lacking them, and to improve and enlarge existing schemes which have become inadequate to deal with the load placed upon them by new housing development.

Food

Generally satisfactory standards of food hygiene were maintained during the year.

In the 5 cases of food poisoning which did occur, the infection was contracted outside Cornwall by the family just prior to their move to Cornwall.

Factories Act 1961

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during 1971.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

This report by Mr. G.M. Lawry follows. My thanks are due to Mr. Lawry, Mr. Rayner and Mr. Cowling for the help I have had from them throughout 1971.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1971

Water Supply

Practically the whole of the Rural District is supplied with piped water from the treatment works of the East Cornwall Water Board at St. Cleer. The source of the supply is the River Fowey which is a very clean river and water is conveyed from St. Cleer through a network of trunk mains throughout the Rural District. The villages of Warleggan, Mount and St. Neot are not supplied from the St. Cleer source, but obtain their water supply from local springs which are also under the control of the East Cornwall Water Board. The latter has plans in hand to bring treated water from St. Cleer to these hamlets in the forthcoming year.

(1) Quality

The quality of the water supply from the East Cornwall Water Board source is very good and no complaints were received during the year. The Board's staff take regular samples and these are subjected to both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. A pH value of 7.0 is maintained and daily samples of raw and settled water are taken to ensure that this standard is maintained. The Board's staff also arrange for checks to be made for the presence of fluoride at six monthly intervals and I have received no report that any was detected.

In 1971 40 samples of water have been taken by my Department for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. There are in the Rural District many isolated farms and cottages which still do not have piped water supply and have to rely on private springs and boreholes. The quality of these supplies vary considerably and the only satisfactory method of obtaining a standard on which to work is for each source to be sampled regularly over a given period, but unfortunately due to staff problems this is not always possible. Where water supplies are found to be unsatisfactory the occupier of the premises is advised to boil and an inspection is made of the source and improved protection works are recommended and this often has the effect of improving the quality of the water.

The details of samples which have been taken during 1971 are given below:-

BOCONNOC

Philp Torr. Tap.	Satisfactory
Wilton Torr. Tap.	Satisfactory
Collings. Tap.	Satisfactory
Boconnoc. Land Spring.	Unsatisfactory
Boconnoc Estate. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
Deer Park. Land springs reservoir.	Unsatisfactory

BROADOAK

Hollycombe. Reservoir. 2 samples.	Satisfactory
Hollycombe. Reservoir.	Satisfactory
Hollycombe Road. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
Tithe Hall Farm. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
Tithe Hall Farm. Spring and reservoir.	Satisfactory

LANREATH

Tresarren Farm Cottage. Cistern.	Satisfactory
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LANSALLOS

Kitts Nest, Lansallos. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
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LINKINHORNE

Yolland, Ley. Tap.	Satisfactory
Riverside. Well.	Unsatisfactory

LISKEARD

Complaint made to Dr. Fox regarding water supply from borehole which serves Nos. 1 - 4 Boduel, Liskeard. Sample submitted for chemical analysis to Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds result of sample satisfactory. A sample for bacteriological examination was previously taken and this was also satisfactory.

Polmenna Farm.	Unsatisfactory
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MENHENIOT

Tregondale, Menheniot. Well.	Unsatisfactory
Tregondale, Menheniot. Shallow well.	Satisfactory
Great Trethew, Menheniot. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
Butterdon Mill, Merrymeet. Pump.	Unsatisfactory
Butterdon Mill, Merrymeet. Deep well tap.	Unsatisfactory

SOUTH HILL

Woodcock Well. Land Spring. 3 samples.	Satisfactory
Trenavin, South Hill. Tap.	Satisfactory
Sanctuary, Mornick. Reservoir.	Satisfactory
Trewelland Cottage, Trevigro. Cistern.	Satisfactory
Trevigro Farm, South Hill. Well.	Satisfactory

ST. CLEER

Fairway, Darite. Tap.	Satisfactory
Westminster Cottage, Rosecraddoc. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
Netherton, St. Cleer. Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory
East Dozmary. Spring.	Unsatisfactory

ST. IVE

Merryhue. Spring.	Unsatisfactory
Ashlake Farm, Reservoir.	Unsatisfactory

ST. MARTIN

Polborder Bungalow. Shallow well cistern.	Satisfactory
Bokenver. Reservoir.	Satisfactory

ST. NEOT

Netherton Farm.	Unsatisfactory
Polliscourt, Millendreath.	Satisfactory

(2) Quantity

There is no shortage of water generally in the Liskeard Rural District and this is very much in contrast to the position some twelve years ago. The mains of the East Cornwall Water Board are adequate in most of the villages, although with continuous development taking place the Board has to keep the supply of water under review.

In 1971 the Board did not take any steps to carry out fluoridation of water.

The East Cornwall Water Board has, as previously stated, taken great care to ensure that a neutral water leaves the Treatment Works and there is no danger therefore of corrosion of metal pipes in the distribution system. With regard to private sources of supply, these in this Rural District are nearly always of a very acid nature, but with the advent of plastic pipes and storage tanks problem, which was experienced a few years ago due to corrosion, is not now with us. No lead piping has been installed for many years and even in the old dwellings in the Rural District there is now not much of this material in use.

Number of Dwellings and population supplied from public mains

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Population of Parish</u>	<u>Population where water is supplied to houses</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied</u>	<u>Population supplied by standpipes</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>
Boconnoc	160	90	30	Nil	-
Broad oak	185	100	33	Nil	-
Duloe	565	502	147	Nil	-
Lanreath	350	239	76	Nil	-
Lansallos	1447	1459	481	Nil	-
Lanteglos	1118	1098	366	Nil	-
Linkinhorne	1107	761	253	Nil	-
Liskeard	1200	887	296	Nil	-
Menheniot	1155	953	324	Nil	-
Morval	527	187	63	Nil	-
Pelynt	650	546	181	Nil	-
South Hill	385	181	63	Nil	-
St. Cleer	1627	1424	475	Nil	-
St. Ive	1437	1256	443	Nil	-
St. Keyne	190	107	36	Nil	-
St. Martin	456	151	81	Nil	-
St. Neot	813	349	118	Nil	-
St. Pinnock	342	111	38	Nil	-
St. Veep	330	234	75	Nil	-
St. Winnow	385	88	30	Nil	-
Warleggan	156	112	36	Nil	-

Sewerage

During the year 1971 sewerage schemes were in hand in the villages of Henwood and Trevelmond and the works at Trevelmond were completed towards the end of the year. The village of Trevelmond has caused some concern since the 1950's when septic tanks started to overflow and several public health nuisances were constantly re-occurring. The scheme in the village of Henwood was continuing at the end of the year.

In the village of Polperro work was in hand to provide a sewerage scheme for the Killigarth area, where in addition to residential development there is a large caravan site. In addition to this the sewer through the Harbour in the village of Polperro was being enlarged.

The Council continued to view with concern the public health problem in the village of Golberdon due to the absence of a sewerage scheme and in addition to public health nuisances, which were constantly re-occurring, there was considerable hardship to old people in the village, who had to carry their sullage water in buckets some considerable distance from their cottages in order to dispose of it.

Similarly the position at Lerryn was under review by the Council where for some time efforts have been made to commence a sewerage scheme there. It is to be hoped that the schemes at Lerryn and Golberdon will be in hand during 1972.

Most of the other problems which the Council face from a sewerage point of view was due to existing works being up to or even beyond capacity following the considerable amount of unexpected development, which has taken place in the villages throughout the Rural District. Practically the whole of the sewerage schemes which had been completed during the 1950's and 1960's have now to be enlarged to some extent.

One of the problems which has had to be faced was the difficulty of drying sludge in the sludge drying beds in the various works. In addition to the practical problem of drying, considerable complaints were received from residents in the vicinity of the works due to smell nuisances from the sludge while it was drying. In many cases the sludge has had to be taken away by tanker under contract and disposed of. It was also realised that in many of the works, which would have to be enlarged, it would not be practical nor desirable to provide additional sludge drying plants and therefore the Engineers have been exploring the possibility of a sludge drying plant to be installed in the Borough of Liskeard where it would be under joint use by that Council and the Rural District Council.

Another problem which has to be faced is the great difficulty in disposing of liquid sludge in the Rural District not only from Council works but from private works. There are and there still will remain many private dwellings and farms in the Rural District with septic tanks. The Council has in my view, as a public health authority, some duty to provide facilities where the contents of these tanks can be satisfactorily disposed of. The sludge drying plant, therefore, will provide a facility for the use by the Contractors taking sludge away from private premises as well as from the Council's own works. It is now known that the disposal of human sewage sludge in a liquid form on pasture land can cause Salmonella infection in cattle and the practice is certainly not desirable.

Public Conveniences

As reported last year the greatest need for a new public convenience in the Rural District is in the village of Polperro where there is a large daily influx of visitors. In spite of its efforts the Council was unable during the year under review to obtain a suitable site. It did, however, employ a female cleaner and an additional male cleaner and during 1971 no complaints were received concerning the standard of cleanliness in the various toilets in the village. This was very gratifying indeed, particularly as it is known that the toilets are generally far too small to cope with the number of people which have to use them.

As I have said previously, the Council has been very progressive in the provision of public conveniences and most villages in the district now have a toilet block.

Public Health Nuisances

During 1970 we received considerable complaints of nuisances due to intensive agricultural farming units. It was gratifying to note that during 1971 very few complaints of this nature were in fact received.

We have not received very many complaints regarding noise nuisances in the Rural District.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The problem of unauthorised refuse dumps occurring in various parts of the Rural District was a continuing one in 1971 as it was in 1970. In the majority of cases these dumps have had to be cleared by the

Council and this has added to an already overloaded refuse collection service.

The Council considered during the year the possibility of operating a collection of hard refuse during 1972 and at the end of the year this was still under consideration. In order to make it effective it was considered that the Council would have to co-operate with its neighbours the Looe U.D.C. and Liskeard Borough Council as residents from both of these towns could be responsible for the dumping of some unwanted refuse in the Rural District.

Refuse disposal continued at the Cannonbridge central tip where one hundred per cent controlled tipping is adhered to and in the year under review the Looe U.D.C. joined the other two Authorities on tipping on this site. No public health complaints were received during the year and no evidence of rats was detected at any time on the tip.

The Polperro tip has continued for another year, but 1972 will be the real end of its use.

During 1971 a new 25 cu. yd. compression type rear loader vehicle was purchased and put into use to replace the 8 cu. yd. side loader and apart from the small vehicles at Polperro and Polruan the Council's fleet comprises of rear loaders.

One of the problems which the Council has to face in the collection of refuse, is the seasonal occupation of caravan sites by large numbers of people. We do not maintain any extra staff for this and the whole of the collection from a population up towards six thousand has to be organised with the existing staff and the existing vehicles. Fortunately, we have been able to offer a service of twice weekly collection on all the main sites and so keep them in a clean and tidy condition.

Another problem, which we are now having to face, is that many places on the isolated moorlands are being used for the accommodation of visitors in connection with pony trekking and other activities and refuse has to be collected from these premises.

During the year under review the Council bought a limited number of concrete litter bins for positioning in laybys where a considerable amount of nuisance had been caused in the past with litter. The bin contains two large metal litter containers and the entry to these is through a post box type inlet. The bins are covered and the litter does not get wet. There is sufficient capacity to contain a week's supply of litter and the nuisances that previously occurred, due to overflowing litter bins, have been eliminated in those laybys and other positions where this type of container has been fixed.

Rodent Control

The Council continued during the year to employ a full time Rodent Operator and to offer a comprehensive treatment service to farms and other premises throughout the Rural District. The Council is well aware of the importance of this service from many aspects including, not the least, from the Public Health point of view.

I am pleased to be able to report that no rat infestation has occurred in the Council's controlled refuse tip at Cannon Bridge and with the disuse of the former uncontrolled tips in the Rural District serious reservoirs of rat infestation have now been removed. A far greater number of properties have been inspected throughout the year and it is gratifying that we have had a greater use made of the service by the farmers. Publicity, which two cases of Leptospirosis Jaundice in the agricultural community received in previous years, has

certainly made the farming community well aware of the dangers of rat infestation. The Council hopes during 1972 to operate a contract service for farmers.

Details of work carried out during the year is as follows:

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	304	99
(b) Number infested: (i) Rats	173	99
(ii) Mice	14	6
(c) Total number of properties inspected for rats and for mice for reasons other than notification	397	136
(d) Number infested: (i) Rats	79	37
(ii) Mice	7	7

Re-conditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses

The following details give information of the number of Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes and the number paid during 1971 as compared with 1970.

<u>DISCRETIONARY GRANTS</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
<u>Conversions</u>		
Applications received	3	4
Owner/Occupier	-	-
Other	3	4
Amount of Grant approved	£3,983	£3,318
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	-	4
Amount paid	-	£1,306
<u>Improvements</u>		
Applications received	34	9
Owner/Occupier	25	7
Other	8	2
Amount of Grant approved	£27,415	£6,972
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	18	8
Amount paid	£9,065	£5,318

STANDARD GRANTS19711970

Applications received	42	39
Application approved - Owner/Occupier -		
Normal Limit	18	10
Higher Limit	10	13
Other -		
Normal Limit	12	5
Higher Limit	12	11
Housing Associations	-	-
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	33	41
Amount paid	£6,038	£6,427
Amenities provided - Fixed baths or showers	29	37
Wash basins	27	39
Hot water supplies	32	38
Water Closets ..	29	32
Sinks	11	15
Grants paid above but including higher limit		
No. of dwellings	14	16
Additional work - Bathrooms added ..	6	6
Piped water supplies ..	1	0
Septic tanks	7	11

In this year's report I have shown comparable figures for 1971 and 1970. It is interesting to note that in the case of Discretionary Grants 34 applications were received in 1971 compared with 9 in 1970. The number of Standard Grants received shows a slight increase. This is the first year when the 75% grant (or a maximum of £1,500) was given. The amount of Discretionary Grant approved this year was £27,415 compared with £6,972 in 1970. With the number of applications now being received this number will show a far greater increase in 1972.

The Council has continued its policy, which it has adopted since 1949 of encouraging the improvement of the dwellings in its district with the aid of House Improvement Grants.

If one visits the various villages in the Rural District the effect of House Improvement Grants are now very evident and I can say from my own experience that the standard of housing in the villages is now far higher than it was some 19 years ago when I joined this Council as an employee.

The Council continued its policy of purchasing and modernising dwellings in villages which owners were not prepared or able to do themselves. In 1971 four cottages were purchased and improved. The dwellings after improvement were placed on the Council's housing stock for normal lettings. The cottages very often in the centre of a village are very popular.

Slum Clearance

The position is the same as I reported in 1970 in that with the ever increasing value of even derelict cottages, slum clearance procedure has not been proceeded with again this year. The demand for these cottages is now very great and people are prepared to pay high sums of money for them and to spend what appears to be an unlimited amount in modernising and bringing them up to a very high standard. In view of this it is fair to say that there are very few houses left in the Rural District which will have to be demolished over the next few years.

The action taken in 1971 is as follows:-

Unfit houses made fit	52
Unfit houses closed	1
Persons displaced	3
Families displaced	1
Number of houses demolished	-

Swimming Pools

The six swimming pools which were in operation in the Rural District in the previous year continued to be used during 1971. Visits were made to each of the pools and samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and in no case did we receive any adverse reports. In addition checks were made on the residual chlorine content and in each case this was satisfactory.

Caravans and Camping Sites

During the year under review the Cornwall County Council continued its efforts to purchase land at Fore Down for the establishment of a gypsy camping site. The matter at the time of writing this report is in the hands of the District Valuer who is negotiating with the owners and Commoners on behalf of the Cornwall County Council. It is to be hoped that before the end of next year this site will be well established.

One of the matters which received attention during the year was the granting of additional Planning permissions for touring caravans. These were given on a somewhat temporary basis and the appropriate Site Licences were issued. The position regarding the number of sites in the Rural District is as follows:-

- 34 Residential sites with licences for 91 caravans
- 25 Sites with licences for 1271 holiday caravans
- 11 Sites with licences for 619 motorised caravans and tents
- 3 Sites with licences for 250 tents

There was an extension of the residential caravan site at Trelawne and the appropriate licence was granted for this.

In addition six premises were registered with the Caravan Club and obtained Certificates for the use of land for not more than five caravans at one time.

The inspection of caravan and camping sites is a very important aspect of public health work in the Liskeard Rural District and the considerable influx of population in the Rural District is largely accommodated in these sites. Most of the sites are now equipped with all the amenities including swimming pools, shops, restaurants, etc., and in addition to the camping and caravan sites themselves the inspection of the other premises takes up a considerable amount of the Public Health Inspectors time.

Food

(1) Slaughterhouses

Once again I have to report that there are no slaughterhouses in the Rural District and the position continues where most of the meat consumed is obtained from the abattoir situated within the Borough of Liskeard. The meat is inspected by a full time Meat Inspector and the standard of meat supplied to the Rural District is therefore very high. During routine visits to butcher's shops in the Rural District under the Food Hygiene Regulations an opportunity is taken to inspect meat on display and in the refrigerators. No meat had to be condemned during the year.

(2) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

Very little difficulty is experienced with the standard of hygiene in the various village shops in the Rural District. The only problem which we have to deal with is requiring decoration from time to time and this does present difficulties for the proprietors, when most of the stock is packed on shelves attached to the walls. In many cases now some of the larger village shops have been converted to the self service principle. Most of the food is pre-packed or canned and there is very little danger of contamination of food in these shops.

The greatest difficulty which we experience in the administration of these Regulations is in connection with the restaurants and cafes which open only during the Summer season. Most of these premises are situated in the village of Polperro and the proprietors have to operate under very cramped conditions and I am, therefore, pleased to be able to report that during the inspections made during 1971 the standard of hygiene was found in all cases to be satisfactory. The proprietors also experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining seasonal staff and as these people vary from season to season it is virtually impossible to undertake any food hygiene education, other than that which can be given during the routine visits to the premises.

One aspect of food hygiene which does concern me is the danger of raw meat coming into contact with cooked foods by people handling it or using the same knife for cutting the two commodities. The danger of this often occurs in butcher's shops where in addition to selling raw meat, cooked meat is sold in the same counter. We have had to spend some time in restaurants explaining to food handlers that it is essential that all hands and knives are thoroughly washed after handling raw meat.

There was a slight increase in the number of food premises in the Rural District and the figures are given on the following page:-

	No.	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises where Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers' Shops	64	64	30	30
Confectionery	6	6	-	-
Licensed Premises	35	35	35	35
Cafes and Restaurants	45	45	45	45
Butchers	15	15	15	15
Hotels and Guest Houses	28	28	28	28
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Greengrocers	1	1	-	-
Clubs	7	7	7	7
Food Factory	1	1	1	1
Bulk Food Store	1	1	-	-

(3) Market Stall and Delivery Vehicle Regulations 1966

I find the enforcement of these Regulations very difficult in the Rural District. With vehicles travelling into the area from the adjoining towns it is impossible to keep a check on the proprietors of these vehicles. It is known that some twelve Grocers, fourteen Butchers, and three Wet Fish Vendors are operating delivery vehicles in the Rural District, but I would not be in a position to say that these were the only ones who do sell. It has been noticed recently that many people are setting up greengrocery rounds and some of these do not continue in business very long. The enforcement of these Regulations is therefore somewhat difficult but we certainly do our best to ensure that a reasonable standard of hygiene is maintained.

(4) Examination of Food

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to food premises and on the request from retailers. During the year under review the following food stuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

40 tins of fruit	8 tins Pilchards
1 tin Rice Pudding	1 tin Beans
1 tin Junior Lamb Dinner	1 tin London Grill
2 tins Stock Pot	1 tin Minced Beef with Onions
1 tin Pork Shoulder	4 tins Giant Corn
4 tins Soup	1 tin Steak
1 tin Peas	1 tin Pressure Packed Gammon
8 lbs. Cooked Gammon	

(5) Milk and Dairies Regulations

There are five registered dairies in the Rural District but no bottling of milk takes place in any of these.

The Cornwall County Council during the year took 4 samples of pasteurised milk and 1 sample of ultra heat treated milk and 1 sample of untreated milk. In all cases the results were satisfactory.

Complaints are sometimes received of foreign matters being in the milk bottles and in most cases I have been convinced that it is not due to any lack of attention by the Dairy Staff in the bottling plant but is purely one of these human errors which is bound to crop up in an industry of that size.

(6) Ice Cream

During 1971 forty-two samples of ice cream and six samples of ice lollies were taken and were graded as follows:-

	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Ice cream	7	15	15	5
Ice Lollies	6			

It was disappointing to find such a high number of samples taken in Provisional Grade 3. There is still the problem of the cleanliness of servers which obtain contamination from the water in which they are kept and in addition the constant opening of the conservators enables dust to blow in onto loose ice cream. Visits are made to the various premises where unsatisfactory samples are taken and these points are discussed.

(7) Egg Pasteurisation Plants

There are no Egg Pasteurisation Plants in the Rural District.

(8) Poultry Inspection

There are no known poultry processing premises in the Rural District, but whenever routine visits are made to butcher's shops, etc., the inspection of poultry on display is always carried out.

Council and Private Housing

(1) Council Housing

During 1971 thirty-eight Council dwellings were completed.

The Council continued its policy of providing distress warning systems in old people's bungalows and such systems are now operating in nine villages.

At the end of the year under review, the Council owned 884 dwellings

(2) Private Housing

During 1971 one hundred and sixty-four new dwellings were completed.

Holiday Accommodation

During the Summer of 1971 complaints continued to be received from people renting holiday cottages, flats and chalets in the Rural District. Many of these complaints were not matters which could be dealt with by a Public Health Department and most of them were reported to the Cornwall County Council for the attention of the Weights and Measures Inspector under the Trade Description Act. From the public health aspect the complaints usually follow the pattern of dirty bedding and floors and damp walls in the cottages. Very seldom on investigation is the complaint confirmed and one feels that it is made for some other reason than that of genuine public health concern.

Factories Act, 1961

In a Rural District of this nature there are not a large number of factory premises. The factories that are registered are mainly small ones and include amongst them such premises as builder's workshops and places where building operations are carried out. At the time of

writing the report there are 173 premises on the Register and 201 visits were made to them. Four offences were found during routine visits and these were remedied. In the case of one a written notice had to be served.

Over the years the various factory premises have provided adequate and satisfactory sanitary conveniences. Where mechanic power is used the local authority is only responsible for the provision of sanitary conveniences.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 - REPORT FOR 1971

The number of premises which needed to be registered showed a slight reduction over the 1970 period. This is due to some proprietors employing only members of their own family and being then exempted from the provision of the Act.

Again as I mentioned in my last report there is a particular problem in this district in administering the Act as so many premises are open for the Summer period only.

The conditions generally existing in the premises in this district are as follows:-

Cleanliness (Section 4)

Cleanliness does not seem to be one of our major problems, but it is necessary from time to time to make inspections to ensure that the standard is maintained. This is usually at the height of the Summer season when business is at a peak level.

Overcrowding (Section 5)

No overcrowding has been either detected or reported to me.

Temperature (6) Ventilation (7)

Heating and ventilation continue to be satisfactory. No complaints have been made to this department but provision is being made at two Catering establishments for the improvement of extraction over cooking equipment.

Thermometers are checked at inspections and in no case were conditions found that were below the statutory minimum.

Lighting (Section 8)

Testing for illumination is carried out and other than the odd electric light bulb failure no defective lighting was found. No complaints were received, but some inconvenience did occur during the power cuts at the beginning of the year.

Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9) & Washing Facilities (Section 10)

Most registered properties have their own facilities, but some very small premises, where it is otherwise impractical to provide their own W.C. are sharing this facility in a neighbouring building.

Floors, Passages and Steps (Section 16)

One accident occurred on steps in a Hotel this year. On investigation it was found that while the stairs were steeper than would now be permitted under modern practice they were reasonable and quite sound and possessed a handrail. Both management and the person

involved in the accident agreed that the real fault lay in the type of shoe which the girl was wearing at that time. (The shoe being a modern, clumsy, semi-high, thick heeled type).

It was again necessary to remind staff in two premises about storing material on stairways. Regretfully this seems to be a common occurrence which I am afraid will continue due to the nature of the bulk of our premises.

Dangerous Machines (Section 17, 18 and 19)

No real trouble is experienced in this district with the use of dangerous machinery. I think the staff of these premises are aware that machines such as cutters can be dangerous and I am pleased to report that no accident of this type has come to my notice throughout the year. The leaflet "The Safe Use of Food Slicing Machines" (S.H.W.14) was useful as a means of consolidating what people who use these machines are generally aware of.

First Aid (Section 24)

This equipment is available at all premises, but from time to time we have to ask for replacements owing to deterioration and misplacement.

Abstract of the Act

Initially all premises possessed a copy of this publication, but again this is an item which is so easily lost from year to year and some pressing has to be undertaken to persuade management to obtain new copies.

Accidents

Apart from the accident reported under Section 16 no other accident has been reported to this department during the year.

Again I feel that I must point out the difficulties experienced by this department in trying to control a fluctuating working population like we have in this district. In previous reports I have mentioned the nature of the business structure in this part of the world and the itinerate nature of the people who work in the bulk of them. This state still exists.

The following items were attended to during 1971:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Item</u>
2	New water closets
1	Wash hand basins
2	Hot water supplies
10	Decoration

I have no real adverse comments to make in respect of the administration of the Act during the year.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE "A"

Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of Premises registered during the year</u>	<u>Total number of registered premises at end of year</u>	<u>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</u>
Offices	-	9	9
Retail Shops	1	39	39
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	27	27
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1

TABLE "B"

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

132

TABLE "C"

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	23
Retail Shops	82
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	108
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	218
Total Males	61
Total Females	157

TABLE "D"

Exemptions

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

TABLE "F"

Inspectors

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act 3

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961PART 1 OF THE ACT

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

		Number of		
<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ‡	26	32	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	55	60	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding outworkers' premises)	92	109	Nil	Nil
Total	173	201	1	Nil

‡ To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1961, 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 123(1)), Institutions (Section 124), sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127), Slaughterhouses (Section 175 (1) (d) and (e)), and Railway Running Sheds (Section 175 (2) and (10)).

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

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

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions 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	-	-	-
Over crowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventliation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Section 133

Section 134

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel. Making, etc., cleaning and washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

APPENDIX 1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1971

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	86	83	42	20	38	33	302
Cancer(all sites)	44	37	30	15	14	16	156
Stroke	31	26	14	4	29	7	111
Respiratory disease	22	18	15	3	5	10	73
Circulatory disease	7	4	8	8	3	3	33
Accidents	7	3	2	4	2	2	20
Digestive disease	5	3	2	-	1	-	11
Genito-urinary disease	3	2	3	-	1	1	10

APPENDIX 2

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1971

TYPE OF DISEASE	St. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.E.	HEALTH AREA No. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	64	65	37	15	35	24	240
Hypertensive disease	6	9	1	-	1	1	18
Rheumatic heart disease	-	2	1	1	1	1	6
Other heart disease	16	7	3	4	1	7	38
Cancer of Lung / Bronchus	7	9	10	4	3	2	35
Cancer of Intestine	6	7	6	1	1	3	24
Cancer of stomach	3	3	4	3	1	3	17
Cancer of breast	4	4	2	-	1	1	12
Cancer of uterus	3	1	-	1	2	-	7
Leukaemia	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Other cancers	18	13	8	5	6	5	55

APPENDIX 3

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST.GERMANS R.D.	3	3	7	43	60	107	223
LISKEARD.R.D.	5	3	8	39	53	88	196
SALTASH M.B.	4	-	3	27	41	54	129
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	6	14	18	18	56
LISKEARD M.B.	1	-	1	11	26	61	100
LOOE U.D.	-	-	3	13	14	45	75
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	13	6	28	147	212	373	779

NEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 - 1971

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 YEARS	-	-	-
5 - 14 YEARS	1	2	3
15 - 24 YEARS	-	-	-
25 - 44 YEARS	1	1	2
45 - 64 YEARS	5	-	5
65 YEARS AND OVER	1	3	4
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New Case rate per 1,000 of population	0.145	0.109	0.254

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1971

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMAN'S R.D.	0.19	1.39	0.07
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.65	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.10	2.11	0.10
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.42	-
LISKEARD M.B.	0.95	4.19	-
LOOE U.D.	0.49	2.72	-
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.25	1.96	0.04
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.16	2.20	0.04

APPENDIX 5CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUSDEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
25 - 34 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	2	3
55 - 64 years	7	1	8
65 - 74 years	12	2	14
75 and over	8	1	9
	<u>29</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>35</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 of POPULATION - 1971

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.525	0.109	0.634
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.395	0.114	0.509
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.516	0.114	0.630



