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URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

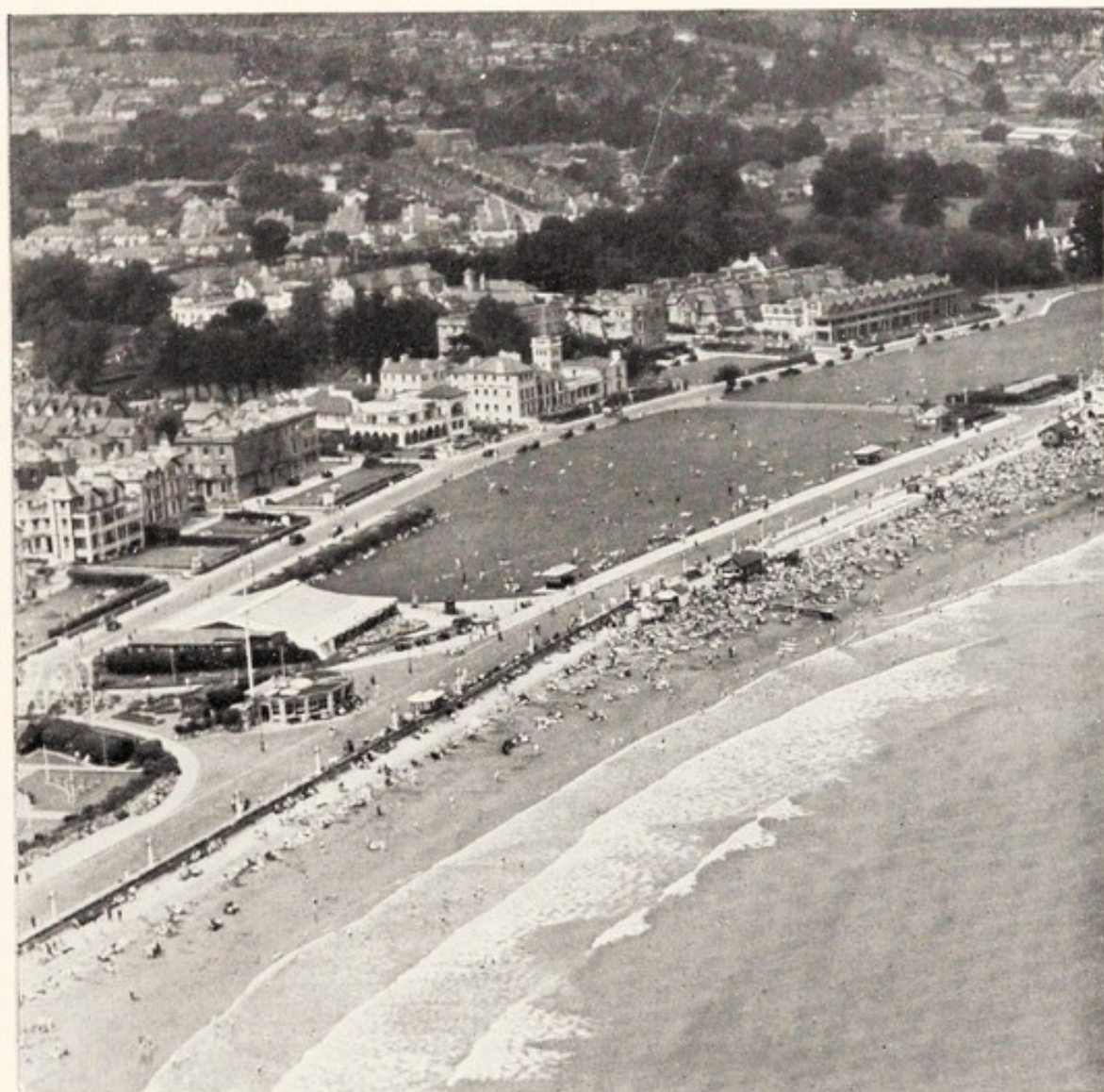
AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1954

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AERIAL VIEW OF PAIGNTON



OLDWAY MANSION — PAIGNTON CIVIC CENTRE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
OLDWAY, PAIGNTON

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954 presented in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

With regard to the vital statistics, there are only two or three items which are of significance and which require comment. Firstly, there was an increase in the number of still-births compared with the previous year. Although the actual number is small, 11 in 1954 as compared with 6 in 1953, it means that the still-birth rate was 42 per thousand live and still-births, which is nearly double the national rate of 24. However, on the credit side, the infant mortality rate in 1954 was 19.92 per thousand live births, which is the lowest ever recorded in Paignton, and compares well with the figure for the country as a whole, which is 25.5 per thousand live births. The total number of deaths in the year was 398, compared with 420 in 1953. The crude death rate was 15.68 per thousand population compared with 16.64 in 1953, whilst the adjusted death rate (making allowance for the large numbers of old people) was only 9.25 which compares favourably with the national death rate of 11.3.

The incidence of infectious diseases was not high during 1954, there being only 73 cases of notifiable disease. Of these, 36 were cases of whooping cough, and 19 were cases of tuberculosis. The figure for whooping cough is not high, comparing with 66 in the previous year, but the tuberculosis figure shews an increase, as there were only 9 cases of tuberculosis notified in 1953 and only 6 in 1952. This does not necessarily mean that there is more tuberculosis in the community, but that the diagnostic and case-finding methods of the chest physician, already of a high standard, show further advances. Two of the most important of their methods, are the mass miniature radiography units, which can X-ray the chests of large numbers of people both quickly and cheaply, and the jelly-testing of school-children which is being done in Paignton by the school health service of the County Council. All school entrants have this test, which shews whether they have been in contact with the bacteria which cause tuberculosis.

During December, there was an outbreak of influenza, fortunately of a mild type, but this caused a great deal of ill-health, and absence from work and school. This disease is not notifiable, and there are consequently no exact figures of the number of cases.

In August, the Housing Repair and Rents Act came into force. This important statute is welcomed as it enables slum clearance to be resumed, and the reconditioning of unfit houses. We are fortunate in Paignton, however, in that we have very little slum property which will require to be dealt with under this Act.

The inspection and supervision of food forms an important part of the work of a Public Health Department, and more especially in a holiday resort, where holidaymakers are given to consuming large quantities of highly perishable foodstuffs such as ice cream, whelks and crab-meat. There are seven ice cream manufacturing premises and 75 shops where ice cream is sold in Paignton. Shellfish are prepared in four factories and can be bought at 11 shops and stalls. Details of the control of these foodstuffs will be found further on in this report.

With the derationing of meat in July, 1954, the department took over control of slaughtering once again at the Council's own abattoir. Shortly after this the slaughterhouse at Crown and Anchor Way was purchased by the Council, so that now all the facilities for slaughtering in Paignton are controlled by the Council through the health department.

During the period from 1st January, until I took up my duties on 17th May, 1954, Dr. J. V. A. Simpson, Medical Officer of Health of Torquay, acted as your Medical Officer of Health, and I should like to express my appreciation of his assistance, and also of the spirit of goodwill and friendly co-operation which characterises the very happy relationship between the health departments of Paignton and Torquay. I should also like to record my appreciation of the encouragement and support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee. I count myself fortunate, too, in having the loyal and efficient help of the staff of the Public Health Department, and to them also I would convey my gratitude.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MacTAGGART

STAFF

MEDICAL

D. K. MacTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

Medical Officer of Health.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Brixham U.D.C. and Borough of Dartmouth, and Assistant County Medical Officer, Devon County Council.)

Appointed 17th May, 1954.

SANITARY

S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector.

Housing Officer, Explosives and Petroleum Officer.

W. D. MUGFORD, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector.

F. C. BIDGOOD, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL

H. B. BOND

MISS N. HART

MISS R. M. HARRIS

OTHER

C. J. TURPIN, Disinfector.

A. L. DOHERTY, Rodent Operator.

I. J. WILLIAMS, Abattoir Attendant.

Appointed 12th July, 1954.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—

Area (Acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,188
Area of pleasure grounds—	349.024 acres						
Area of foreshore	151.300 acres						
Coastline 4.58 miles, of which 3.66 miles of foreshore are owned by the Council.							
Population—(Census, 1931)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18,414
Population—(Census, 1951)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,369
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1954 (mid-year)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,390
Number of inhabited houses, 1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,683
Rateable value, 31st December, 1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£269,144
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate, 1954/55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1,070

Population

The Report of the 1951 Census for the County of Devon has now been received. This shews that the population of Paignton at the date of the Census was 25,553 of which 10,750 were males, and 14,803 were females. The following table gives more detailed information about the population and its age and sex distribution.

TABLE 1 PAIGNTON U.D.

		Total Population		Married only	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Total	.....	10,750	14,803	6,504	6,778
Marital Condition :					
Single	.....	3,718	5,709		
Married	.....	6,504	6,778	6,504	6,778
Widowed	.....	479	2,178		
Divorced	.....	49	138		
Age last birthday :					
0—4	.....	791	765		
5—9	.....	668	684		
10—14	.....	680	657		
15—19	.....	520	669	2	26
20—24	.....	462	641	120	275
25—29	.....	580	753	402	532
30—34	.....	626	731	508	584
35—39	.....	740	987	654	768
40—44	.....	857	1,043	777	786
45—49	.....	837	1,106	756	786
50—54	.....	716	1,110	652	741
55—59	.....	670	1,094	613	635
60—64	.....	687	1,160	614	575
65—69	.....	681	1,127	577	469
70—74	.....	566	989	415	350
75—79	.....	408	705	274	177
80—84	.....	186	376	106	59
85—89	.....	61	154	29	14
90—94	.....	13	44	5	1
95 and over	.....	1	8	—	—

Density of Population

The distribution of the population throughout Paignton is given in the following table.

TABLE 2

Wards	Acreage	1931 Census		1951 Census	
		Persons	Persons	Males	Females
Central	86	2,363	2,738	1,132	1,606
East	283	3,108	3,065	1,176	1,889
North	928	5,495	7,919	3,216	4,703
South	1,785	4,501	5,234	2,213	3,021
West	2,107	2,947	6,597	3,013	3,584

From this it can be seen that whilst the populations of the Central, East and South Wards are much the same, or shew slight gains, in the last twenty years, the big increase in residential population has taken place in the North and West Wards.

The density of the population is also of interest and the following table shews the number of persons per acre, the number of houses per acre, and the number of persons per room in these dwellings.

TABLE 3

		Persons Per Acre	Houses Per Acre	Persons Per Room
Devon .....	.....	0.5	0.12	0.69
Paignton Wards				
Central .....	.....	31.8	10.30	0.61
East .....	.....	10.8	2.20	0.55
North .....	.....	8.5	2.70	0.57
South .....	.....	2.9	0.90	0.63
West .....	.....	3.1	0.90	0.71

Social Conditions

The chief industries of Paignton are those connected with the catering trade and the building trade. This reflects the character of the town in its increasing popularity as a holiday resort and a residential district.

Some indication of the size of the catering industry in Paignton can be obtained from the fact that there are approximately 600 boarding houses, 18 unlicensed and 11 licensed hotels in the town. There are also 38 cafes and 313 other food shops.

The inhabitants of Paignton live in a good environment ; the general state of housing is good, and there is little unemployment.

The main social problem of the district concerns old people living on their own. Between the natural longevity of the local population, and the influx of persons who come to live in Paignton on retirement, the number of old people in the district is very high.

The table opposite shows the total number of people over 65 years of age, and the percentage of such people in the total population, in Paignton, and also in certain other boroughs and districts, for comparison.

The problem comes about when these old people in the course of time become infirm and unable to look after themselves. Many of them find their way into hospitals, although suffering from no disease, many continue to live on their own, often in hardship, loneliness and insanitary circumstances, often bedridden and tended by another almost equally frail. Some are fortunate enough to receive help from that most worthy and energetic organisation—the Paignton Council of Social Service. A few obtain admittance to County Council Old People's Homes in other areas.

These are matters of concern to the Public Health Department, and we do all we can to help within the limits we are empowered. The real solution to the problem is the establishment of an Old People's Home in Paignton, where these people can live and be cared for, close to their familiar surroundings and friends. The need for such a home must be dictated by the numbers of old people in the area, and with regard to this it is interesting to refer once again to the table above-mentioned. The towns selected for comparison with Paignton, were chosen by reason of the fact that they are the sites of County Council Old People's Homes. There you will see that only in the Borough of Torquay are there a greater actual number of people over 65 years of age, and only in the Urban District of Seaton are there a greater proportion of the population over this age. Indeed, our neighbour Torquay, is very fortunate in that there, there are three old people's homes ; one completely financed by the County Council, and the other two receiving contributions from them.

Paignton's needs are already known to the County Council, and we now have every hope that these needs will be met in the not too distant future.

TABLE 4

Table of Numbers of Persons over 65 years of age in Paignton and certain other districts in the County of Devon

	Paignton	Torquay	Newton Abbot	Ashburton	Kingsbridge	Exmouth	Seaton	Okehampton
Total population	25,553	53,281	16,403	2,705	3,153	17,222	2,903	3,899
Number of persons over 65 years	5,319	9,522	2,359	405	416	3,434	676	565
Number of persons over 65 years per 100 popula- tion	20.8%	17.9%	14.4%	14.4%	13.2%	19.9%	23.3%	14.5%

3—

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

				Male	Female	Total
Live Births	.....	.....	.....	126	125	251
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	120	122	242
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	6	3	9
Stillbirths	.....	.....	.....	7	4	11
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	6	4	10
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	1	0	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	.....					9.89
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	.....					0.43
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	.....					23.5
Area Comparability Factor—Births	.....					1.24
Corrected Birth Rate	.....	.....	.....			12.26
				Male	Female	Total
Deaths	.....	.....	.....	179	219	398
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	.....					15.68
Area Comparability Factor—Deaths	.....					0.59
Corrected Death Rate	.....	.....	.....			9.25
				Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	.....			2	3	5
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	2	3	5
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	0	0	0
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :						
All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....			19.92
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....					19.92
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....			63
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)						1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....			0

Births

The Birth Rate in Paignton was 9.89 per 1,000 population compared with a Birth Rate of 15.2 for England and Wales as a whole. This disparity reflects the large proportion of old people in the population of Paignton. But even when allowance is made, by a special technique, for the large numbers in the higher age groups, it still gives Paignton a Birth Rate of only 12.26 which still compares unfavourably with the national figure.

The number of still-births in Paignton gives cause for concern. There were 11 still-births in 1954 giving a Still-Birth Rate of 42 per 1,000 total births, which is nearly double the national figure of 24 per 1,000 total births. The causes of this are at present being investigated by the Department, and a report will be made when this is completed.

Deaths

The number of deaths registered during the year was 398 which gives a Crude Death Rate of 15.68 per 1,000 population. This compares with 16.64 in 1953, and is the lowest since 1948. The Death Rate in 1954 for England and Wales was 11.3. This difference is again caused by the high proportion of old people in Paignton as compared with the country as a whole. As mentioned previously it is possible to allow for the age and sex distributions of different populations by the special technique of "standardisation," this allows one to compare more accurately the mortality experiences of one place with another. In the case of Paignton the Standardised Death Rate is 9.25 which compares favourably with the Death Rate of England and Wales as a whole.

The Chief causes of death in Paignton are those which one would expect in a predominantly old population: Heart disease, 161; Vascular lesions of the nervous system (Strokes), 79; Cancer, 63. These three causes together accounted for 76% of all the deaths in Paignton.

Tables

Table 5 shews the vital statistics for Paignton for the last 18 years for comparison purposes. Table 6 the causes of death in Paignton, and the graph illustrates the course of the various birth and death rates since 1937.

TABLE 5 VITAL STATISTICS — URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON 1937—1954

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Estimated Population	21400	21910	23130	26960	30710	26210	23750	24420	24310	25300	25610	25450	25390	25570	25369	25060	25240	25390
Live Births	233	254	240	254	305	365	289	354	340	366	400	307	271	304	240	269	249	251
Still Births	11	8	4	7	4	11	7	8	4	15	7	7	6	7	5	6	6	11
Birth Rate per 1000 Population	10.90	11.59	10.39	8.75	9.93	13.92	12.16	14.49	13.99	14.46	15.62	12.06	10.67	11.49	9.48	10.73	9.87	9.89
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total births	33.82	30.53	12.34	26.82	12.96	29.25	23.40	22.09	11.62	38.81	17.19	22.29	21.66	22.51	20.83	21.81	42.31	42.00
Standardised Birth Rate *	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.52	9.49	11.69	12.26
Deaths	336	309	350	400	439	439	413	428	411	412	411	396	439	431	461	404	420	398
Death Rate per 1000 Population	15.70	14.10	15.14	14.83	14.29	16.74	17.38	17.52	16.49	16.28	16.05	15.56	17.29	16.86	18.22	16.12	16.64	15.68
Standardised Death Rate †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.07	10.78	11.66	10.31
Infant Deaths	5	15	5	8	14	14	12	13	14	16	12	9	6	10	4	7	6	5
Infant Mortality Rate	21.50	59.10	20.83	31.49	38.14	38.35	41.52	36.72	41.18	43.71	30.00	29.32	22.14	32.89	16.60	26.02	24.10	19.92

* No Comparability Factor available for births for the years 1937—1949.

† No Comparability Factor available for deaths for the years 1937—1948.

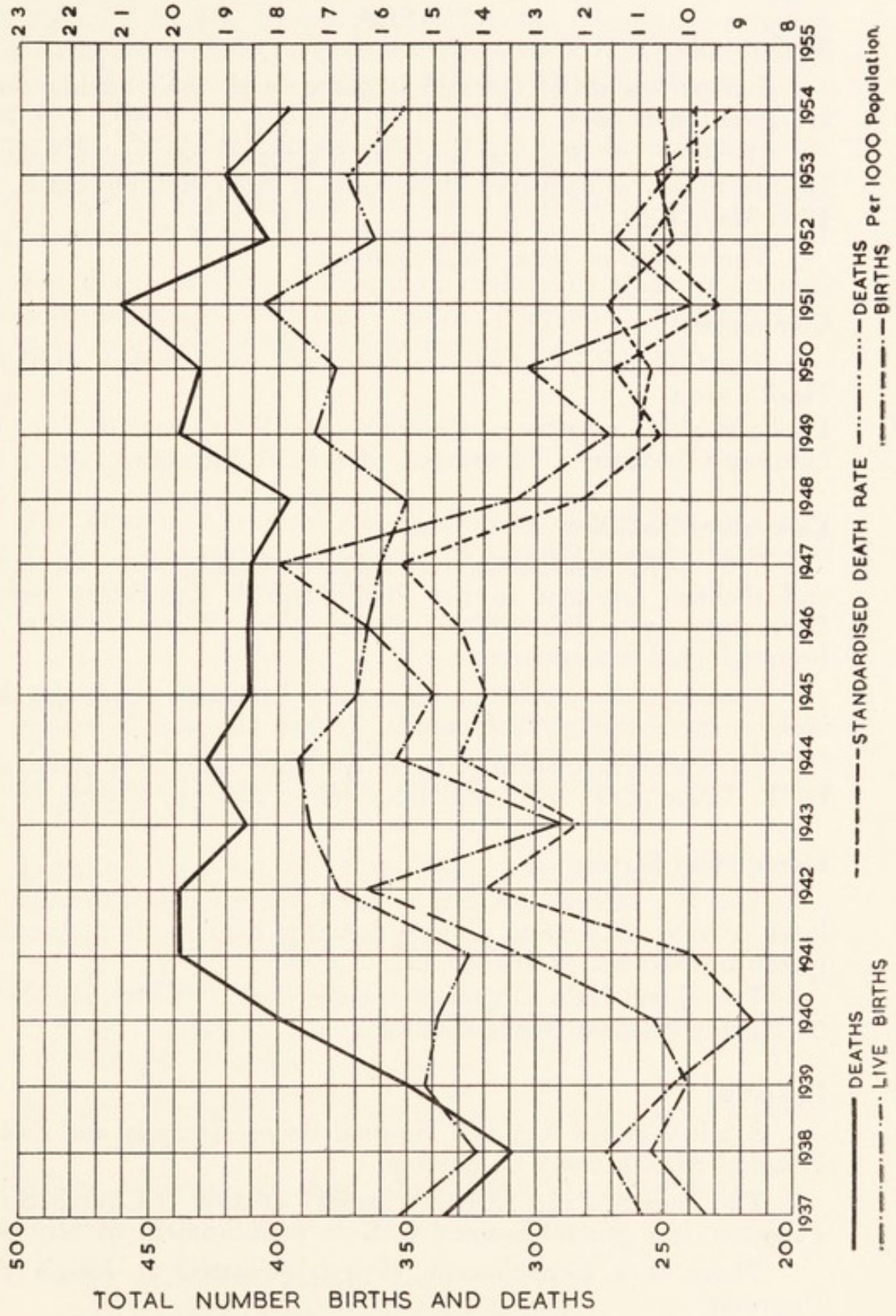
TABLE 6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954

					Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	.....	0	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	.....	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	.....	0	0
4	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	0	0
5	Whooping cough	.....	.....	.....	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	.....	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	0	0
8	Measles	.....	.....	.....	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	.....	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	.....	4	4
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	.....	2	3
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	.....	0	9
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	.....	0	7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	18	16
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	.....	.....	.....	0	0
16	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	.....	26	53
18	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	.....	32	17
19	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	.....	6	3
20	Other heart disease	.....	.....	.....	35	58
21	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	.....	5	5
22	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	0	3
23	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	2	6
24	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	6	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	2	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	.....	3	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	0	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	.....	7	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	.....	11	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	.....	0	1
31	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	.....	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	15	16
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	.....	1	0
34	All other accidents	.....	.....	.....	2	3
35	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	1	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	.....	0	0
All causes					179	219

PAIGNTON 1937—1953

BIRTHS AND DEATHS PER 1000 POPULATION AND STANDARDISED DEATH RATE



SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff

Full particulars of the staff, together with their qualifications, are given on page 3.

Dr. J. V. A. Simpson acted as temporary Medical Officer of Health from 1st January, 1954, until I took up my duties on 17th May, 1954.

There were no other staff changes.

Committees

The Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are :

Public Health Committee. Chairman—G. W. Cornelius, Esq., J.P.
Housing Committee. Chairman—Mrs. E. A. Flemons.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens, and samples of milk, water, ice cream and shellfish are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service Laboratory at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel. Exeter 54959), for bacteriological examination.

Specimens for clinical pathology and bacteriology are also dealt with at the Pathology Laboratory, Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by T. Tickle, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, Exeter.

Home Help Service

This is a service provided by the County Council through the local W.V.S. It aims to provide domestic help where required by reason of sickness, pregnancy, etc.

The Home Help Organiser for the district is Mrs. R. Marles, 61 Higher Polsham Road, Paignton.

Hospitals

South-Western Regional Hospital Board. Torquay and District Hospital Management Committee.

The Paignton and District Hospital situated at Church Street, Paignton, is a general hospital with an establishment of fifty beds.

There is a Convalescent Hospital situated at King's Ash, Paignton.

The district is mainly served for general cases by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay ; whilst cases of infectious disease are received at the Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

Ambulance Services

This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section), "Ivybank," 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 4051). Paignton possesses one Ambulance Station out of the 33 Stations and Posts in the Administrative County. The Station is situated at Mill Yard, Littlegate Road, Paignton (Tel. No. Paignton 57602 by day, and Paignton 59922 by night). There are four full-time drivers and three Ambulances. The local administration of the Station and the executive work are carried out by the Paignton St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council.

For infectious disease (other than smallpox) ambulance arrangements are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (Torquay 63276) for cases entering the Hospital from the Paignton area.

Hospital Car Service

The Hospital Car Service (organised by the S.J.A.B., B.R.C.S. and W.V.S.) operates under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council for sitting cases.

Nursing in the Home

This service is provided by the Health Authority (Devon County Council), the following Nurses carrying out their duties in the Paignton District :

Q.N.M.—Miss Smith, 45 Barnfield Road, Paignton.
Tel. No. 82811.

Q.D.N.—Miss Wolland, 23 Hillside Road, Paignton.
Tel. No. 57632.

D.N.M.—Nurse Clarke, 10b Woodland Park, Paignton.
Tel. No. 59586.

D.N.M.—Nurse Hill, 6 Oyster Bend, Three Beaches, Paignton.
Tel. No. 57134.

F.T.M.—Nurse Harwood, "Sunridge," Dunstone Park,
Paignton. Tel. No. 58158.

Q.N.M.—Queen's Nurse Midwife.

Q.D.N.—Queen's District Nurse.

D.N.M.—District Nurse Midwife.

F.T.M.—Full-time Midwife.

Nurseries

There are two Nurseries in the District. One, a Resident Nursery, is run privately by Miss Hooper, and situated at 5 Roundham Road, Paignton (Tel. No. 57672). The second Nursery is a Day Nursery, situated at the rear of Lower Polsham Road, and is administered by the Paignton Council of Social Service. The Superintendent is Mrs. J. Bewley.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

(i) School Health—Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton.

Special medical inspections and treatment of minor ailments are carried out at the Clinic on Thursday mornings during school term.

Ophthalmic—Oculist : Dr. Hutton. The clinic is held twice monthly on Monday mornings.

Dental—It is regretted to have to report that Dr. House, the school dentist, died during the year. The clinic continues to function on Mondays and Fridays, with a temporary dentist.

(ii) Ante-Natal Clinic

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton, twice monthly on Friday afternoons, and Relaxation Clinic on Monday afternoons.

Health Visitors

There are two Health Visitors for the district—Miss M. M. Thain and Miss C. C. Forbes, who are on the staff of the County Council Medical Department.

They have a very wide scope in their work, as they advise on health matters affecting the family as a whole, and not solely in connection with babies, infants and school children.

Mental Health

The responsibility for the investigation, supervision of cases, and other action under the Lunacy, Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts and Regulations, rests upon two duly authorised officers.

They are Miss O. F. Evans, who deals with female cases, and Mr. W. J. Gliddon, who deals with the males. Their headquarters are at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/51

The local authority carrying the responsibility for the implementation of the portions of this Act relating to accommodation for the disabled and aged, temporary accommodation for persons who, by virtue of unforeseen circumstances are without lodgings, and to welfare services for persons handicapped by blindness, deafness, dumbness, crippling physical defects and other disabilities, is the County Council.

Section 47 of the Act of 1948, as amended, relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions ; and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care or attention. This Section, and Section 50, is administered by the District Councils. It was not necessary to take action under this Section during the year.

Section 50 of the Act places on the District Council the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district, when it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been, or are being made, otherwise than by the Authority. Four such burials were arranged during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The following details of sources of supply and figures have kindly been furnished by the Water Engineer, Mr. J. C. Peters, A.I.W.E., A.I.Struct.E.

(i) Whether the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory

(a) in quality.

(b) in quantity.

(a) Throughout the year the quality of the water on the whole has been maintained at a highly satisfactory standard.

(b) The quantity of water available at Holne has been ample for all purposes. The lowest level recorded of the impounding reservoir at Holne, which has a capacity of 190 million gallons, was 47ft. 3ins. (i.e. 6ft. 9ins. below the Top Water Level).

In this year from March to September inclusive, advantage was taken of the 1952 Water Order which permitted additional water to be abstracted from the River Swincombe. This accounted for the high level maintained in the Holne Reservoir.

The completion of the major part of the Holne Improvement Scheme, whereby moorland water is now obtained from the Reservoir via filters and not collecting tanks, as previously, has meant a lessening in the pumping hours from Great Parks to Beacon Hill Reservoir. The actual amount pumped being 4,455,000 gallons during the summer season.

(ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply, if so, how many and the results obtained: the results of any chemical analyses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been made both of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is passed through pressure filters and the naturally acid water is treated with hydrate of lime and subsequently sterilised by the application of gaseous chlorine.

During the year under review modern chlorinating and neutralization plants were installed at Holne, acting independently on each trunk main.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses of the raw water are as follows:

Bacteriological

28 samples were taken, of which 18 fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's Classification for piped supplies, 2 in Class II, 4 in Class III, and 4 in Class IV.

Chemical Analysis of the Raw Water

Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, 83 and 84 Queen Street, Exeter.
Sample of raw water from Moorland Catchment Area
Swincombe Intake Works.

Characters.

Colour—Yellow-Green Tint. Turbidity—Clear. Taste—
Natural. Odour—None. Suspended matters—Trace of humus of
vegetation diatoms and infusorians.

Analysis (parts per hundred thousand).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	.....	0.8
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	.....	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	.....	0
Phosphates	.....	0
Total hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	.....	1.1
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	.....	0.9
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	.....	0.2
Saline Ammonia	.....	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	0.0056
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	.....	0.24
Lead	.....	0
Copper	.....	0
Zinc	.....	0
Iron in solution	.....	0
Iron in sedimentary form	.....	0
Manganese	.....	0
Total solid constituents	.....	4.0
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	.....	Trace
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH	.....	5.9

The results of the examination of the sample show that it has
the character and quality of water drained from a clean moorland
catchment area. The water is free from deleterious constituents
and possesses no abnormal qualities.

The water is plumbosolvent.

Bacteriological Examination of the Raw Water

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.
River—Swincombe Intake Works.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey
2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample is equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply
and is therefore very satisfactory.

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Outlet from turbine Holne Water Works.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 8 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This supply is equivalent in standard to a Class 3 piped supply.

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Collecting tank below filters Holne Water Works. Filtered.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample is equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply and is therefore very satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Treated Water

Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, 83 and 84 Queen Street, Exeter.
Sample of water from Inlet to St. Mary's Reservoir. Water chlorinated and treated with hydrate of lime.

Characters.

Colour—Yellow-green tint. Turbidity—Clear. Taste—Natural.

Odour—None. Suspended matter—None.

Analysis (parts per hundred thousand).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	0.8
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0
Phosphates	0
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	1.6
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	0.6
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	1.0
Saline Ammonia	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0040
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.13
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron in solution	0
Iron in sedimentary form	0
Manganese	0
Total solid constituents	5.0
Organic matter observed in igniting the solid constituents	Trace
Hydrogen Ion concentration equivalent to pH	8.6
Free Chlorine	0

The results of the examination of the sample indicate that the scheme of treatment is fully effective.

The water is devoid of plumbosolvent power.

Bacteriological Examination of Treated Water

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.

Main Piped Supply—15in. Trunk main—tap—Inlet to St.

Mary's Reservoir—Filtered—Chlorinated—hydrate of lime.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey

2 days, 37° C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks.

This sample falls into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

- (iii) **Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and results of analyses.**

The pH value of the raw moorland water varies between 5.00 and 6.00 and throughout the year water is treated with hydrate of lime to neutralise the acidity. The existing plant has not been working entirely satisfactorily but the new lime solution generator now installed enables the pH value of the raw water to be increased to the alkalinity side of neutral.

- (iv) **Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.**

No form of contamination has occurred throughout the year. Regular inspections of the catchment areas, works and mains, etc., were made.

- (v) **Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains**

(a) **direct to the houses.**

(b) **by means of stand-pipes.**

(a) Approximately 99.7% of the population are supplied with water from the Council's mains and a similar percentage of dwelling-houses. During the year additional water services were installed to the extent of 222 for new properties. The present length of water mains is 121 miles 1,276 yards. The foregoing having increased during the year by 1 mile 1,005 yards. (Chiefly 4in. diameter mains for development in the area.)

(b) There are no dwelling-houses within the area which are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. F. Ralph Penwill, F.R.I.C.S., M.I.Mun.E., F.I.A.A., F.R.San.I., for the information on drainage, sewerage and public cleansing.

A complete new system at a cost of £440,000 was installed in 1930/35, and full details of the system were included in the Report for 1934. The outfall discharges into the English Channel off Berry Head, Brixham (outside Torbay).

The following additions to the sewerage system were made to meet the need of increasing development within the area.

Length of pipe	Diameter
80 yds.	12 in.
390 yds.	9 in.
216 yds.	6 in.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

One stream is polluted by the effluent from a factory, but future sewerage developments in the area will remove this condition.

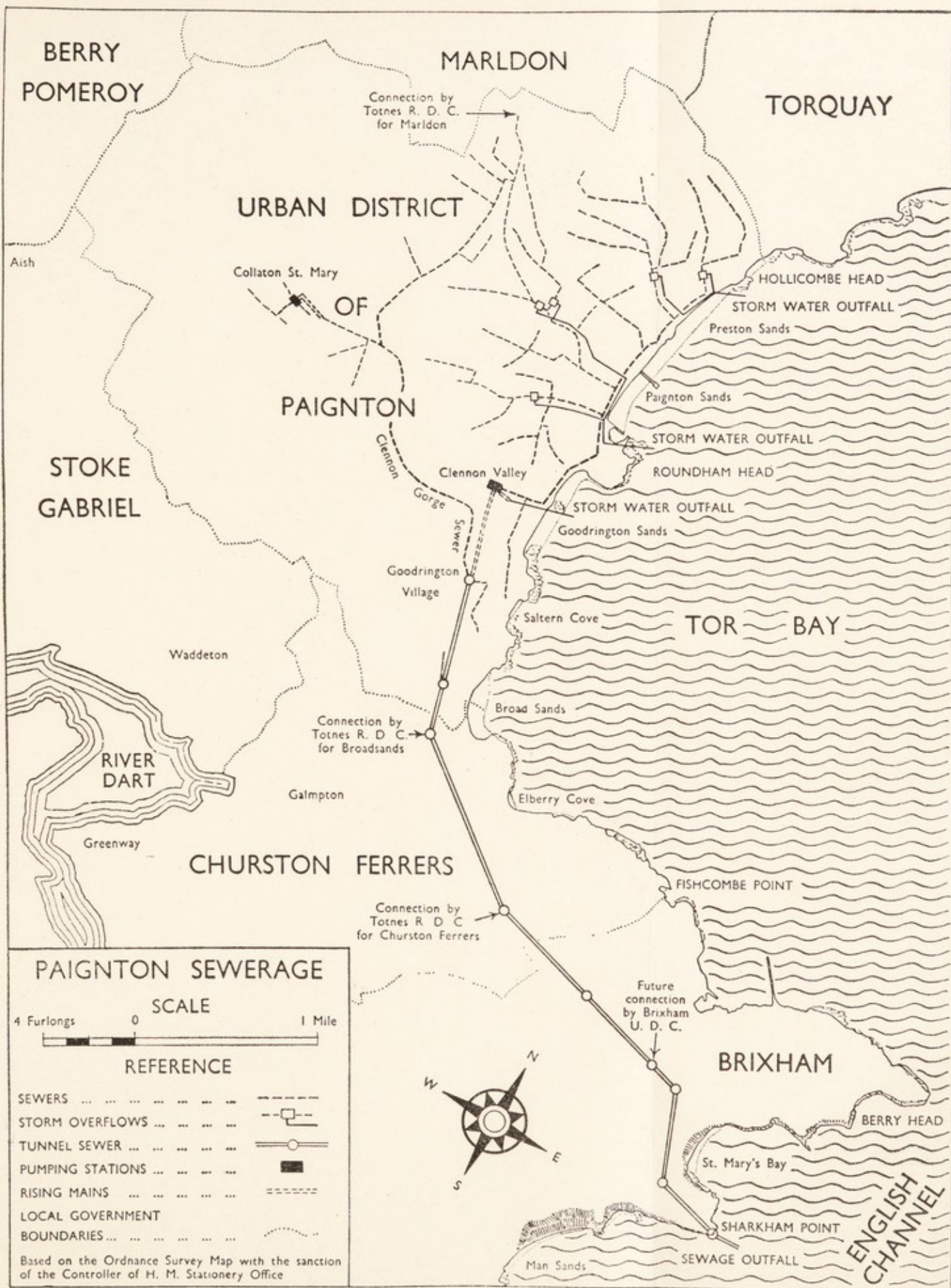
4. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No conservancy system conversion was carried out during the year.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

9,860 tons of refuse were collected during the year, 51 tons 14 cwt. of which were salvaged.

Refuse is still disposed of by controlled tipping at the Clennon Valley Tip.



SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems throughout the year, and the division of the work between new and existing buildings was as follows :

New buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	81
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	699

Existing buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	4
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	197

Choked Drains

Informal action was taken in 32 instances to secure clearance of drainage obstructions.

The Council does not undertake to clear drainage stoppages, and owners are advised to make private arrangements with local building contractors.

It has been necessary to explain to some owners that their responsibility does not end at the interceptor but extends right to the sewer.

(b) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

318 rooms, involving 161 premises, were treated for the following reasons :

Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)	.....	14
Tuberculosis	.....	8
Verminous Conditions	.....	80
Other Causes	.....	50
Other Infectious Diseases	.....	9

The following articles were dealt with by steam disinfection at the Kings Ash Hospital Disinfector :

Mattresses	.....	41
Pillows	.....	68
Sheets	.....	11
Bolsters	.....	3
Blankets	.....	22
Other Articles	.....	41

Library books fumigated totalled 42.

Articles from the adjoining Brixham Urban District Council and Totnes Rural District Council areas continue to be treated under the existing agreement with these Councils. Items dealt with are included in the above figures.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS

The methods employed for the eradication of bed-bugs are :

- (a) Using "Cimex" Gas Blocks for large infestations. This necessitates sealing the premises for one day.
- (b) Using "Cimex" Powder with Blower Spray.
- (c) Spraying with "Zaldecide" Solution.
- (d) Application of "D.D.T." Spray and Powder.

		Infested	Disinfested
(i)	Council houses	 1	1
(ii)	Other houses	 2	2

WASP NESTS

An increased number of requests for assistance in exterminating wasps were received this year resulting in 79 wasps nests and 1 bees nest being destroyed.

Satisfactory results were obtained in the control of these pests by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas. The gas is produced by moistening a proprietary preparation evolving 20% by weight of HCN, and is used in quantities consistent with the size and location of the nest.

Nests located inside buildings are treated initially by spray insecticide to facilitate removal to a safe place where complete extermination by the HCN process is effected.

RODENT CONTROL

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10% of the sewers in the District are test baited annually. From evidence based on the results of this test two maintenance tests are carried out in the early spring and autumn.

The tests carried out this year again showed a large infestation in the sewers situated in the low-lying parts of the town. These sewers are brick and stone culverts all of which were constructed before 1900. Very few takes are recorded in the hilly parts of the town where the sewers are of a modern type.

Treatments to private houses continued free of charge, but charges to business premises were increased from 5/- to 5/6 per hour from July onwards.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation and action taken under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and is based upon the twelve monthly return submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Report for the year ended 31st December, 1954

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
1—Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	58	8463	31	917	9469
2—Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1954 as a result—(a) of notification, or (b) survey or otherwise—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	(a) 5 (b) 45	102 354	5 10	3 19	115 428
3—Number of properties (under Section 2) found to be infested by rats—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	Major 1 Minor 29	— 271	— —	— 22	1 322
4—Number of properties (under Section 2) inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	—	7	—	4	11
5—Number of infested properties (under Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	30	278	—	26	334
6—Number of Notices served under Section 4 : (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7—Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of Notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8—Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9—Number of "block" control schemes carried out—113					

NOTES

Note 1—(a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered in the Valuation Roll for the area. (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production, in respect of which returns are made under the Agriculture Act, 1947, should be entered as agricultural properties.

Note 2—(a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2). (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4). (c) Sewers should not be included. (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (4).

Note 3—For the purpose of completing Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5, each property should be entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations and treatments.

(c) FACTORIES ACT, 1937

130 inspections were made in respect of 170 premises listed in the Factories Register. The following tabular return for the year was made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	34	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	134	105	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	—	—
TOTAL ...		170	130	—	—

NOTE. (1) Refers to factories in which mechanical power is not used.

2. Cases in which Defects were found

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

(d) SHOPS ACT, 1950

The provisions of Section 38 continued to be enforced by the Council under powers delegated to them by the County Council. There are 572 shop premises within the area, to which 161 visits were made for the purposes of the Act.

Informal action was taken in respect of 8 premises as follows :

Provide access to washing facilities and sanitary accommodation	1
Provide washing facilities and sanitary accommodation	 1
Repair and re-decorate sanitary accommodation	 3
Provide sufficient ventilation	 1
Provide additional heating facilities	 2

(e) CAMPING SITES

Under this heading 38 sites were occupied during the year, by tents and caravans and also buildings of short lived materials. Six sites are licenced under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, and six sites have been granted a licence under the Town Planning Act. Eight sites were used for less than 60 days and ten sites increased the number of dwellings for a temporary period only.

The Council owned site at Waterside is the largest in the District and during the peak period over 2000 campers were living on the site. The Council's intention of improving the sanitary accommodation and water supply for the 1955 season had to be postponed pending the result of a public inquiry, with reference to the necessary loan, which was commenced in November.

The number of campers in the area reached a maximum figure in the last week of July and totalled 7766.

(f) SMOKE ABATEMENT

There has been no smoke nuisance in the area during the period under review.

(g) SWIMMING POOLS

There are two swimming pools in use in the Urban area ; both are privately owned and are located at holiday camps.

Filtration and Chlorination plants are installed at both pools and all 12 water samples taken during the year proved satisfactory.

(h) SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools within the area remain unchanged.

OLD METAL OR MARINE STORE DEALERS

Three persons are registered as Dealers in Old Metal under Section 86 of The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licence renewals were granted to the original applicants in respect of 3 premises required to be licensed under the Act.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

Five premises are registered under the Act. No premises are licensed for the manufacture or storage of Rag Flock.

One sample of Cotton Felt taken proved satisfactory.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

After the end of September, 1954, all heating appliances of a type suitable for use in a dwelling house had to comply with the Regulations.

Inspections have been made for the purpose of carrying out the duties of this Act.

SECTION D

HOUSING

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	149
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....					308
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	143

2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers				124
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3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :						
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	.....					—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :						
(a)	By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....		—
(b)	Local Authorities in default of Owners	.....					—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :						
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :						
(a)	By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....		—
(b)	By Local Authorities in default of Owners	.....					—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.....	—

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

(a)	(1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	.....	27
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	.....	31
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	.....	122
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.....	11
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	23
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	.....	89
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.....	—
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	.....	Nil

HOUSING ACTS 1949/52

No applications for financial assistance towards improvement of housing accommodation were granted during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

This Act came into operation on 30th August, 1954. One certificate of disrepair was issued in December.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953, came into operation on the 2nd December, 1953, including the Urban District of Paignton in Area No. 4, and made compulsory the use of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk for retail sale within the district. Sterilised milk is not retailed in Paignton.

Two retailers were affected by the provisions of the Order, and now retail milk of special designation. One retailer continued to use the special designation "Accredited" in respect of milk retailed by him until 30th September, 1954.

(i) Dairies and Distributors

There is 1 dairy registered, and 28 persons are registered as distributors of milk.

Dealer's licences issued during 1954 authorising the use of special designation in respect of milk retailed were as follows :

Special Designation "Pasteurised"	.....	.....	.....	27
Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	.....	.....	.....	13
Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	.....	.....	.....	27
Special Designation "Accredited"	.....	.....	.....	1

Two retailers were issued with Dealer's Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designations "Pasteurised," "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" and "Tuberculin Tested."

(ii) Sampling

Samples taken from local retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, for bacteriological examination gave the following results :

	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	5	—
Tuberculin Tested	2	—

B. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(i) Meat Inspection

Paignton remained the distributing centre for the area comprising Paignton U.D.C., Brixham U.D.C., Totnes Borough and Part of Totnes R.D.C. until the end of the meat rationing period in July. After this period some of the meat traders from outside the town still continued to make use of the Paignton slaughtering facilities.

The Council decided to fix the tolls for slaughtering at 12/6 per unit, but this figure was reduced to 10/- per unit from 15th November, 1954.

The amount received in tolls to the end of the year was £953 19s. 4d.

No generalised cases of cysticercus bovis infection were encountered, but localised infection was discovered in 0.46% of all cattle slaughtered, a decrease of 1.21% on last year's incidence. These carcasses continue to be removed to Exeter for the required cold storage detention period.

It is of interest to record that the cysts continue to express predilection for the masticatory musculature of the head, the affected beast being invariably well nourished.

No cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves were recorded during the year.

The numbers of animals inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954 are shown below, together with the numbers affected with tuberculosis and other conditions warranting condemnation.

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Abattoir	...	572	69	129	4401	976	—
C. and A. Slaughter House		403	245	224	4528	1	—
Totals	...	975	314	353	8929	977	—

	Cattle excl'dg. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	975	314	353	8929	977
Number inspected	975	314	353	8929	977
All Diseases (except Tuberculosis) :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	8	8	17	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	364	195	4	676	31
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease (other than Tuberculosis)	37.33	64.64	3.39	7.76	3.17
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	40	—	—	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	3.79	13.69	—	—	2.76

The total weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouses was 22,193 lbs.

(ii) Inspection of other Foods

Unsound Food

List of canned foods rejected :

Meats	226 cans
Vegetables	299 cans
Fruit	595 cans
Jam	9 cans
Fish	56 cans
Milk	174 cans
Liquid Eggs	5 cans
Cream	3 cans
	<u>1367</u> cans

Other foods rejected :

Meat	93 lbs.
Fruit	37 lbs.
Fish	759 lbs.
Biscuits	140 lbs.
Vegetables	50 lbs.
Cheese	14 boxes
Cereals	33 pkts.

Total weight—25 cwt. 89 lbs. of foods rejected.

Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

A small amount of dog meat was delivered to the Paignton district from a bullock that was suspected to have had anthrax. All the meat was eventually traced and destroyed. There were no reports of any ill effects to any animals.

Ice-cream

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.

These Regulations allow a high temperature short time heat treatment as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature ; but special apparatus has to be installed to ensure adequate thermostatic control, the maintenance of an even rate of flow during the heat treatment, and an automatic device to divert any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is no installation of this type in the District.

Regular visits were made to ice cream manufacturing premises and to shops selling this commodity. Ice cream is an article of food in which bacteria will multiply rapidly unless scrupulous cleanliness is observed in all stages of its manufacture and sale. Hence it is necessary to take frequent samples and maintain close supervision of all its processes.

Samples are taken of both loose and pre-packed ice cream, and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, where after testing, they are placed in one of four Grades, i.e., Grade 1, Satisfactory ; Grade 2, Fair ; Grade 3, Unsatisfactory ; Grade 4, Very Bad. It is generally accepted that a sample should fall into either Grade 1 or Grade 2, but in a report from the Director of the Public Health Laboratories it was stated that owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50 per cent. of the vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent, into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

In the event of the ice cream falling into either Grades 3 or 4, further samples are taken to endeavour to find the cause.

The following table gives a comparison of the results of samples taken during the past five years :

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Total number of samples taken	103	104	97	85	73
Grade 1	48.4%	48.1%	55.6%	55.3%	65.7%
Grade 2	22.2%	8.6%	29.2%	20.0%	19.2%
Grade 3	13.7%	20.2%	4.1%	21.2%	11.0%
Grade 4	15.7%	23.1%	11.1%	3.5%	4.1%

Shellfish

Thirty-one samples of crab meat were taken during the year partly as an experiment to explore the possibilities of obtaining a standard of bacteriological cleanliness. Crabmeat differs from most other cooked foods in that it has to be handled after cooking. Crabs are boiled in their shells and the meat and cream extracted from the shell afterwards. Samples were taken of mixed meat, red meat (or cream) and white meat, and the total counts varied from 2,100 to 1,800,000. In corresponding pairs of samples, red meat had a higher count than the white meat in five pairs of samples, but white meat and a higher count in two pairs of samples. The organisms predominately present were micro-cocci, non-haemolytic streptococci and staphylococci.

It will be necessary to take many more samples before conclusions (if any) can be made.

The following table gives the bacterial counts of the more important groups.

Number of Samples	Coliform Bacilli	Clostridium Group	Enteric Dysentery Group
13 White 8 Red 6 Mixed	Nil	Nil	Nil
1 Red	6000	Nil	Nil
1 Mixed	80000 (non-faecal)	Nil	Nil
1 Red	100000 *	Nil	Nil
1 White	30000 *	Nil	Nil

* Taken from a consignment of crabs which died in transit. The high count of the coli group indicates the invasion of bacteria from the intestines.

Results of Samples of other shell fish

Sample	Bact. coli per ml. of Flesh	Organisms of Enteric Dysentery Group	Conclusion
1954			
4 Cockles	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Cockles	1	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Cockles	5	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Cockles	Over 15	Nil	Unsatisfactory
1 Whelks	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Winkles	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Mussels	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory

C. CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

(i) The number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

There are 313 food premises in the area, comprising :

Grocers and Greengrocers	91
Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars	46
Fishmongers :	
Wet	5
Fried	7
Wet and Fried	1
Greengrocer/Fishmongers	2
Butchers/Fishmongers	3
Butchers	22
Baker/Pastrycook Retail Shops	14
Bakehouses and Patisseries	14
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	2
Winery	1
Licensed Premises :	
Public	23
Private	24
Ice Cream :	
Manufacturers	7
Vendors	75
Confectioners	35
Cooked Meats Vendor	1
Fruit and Vegetable Warehouses	4
Kiosks and seasonal structures (excl. ice cream vendors) :	
Teas, Snacks	6
Shellfish	3
Candyfloss, Toffee Apples	1

(ii) The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :

There are 75 vendors and 7 manufacturers registered for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream. The types of premises retailing this commodity are as follows :

Grocers	16
Grocers/Greengrocers	6
Greengrocers/Fruiterers	4
Garage	—
Tobacconist/Confectioners	31
Confectioner/Greengrocer/Fruiterer	1
General Stores	3
Fishmongers	—
Kiosks	9
Multiple Stores	1
Holiday Camp Shops	4

In addition to the above, ice-cream is retailed at 30 restaurants, snackbars, etc., 3 cinemas, 2 theatres and a summer pavilion.

Of the 7 ice-cream manufacturers, 4 manufacture by hot mix, and 3 by cold mix.

43 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. These comprise :

Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Fish Fryers	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

4 dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises.

Of the 750 inspections of all types of food establishments listed below, 301 inspections were made in respect of registered premises :

Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars	.....	.....	123
Bakehouses	.....	.....	35
Bakers, Confectioners Shops	.....	.....	40
Hotel and Guest House Kitchens	.....	.....	66
Butchers	.....	.....	78
Grocers/Greengrocers	.....	.....	139
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	.....	.....	119
Dairies	.....	.....	3
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	52
Shell Fish Dealers	.....	.....	31
Cooked Meat Vendors	.....	.....	11
Licensed Premises	.....	.....	21
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	.....	.....	4
Mobile Canteens	.....	.....	7
Mobile Fish Fryer	.....	.....	1
Food Delivery Vans and Itinerant Vendors	.....	.....	20

(iv) Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

Catering establishment staffs and employers were circularised during the year regarding the observance of cleanliness in handling foodstuffs. Every food shop was also issued with a display card requesting customers to refrain from taking dogs into the shop.

In a seaside town employees in the food trade are, to a large extent, seasonal, and experience has shown that greater interest is aroused concerning hygiene and clean food handling by giving advice on the spot, rather than arranging lectures. During the summer months business demands make attendance at such lectures virtually impracticable and, out-of-season, interest is lost with the drift to other employment.

(v) The method of disposal of condemned food.

The Ministry of Food had made arrangements for rejected food from the slaughterhouses to be removed by a contractor. After the de-control in July arrangements were made for the same contractor to continue the work. All other foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip.

(vi) Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

No special examination of a stock or consignment of food was necessary during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

The following annual return, in accordance with Circular 46/49, Memo 188/Med., has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1954 was a year of decreased prevalence of notifiable infectious disease. Only 54 notifications were received as compared with 336 in 1953. The disease with the largest number of cases was whooping cough, of which there were 36 notifications, but even this is much less than 1953 when there were 66.

Table 7 shews the diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year, together with hospital admissions, and deaths, whilst Table 8 shews the analysis of notified cases in age groups.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE 7

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11	5	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—
Measles	4	1	—
Whooping Cough	36	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—

Analysis in age groups of total notified cases.

TABLE 8

		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	.....	—	—	—	2	—	—
1—2 years	.....	—	—	3	6	—	—
3—4 years	.....	1	—	8	4	—	—
5—9 years	.....	4	4	4	7	3	1
10—14 years	.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
15—24 years	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	.....	—	1	1	—	—	—

		Malaria		Pneumonia		Erysipelas	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—
26—44 years	.....	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—64 years	.....	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and over	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954

There was a rise in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1954, there being 19 cases in all, 13 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary including 1 meningeal.

This compares with a total number of 9 cases the previous year, and is the highest number of notifications received in any year since 1946. Although this shews a high number of known cases, it does not necessarily mean that there is more tuberculosis in Paignton than in the past, but that more persons are being discovered to have the disease owing to improved methods of diagnosis and case-finding, such as the mass miniature radiography and the jelly testing of school children. Table 9 shews the age distribution of the new cases of tuberculosis.

Table 10 has been drawn up to shew the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in Paignton over the last 18 years, and this is also illustrated in the chart.

TABLE 9

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	6	5	1	—	1	—	—

INFLUENZA

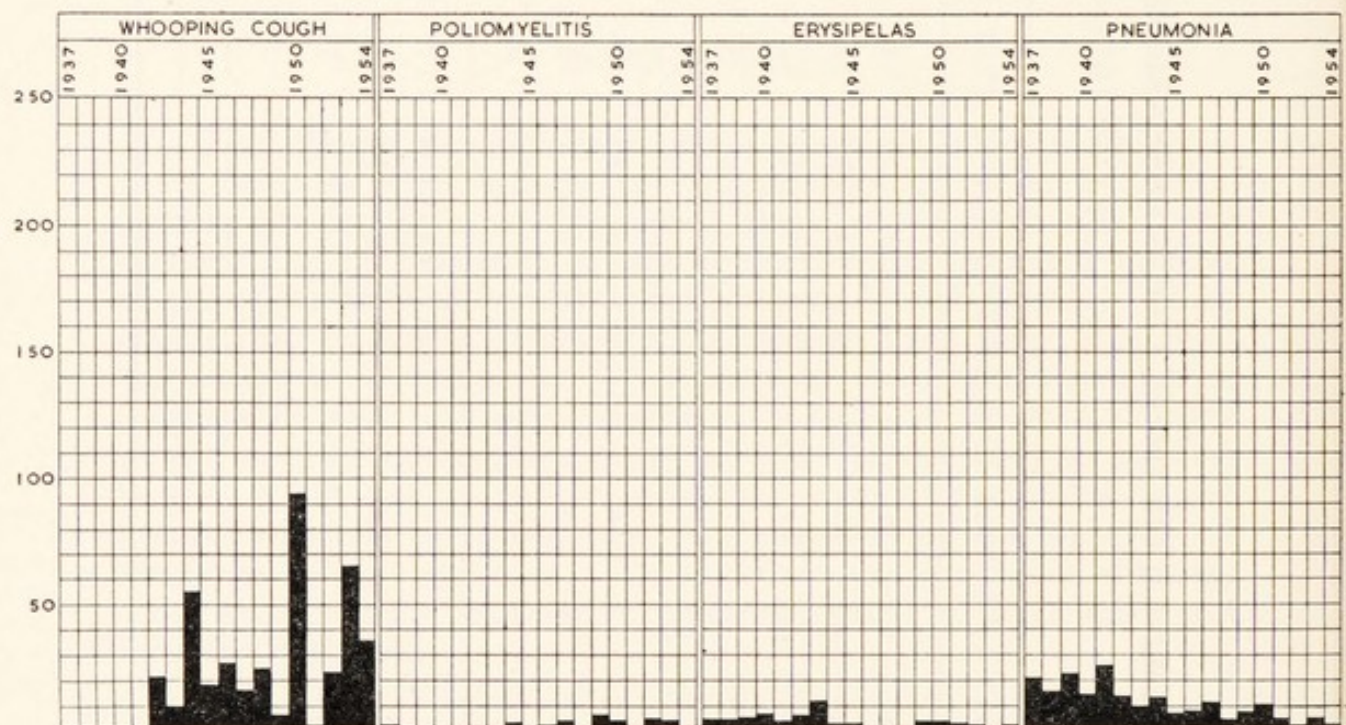
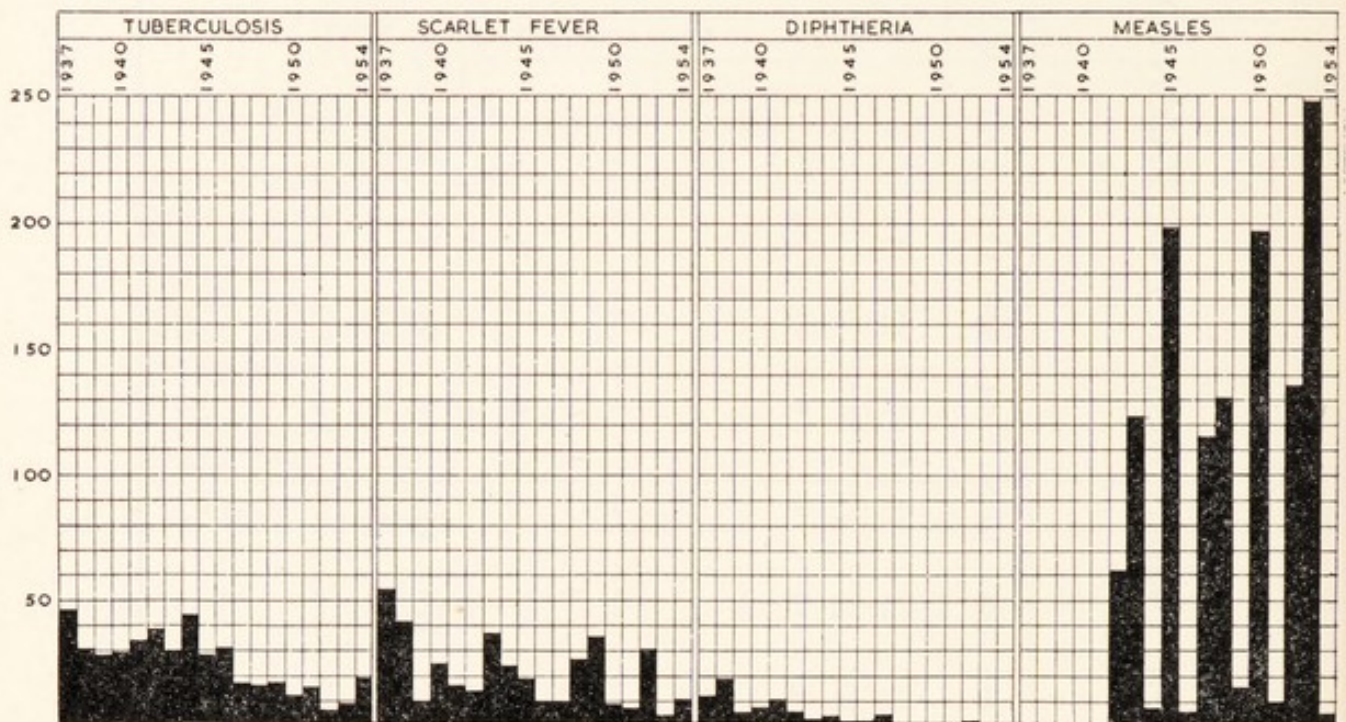
This disease although infectious, is not notifiable, so that one must turn to other sources for information as to its incidence. During the last week of December, there was a great rise in the sickness rate in Paignton, as was shewn by the increased number of claims for sickness benefit under National Health Service. These claims rose to 309% of the normal number, and more than half the claims were occasioned by diseases of the respiratory system, mostly influenza. Although this did not take into account all cases of the disease, as there are many who are not entitled to sickness benefit, it did give an indication of the extent of the outbreak, the number of cases being such as to be regarded by the Ministry of Health as a heavy epidemic. The outbreak was due to the Influenza "B" virus, which fortunately gives rise only to more mild and localised outbreaks.

TABLE 10

TABLE OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON
FROM 1937—1954

Disease	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Tuberculosis	47	31	28	29	34	38	30	38	28	31	17	16	17	12	16	6	9	19
Scarlet Fever	54	42	10	25	17	14	37	23	19	10	10	27	36	9	7	31	4	11
Pneumonia	21	16	23	15	26	14	10	13	7	8	12	4	7	11	4	1	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	2	3	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (inc. para-typhoid)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	3	3	4	7	3	6	12	2	2	—	—	—	3	3	2	1	—	1
Diphtheria	12	19	5	7	11	5	2	3	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	6	3	—	4	3	—
Dysentery	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	64	124	7	199	6	115	131	16	197	10	137	248	4
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	22	10	55	19	27	16	25	6	94	1	23	66	36
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	18	—	—	—	—

HISTOGRAM OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES



SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

Three cases of scabies were treated at the Cleansing Centre during the year.

SECTION G

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

A new form of licence was adopted by the Council which included the conditions recommended in Part I of the Home Office Memorandum. The new conditions of licence were operative from 1st January, 1953.

Fifty-seven licences to store 73,116 gallons of petroleum were issued.

Premises are visited periodically during the year, and all premises are visited at least once per year with the Fire Officer who examines the fire-fighting appliances and gives valuable advice on the subject of fire prevention. Licencees are requested to provide a two gallon foam extinguisher in the vicinity of the storage tanks.

Twelve informal requests were made to provide or refill fire extinguishers, repair vents or exhibit abstracts. Nine requests were complied with, and in no case was it necessary to take formal action in order to get the work done. Sufficient time had not elapsed before the end of the year for the outstanding requests to be carried out.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 AND 1923

Thirty-four licences were issued for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives.

Classification of Stores :

Explosives in magazine—Mode "A"—Two.

Explosives in magazine—Mode "B"—One.

Shops for the sale of Class 6 Division 3 explosives—cartridges—Five.

Shops for the sale of Class 7 Division 2 explosives—fireworks—Twenty-six.

					Families	Persons
Overcrowded conditions	.....	.....	.....		23	89
Unsuitable conditions	.....	.....	.....		55	173
Health reasons	.....	.....	.....		5	15
Key workers	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	39
High rents	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	22
Court Orders	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	17
Agricultural workers	.....	.....	.....		2	7
Miscellaneous reasons	.....	.....	.....		14	39
Requisitioned property	.....	.....	.....		1	3
					122	404
Transfers	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	72
					142	476

Transfers of tenancy	9
Sub-tenancies granted	9
Exchanges of premises	4
Exchanges with other Local Authorities	2

Types of Families Allocated to Houses and Flats during 1954.

	Families	Persons
One person family	1	1
Two person families	27	54
Three person families	55	165
Four person families	43	172
Five person families	12	60
Six person families	4	24
	142	476

Number of New Houses and Flats Occupied on the Foxhole Estate during 1954.

	Houses	Persons	Flats	Persons
One person family	—	—	1	1
Two person families	1	2	15	30
Three person families	2	6	39	117
Four person families	9	36	17	72
Five person families	6	30	—	—
Six person families	1	6	—	—
	19	80	72	220

Council Housing Estates.

Number of pre-war houses on Council Estates	390
Number of post-war houses on Foxhole Estate	217
Number of post-war flats on Foxhole Estate	260
Number of post-war houses on other Estates	117
Number of houses purchased	2
Total number of Council properties	986

The growth of the new estate at Foxhole is shown by the following figures giving the increase in population since the allocation of the first tenancy in August, 1949 :

Estimated population at the end of 1949	135
" " " " " " 1950	381
" " " " " " 1951	756
" " " " " " 1952	936
" " " " " " 1953	1300
" " " " " " 1954	1600
Average number of persons per unit for 1954	3.3

Requisitioned Properties.

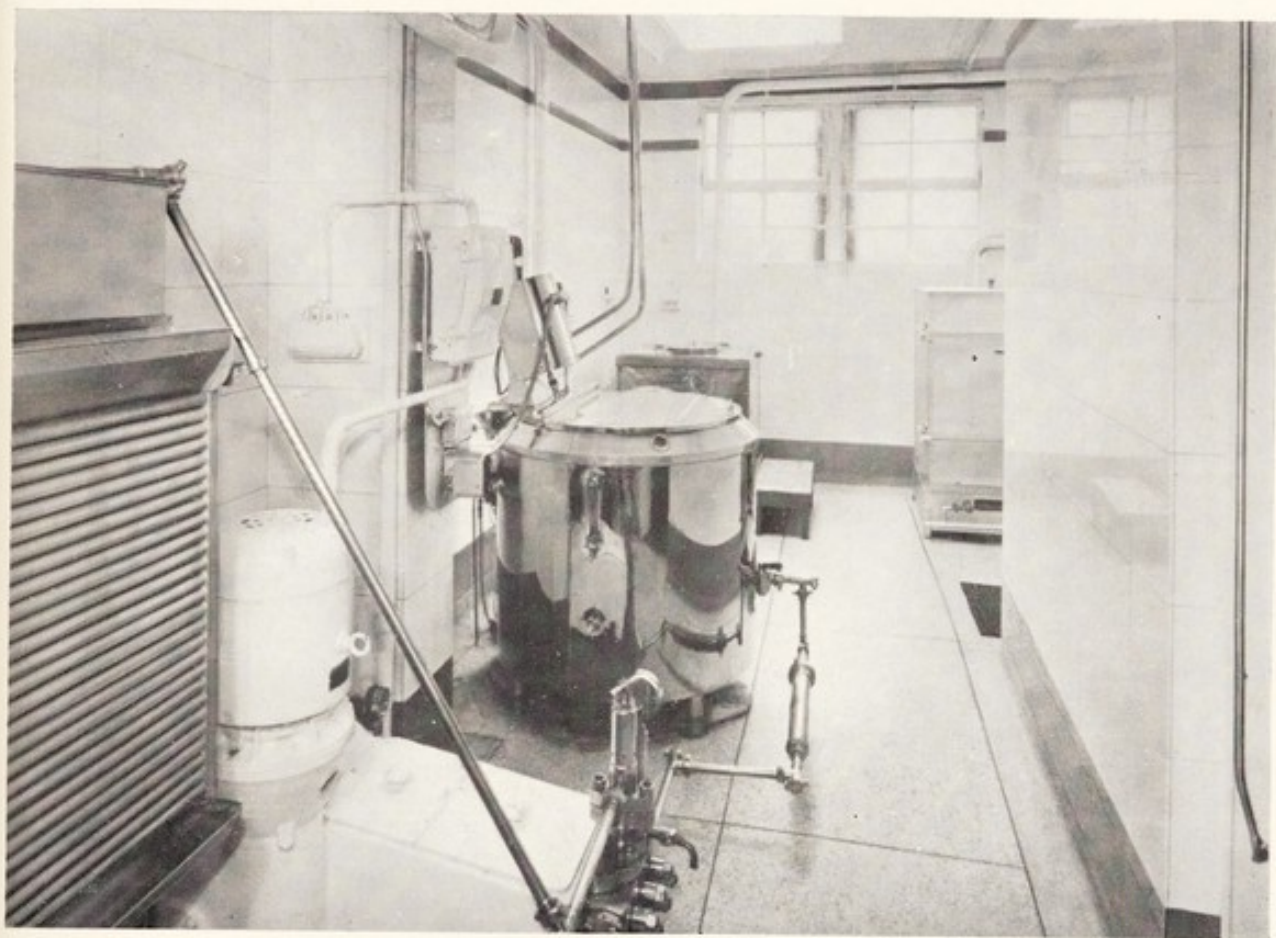
Two houses were derequisitioned during the year, one of which was purchased by the Council and the tenant remained in it. The tenants of the other property obtained their own accommodation.

Housing List.

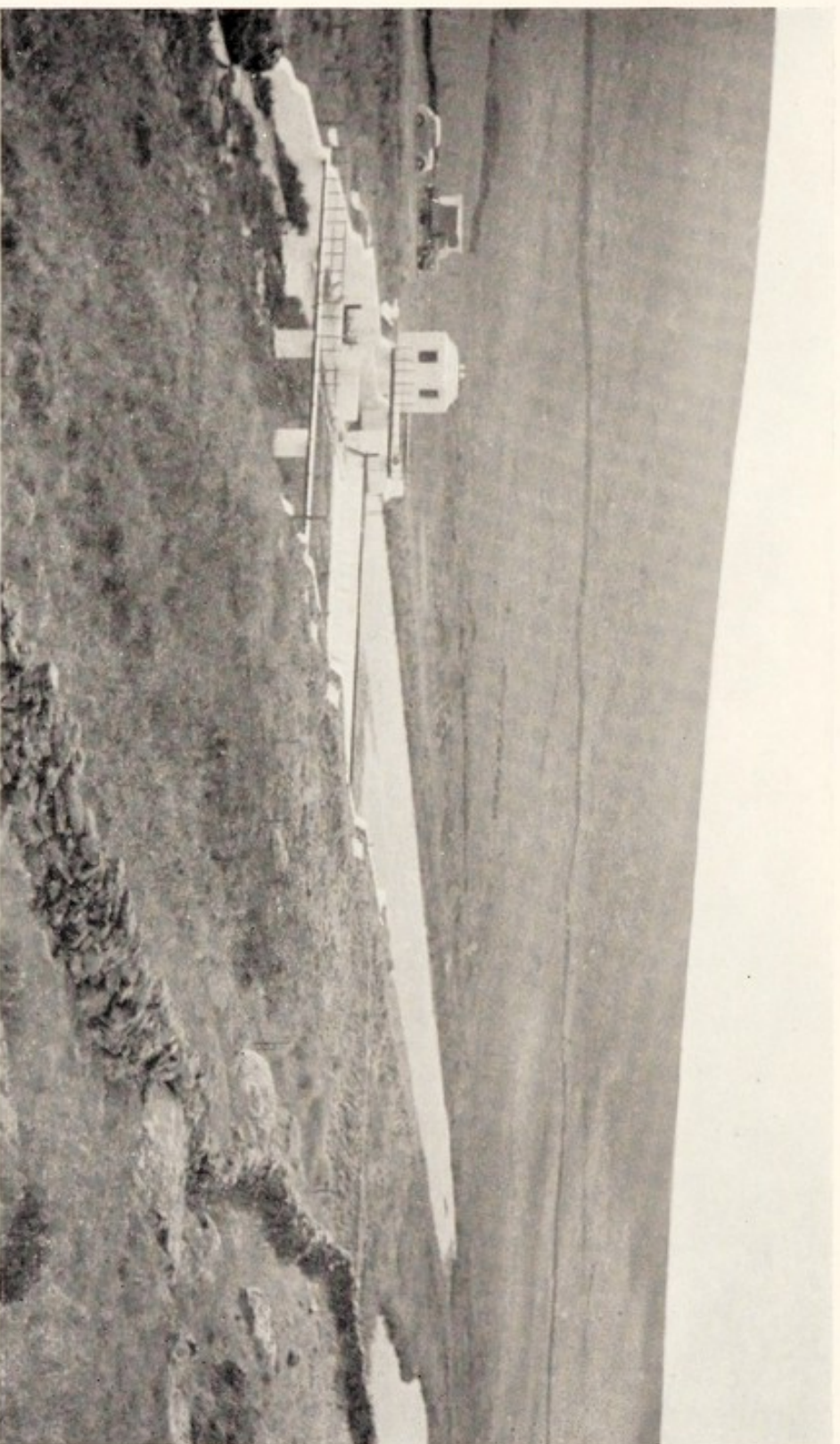
The Housing List consisted of the following applicants on 31st December, 1954 :

One person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	118
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	123
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Six person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Seven person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Eight person family	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pensioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	63
Short List	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
					400
Outside List	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Under five years residence in Paignton	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
					520

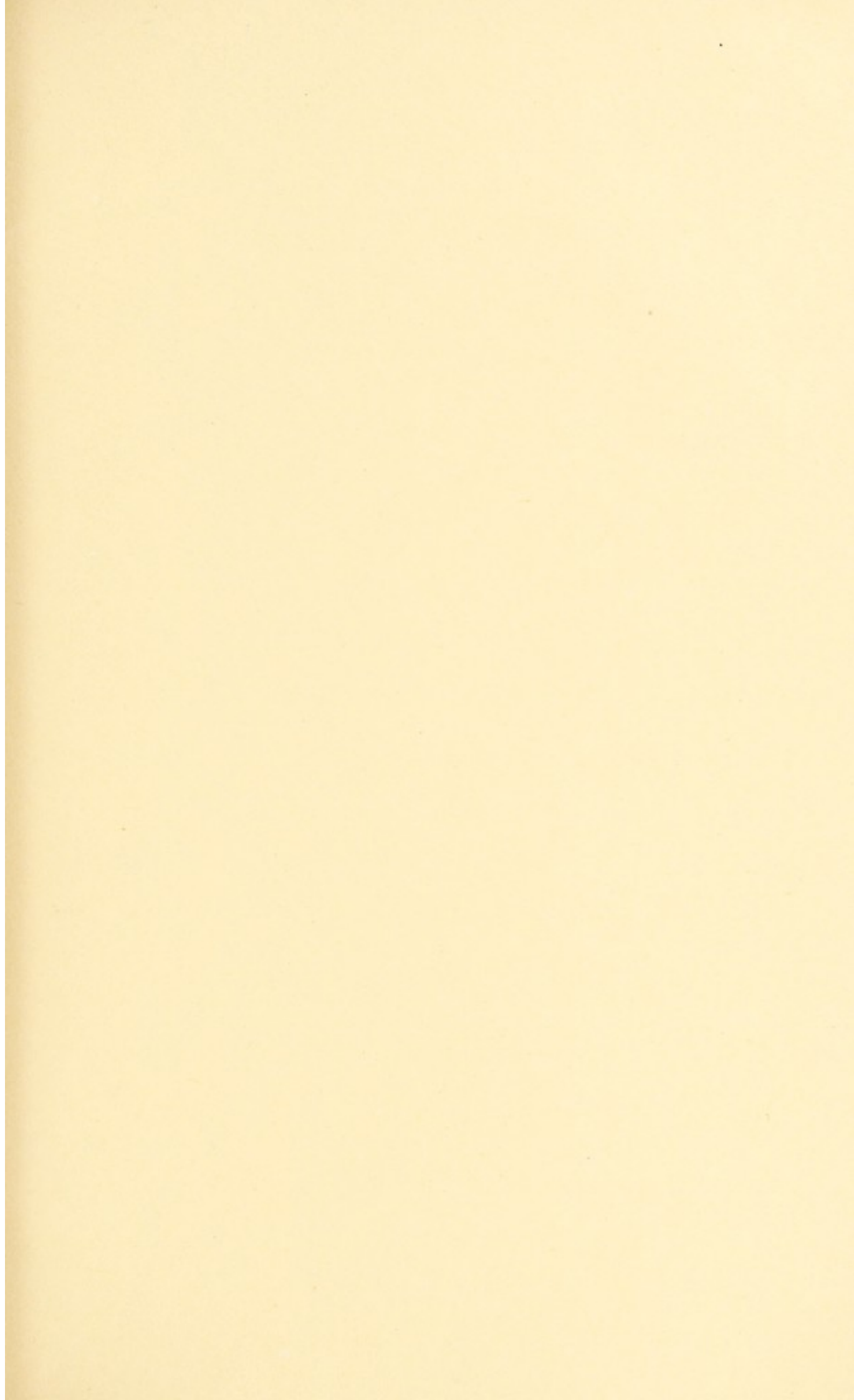
Four hundred and nine visits were made to verify housing applications from local persons, and three visits were made on behalf of other Local Authorities.



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