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URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for 1955

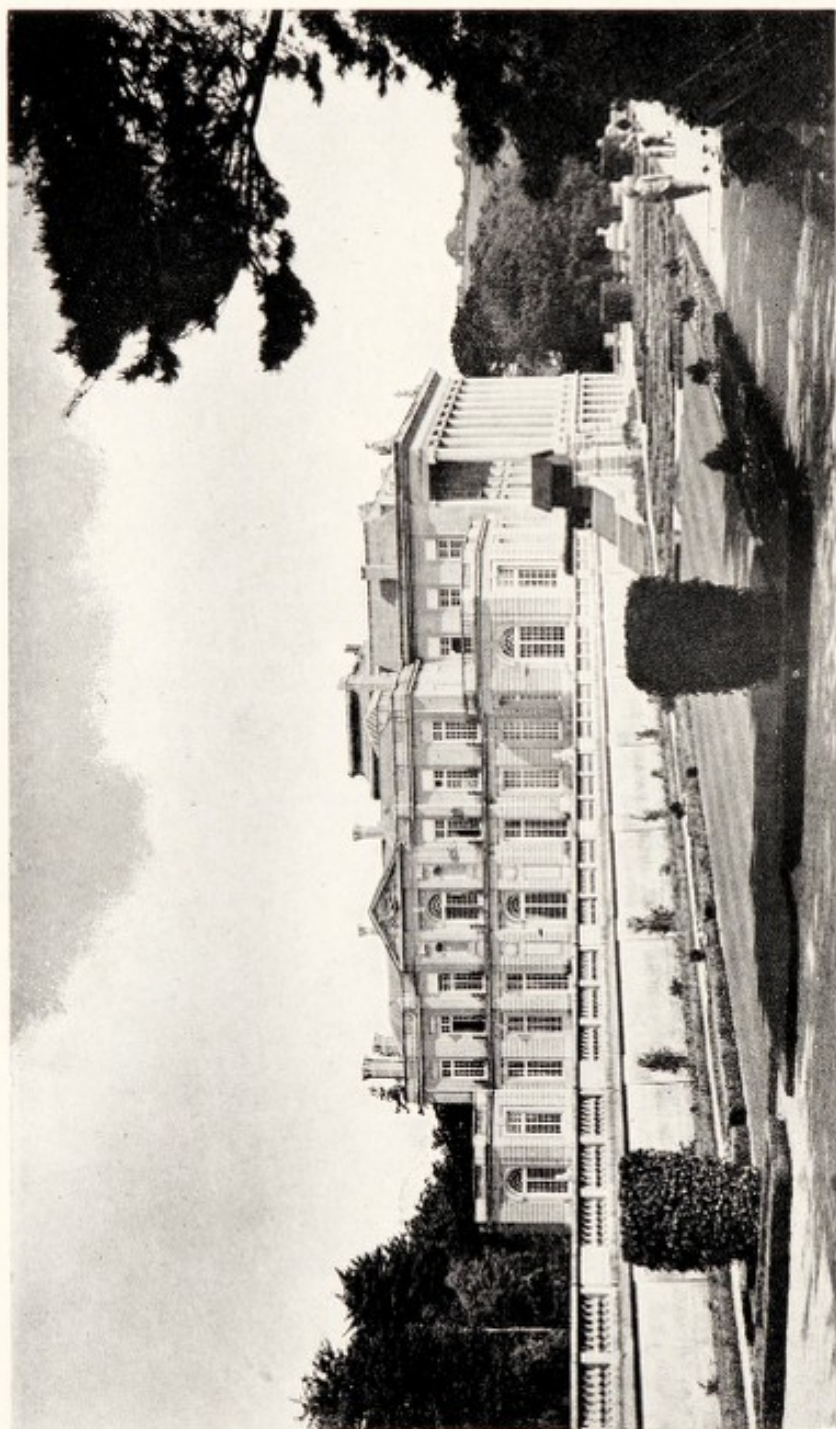
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AERIAL VIEW OF PAIGNTON

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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 1955 presented in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

During the year, the health of the town continued to be satisfactory, and the only epidemic disease which requires mention is Measles, of which there were 524 cases, constituting the largest epidemic of the disease ever to occur in Paignton. Fortunately there were few complications and no deaths. Apart from this and a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever (25 cases), there was little infectious disease, and only one death from such diseases.

The vital statistics for the year continued at the normal level, the Birth Rate being 9.7 per thousand population, and 12.03 corrected, compared with 9.8 and 12.26 respectively in 1954 ; while the Death Rate for 1955 was 17.79 per thousand population, 10.49 corrected, which compares with figures of 15.68 and 9.25 for the previous year, thus showing a slight rise. The Birth Rate for the country as a whole was 15.0 per thousand population, and the Death Rate was 11.7 per thousand population. It is pleasing to report that only 1 still-birth occurred during the year, but there were 12 deaths among infants under 1 year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 48.8 per 1,000 live births which compares very unfavourably with the national rate of 24.9 per 1,000 live births. Of these 12 deaths under the age of 1 year, no fewer than 11 took place in infants under 4 weeks of age.

In a holiday resort such as Paignton, the Public Health Department has many extra duties placed upon it in the summer months due to the large numbers of visitors present in the town. This necessitates a close supervision of hotels and restaurants, and, indeed, all food premises, the great variety and numbers of which are detailed in this report, together with the details of the many inspections which have been made. Paignton too, has become popular as a centre for camping and caravanning, for there are 35 regular camping sites in the district, besides other sites which are used in the season for short periods only. These cause a great deal of work as the opportunities for the spread of disease and the occurrence of nuisances are very great unless they are strictly controlled. In this connection, it is pleasing to record that following a public local

enquiry, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government granted Paignton Council permission to proceed with improvements to their own camping site at Waterside, which has accommodation for some 1,700 persons. These improvements will bring the sanitary accommodation and other installations up to a standard which the Public Health Department intend to apply to all other sites in the district.

Extra duties were also placed upon the Public Health Department from two other sources during 1955. Firstly, with the closing down of the Ministry of Food, the Devon County Council became the authority responsible for the distribution of Welfare Foods, which are the dried milk and vitamin supplements for expectant and nursing mothers and babies. By arrangement with the County Council, this department has carried out the administrative work and acted as the distribution centre for an area covering Paignton and Brixham Urban Districts, Dartmouth Borough, and part of Totnes Rural District. Secondly, Paignton Urban District Council became authority for the administration of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the duties under this Act have been carried out by the Public Health Department. The administration of both these new services has been carried out without an increase in staff, and, so far, no difficulties have been encountered.

Finally, I should like to record my appreciation of the encouragement and support which I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and to express my gratitude to Mr. Bone, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their able and efficient assistance at all times throughout the year.

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.)

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

MRS. R. M. VILLIS

OTHER

C. J. TURPIN, Disinfector.

A. L. DOHERTY, Rodent Operator.

I. J. WILLIAMS, Abattoir Attendant.

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, 1955 (mid-year)	.....	25,350
Number of inhabited houses, 1955	.....	8,859
Rateable value, 31st December, 1955	.....	£274,667
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate, 1955/56	.....	£1,041

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 324 food shops which includes 49 restaurants and cafes.

With regard to housing, as much of Paignton's growth has taken place in the last few decades, the general state is very good. A survey of Paignton's housing was made during the year in order to draw up a slum clearance programme under the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, when it was found that out of a total of 8,683 inhabited houses, only 26 were in such a condition that they should be included in the programme. This programme has been accepted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and should be completed within the next 3 years.

The old people who live on their own continue to be one of the social problems in Paignton, and recourse had to be made to the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act on two occasions, although others were persuaded to enter a hospital or old people's home voluntarily. Despite the endeavours of local voluntary organisations and the statutory authorities, including this department, and the departments of the Devon County Council, there are still many old persons who for their own well being should be accommodated in hospital or in an old folks' home, and who are anxious to obtain such accommodation. The Devon County Council Welfare Department propose to provide a home in Paignton and this will be very welcome when it is built.

But as regards hospital accommodation for those old people who require nursing or medical treatment, the position is not satisfactory. Hospital beds in this area are divided over many small hospitals and are used for the treatment of acute general cases, whose stay in hospital is normally of fairly short duration, and it is unwise and unfair to fill these beds with old people suffering from chronic conditions which require a prolonged or even indefinite stay in hospital. Because of this, local medical practitioners find extreme difficulty in obtaining admission to hospital for these cases. Although there are 100 beds available for chronic sick and geriatric cases at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, and 138 at Newton Abbot Hospital this is insufficient for the needs of the area, as the length of time, extending to years, which people are on the waiting list testifies.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	135	111	246
Legitimate	127	107	234
Illegitimate	8	4	12
Stillbirths	0	1	1
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			9.7
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			0.03
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)			4.05
Area Comparability Factor—Births			1.24
Corrected Birth Rate			12.03
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	188	263	451
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			17.79
Area Comparability Factor—Deaths			0.59
Corrected Death Rate			10.49
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	11	1	12
Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate	2	0	2
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :			
All infants per 1,000 live births			48.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			40.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			8.1
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	10	1	11
Legitimate	8	1	9
Illegitimate	2	0	2
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age :			
All infants per 1,000 live births			44.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			38.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			166.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			71
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 9.38 per 1,000 population in 1955, compared with a Birth Rate of 15.0 for England and Wales as a whole. The much lower rate for Paignton reflects the large numbers of older people in the population. When allowance is made for this, by a special statistical method which makes comparison more accurate, it gives Paignton a Birth Rate of 12.03 which still compares unfavourably with the national figure.

Only 1 still-birth occurred in Paignton in 1955, the lowest number recorded since still-births became registerable in 1931. This compares with 11 still-births in 1954. Such fluctuations are to be expected when such small numbers are involved.

Deaths

The number of deaths registered during the year was 451 which gives a crude death rate of 17.75 per 1,000 population. This compares with 15.68 in 1954, and a Death Rate of 11.7 for England and Wales. This difference is again caused by the high proportion of old people in Paignton as compared with the country as a whole. Allowing for the age and sex distribution of the population by the technique of standardisation already mentioned, the Standardised Death Rate for Paignton is 10.49 which compares favourably with the Death Rate of England and Wales.

The chief causes of death in Paignton are those which are to be expected in a predominantly old population : Heart disease, 177 ; Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 109 ; Malignant disease, 71. These three causes together accounted for 79% of all the deaths in Paignton.

Tables

Table 1 shews the vital statistics for Paignton for the last 18 years for comparison purposes. Table 2, the causes of death in Paignton, and the graph illustrates the course of the various birth and death rates since 1937.

TABLE 2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

					Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	.....	1	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	.....	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	.....	0	1
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	.....	.....	.....	5	4
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	.....	8	3
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	.....	0	9
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	.....	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	18	23
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	.....	.....	.....	0	1
16	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	3	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	.....	31	78
18	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	.....	37	31
19	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	.....	1	3
20	Other heart disease	.....	.....	.....	27	62
21	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	.....	8	8
22	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	2	1
23	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	7	10
24	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	3	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	1	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	.....	2	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	1	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	.....	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	.....	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	.....	0	1
31	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	.....	2	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	24	13
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	.....	0	2
34	All other accidents	.....	.....	.....	3	3
35	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	1	3
36	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	.....	0	0
All causes					188	263

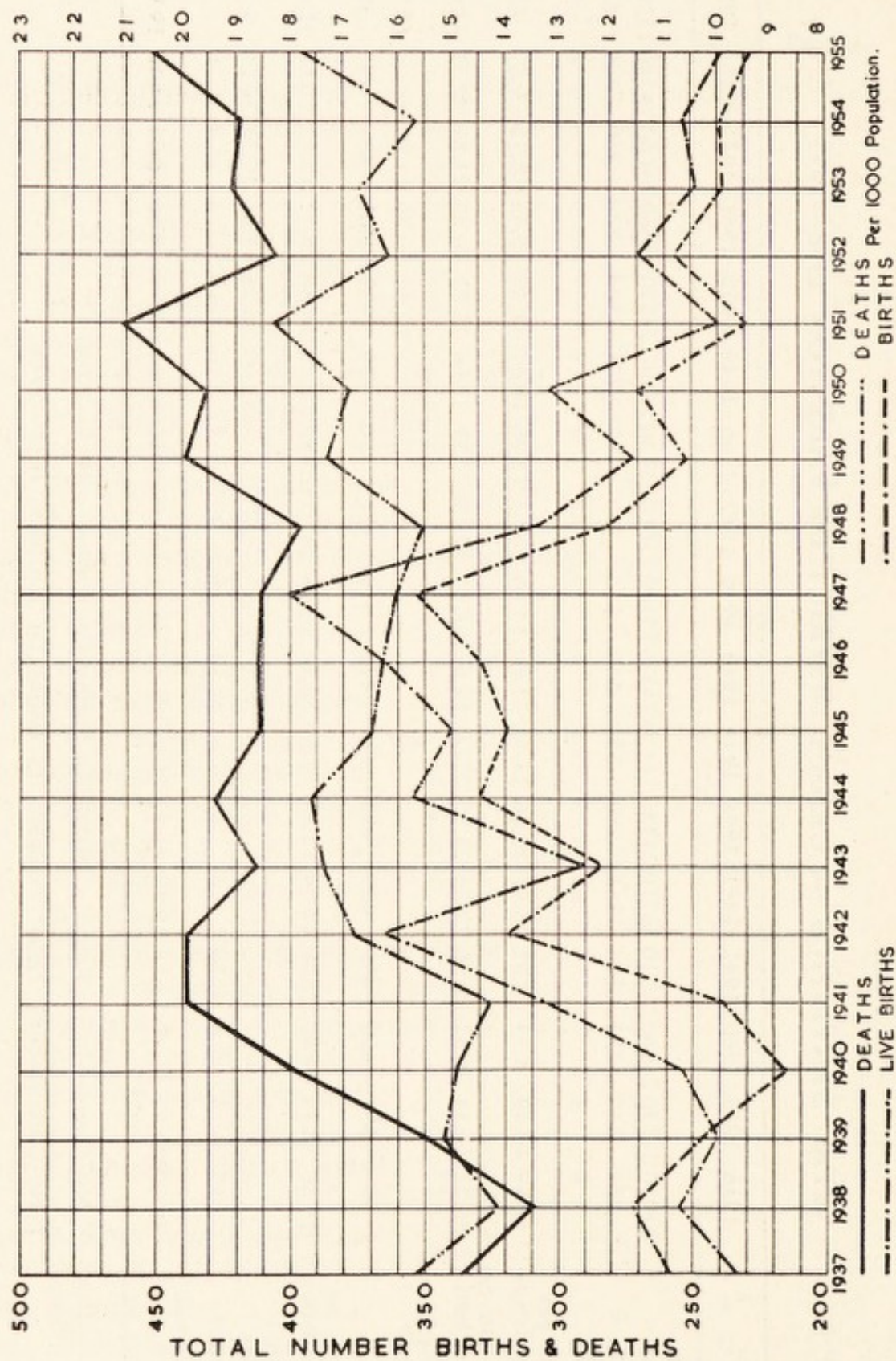
TABLE 1 VITAL STATISTICS — URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON 1938—1955

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Estimated Population	21910	23130	26960	30710	26210	23750	24420	24310	25300	25610	25450	25390	25570	25369	25060	25240	25390	25350
Live Births	254	240	254	305	365	289	354	340	366	400	307	271	304	240	269	249	252	238
Still Births	8	4	7	4	11	7	8	4	15	7	7	6	7	5	6	6	11	1
Birth Rate per 1000 Population *	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	9.38
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total births *	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	Nil.
Standardised Birth Rate *	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.52	9.49	11.69	10.76	12.26	12.03
Deaths	309	350	400	439	439	413	428	411	412	411	396	439	431	461	404	420	398	451
Death Rate per 1000 Population †	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	17.75
Standardised Death Rate †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.07	10.78	11.66	10.31	10.65	9.25	10.49
Infant Deaths	15	5	8	14	14	12	13	14	16	12	9	6	10	4	7	6	5	12
Infant Mortality Rate	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	50.42

* No Comparability Factor available for births for the years 1938—1949.

† No Comparability Factor available for deaths for the years 1938—1948.

PAIGNTON 1937—1954. BIRTHS AND DEATHS PER 1000 POPULATION



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.

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

A Laboratory is maintained in the Department where simple bacteriological examinations and chemical tests are carried out by your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

Bacteriological examination of pathological specimens, and samples of milk, water, ice cream and shellfish are otherwise carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter (Telephone Exeter 54959).

In addition, 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 Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, Public Analyst, 83 and 84 Queen Street, 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, 22 Winsu Avenue, 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 74051). 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—Dentist : Mr. Fiddick. The clinic is held three days a week, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, morning and afternoon.

(ii) Ante-Natal

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

(iii) Orthopædic Clinic

Orthopædic Surgeon : Mr. G. Blundell-Jones. This Clinic is held at Castle Chambers, Union Street, Torquay, every Wednesday, morning and afternoon.

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.

The Health Visitors are assisted in their work, both at the infant welfare centre and in the schools, by Mrs. Grant, a nursing assistant.

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. Five cases were investigated, but action was only necessary under this section in two of these cases.

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. One such burial was 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 40ft. (i.e. 14ft. below the Top Water Level).

In this year from June 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.

To augment the supply from Holne Reservoir 22,218,000 gallons were pumped from Great Parks to Beacon Hill Reservoir 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.

Chlorinating and neutralization plants are operating at Holne, acting independently on each trunk main.

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

Bacteriological

23 samples were taken, all of which fell into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's Classification for piped supplies, which is highly satisfactory.

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. 250 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Nature of Sample—Moorland Catchment Area.
Holne Water Works.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey
2 days, 37° C. 250 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

Nature of Sample—Surface Springs.
Great Parks Reservoir.

Report.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey
2 days, 37° C. 110 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli 0 per 100 ml.

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 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 284 for new properties. The present length of water mains is 125 miles 202 yards. The foregoing having increased during the year by 2 miles 1364 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 construction of the sewer draining Crabbs Park Valley was started. This sewer will serve the Standard Telephones and Cables' factory, Whiteway's factory and about 70 acres for building or other development.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The above mentioned sewer when completed will take the effluent from Whiteway's factory which at present causes severe pollution of the Crabbs Park Valley stream.

4. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No conservancy system conversion was carried out during the year.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collections, etc. Service re-organised from 1st April, 1955.

All year daily : Fish shops, butchers, fruiterers and cafes.

Thrice weekly : Paignton Zoo.

Twice weekly : Hotels (over 12 letting bedrooms).

Once weekly : Residences and boarding houses.

Summer only :

Daily : Holiday Camps, Paignton Zoo.

Thrice weekly : Hotels (over 12 letting bedrooms).

Twice weekly : All other hotels.

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

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

214 houses and flats (including Council houses) were completed during the year and considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems. The tests and inspections carried out are classified as follows :

New buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	100
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	753

Existing buildings :

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	3
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	230

Choked Drains

Informal action was taken in 38 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 is not always appreciated by house owners that their responsibility does not end at the interceptor but extends to the junction with the sewer.

(b) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

334 rooms, involving 154 premises, were treated for the following reasons :

Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)	.....	31
Tuberculosis	.....	2
Verminous Conditions	.....	52
Other Causes	.....	52
Other Infectious Diseases	.....	17

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

Mattresses	.....	38
Pillows	.....	44
Sheets	.....	11
Bolsters	.....	4
Blankets	.....	41
Other Articles	.....	34
Library books fumigated totalled 40.		

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

A number of requests for assistance in exterminating wasps were received this year resulting in 23 wasps nests being destroyed. 1 bees nest and 1 hornets nest were also 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 emphasise that very few rats are to be found in the sewers in the elevated parts of the town. Takes were recorded in the sewers in the low-lying parts and although it does not seem possible to eradicate the rats completely from this area, there is no evidence to show that their numbers are increasing.

Treatments to private houses are free of charge, but business premises are charged at the rate of 5/6 per hour.

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.

	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)	44	8432	39	1330	9806
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) 4 (b) 40	117 448	— 22	8 150	129 638
3—Number of properties (under Section 2) found to be infested by rats—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	Major 1 Minor 17	— 397	— —	— 6	1 420
4—Number of properties (under Section 2) inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	Major 1 Minor —	— 19	— —	— 2	1 21
5—Number of infested properties (under Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority—(Notes 1, 2 and 3)	19	416	—	8	443
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	124	—	—	—	—

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

132 inspections were made in respect of 163 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	29	22	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	132	108	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	—	—
TOTAL ...		163	132	6	—

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	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) —						
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	5	5	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	6	6	—	—	—

(d) SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council took over the administration of the whole of the provisions of the Shops Act in June. Previous to this date, inspections of the shops were made in connection with the requirements of Section 38.

One Order made by the County Council has been adopted by this Council thus continuing a policy that has been in operation since 1912. This order, made under Section 40, suspends the weekly half holiday during the 4 months June to September.

There are 574 shop premises within the area, to which 184 visits were made for the purposes of the Act.

Informal action was taken in respect of 16 premises as follows :

Provide washing facilities and sanitary accommodation	.....	2
Repair and re-decorate sanitary accommodation	.....	2
Provide sufficient ventilation	.....	1
Hours of closing	.....	11

(e) CAMPING SITES

35 sites were occupied during the year by tents, caravans and buildings of short lived materials. 9 sites are licenced under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and 7 sites have been granted a licence under the Town Planning Act. 4 sites were used for less than 60 days and 7 sites increased the number of dwellings for a temporary period only. The remaining sites are occupied by structures to which the building bye-laws apply. Although these sites do not require to be licenced, in many cases conditions do approach the standard set for licenced sites.

The result of the inquiry into the improvements to be carried out at the Council's camping site at Waterside was that the Ministry's approval of the scheme was obtained. The consequent delay, however, made it impossible to start on the project this year.

Sanitary accommodation was increased at 6 sites and the work completed before the commencement of the season. At another 3 sites plans have been approved for the provision of additional sanitary accommodation and this work should be carried out next year.

The number of campers in the area during the last week of July was 8,082.

(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.

Fourteen samples were taken during the year, eleven of which 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.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

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)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....					181
(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	.....	.....	.....	.....		29
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
(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	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78

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	75
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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	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :						
(a)	By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
(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	1
(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	38
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	40
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	163
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	16
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	15
(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	—

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

Two certificates of disrepair were issued during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY

The Special Designated Milks on sale in the area are Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised. Sterilised Milk is not retailed in Paignton.

(i) Dairies and Distributors

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

Dealer's licences issued during 1955 authorising the use of special designation in respect of milk retailed were as follows :

Special Designation " Pasteurised "	.....	.....	.....	28
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	.....	.....	.....	14
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) "	.....	.....	.....	25

Two retailers were also 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	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	2
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—

B. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(i) Meat Inspection

Slaughtering during the whole of the year took place at the Council's Slaughter-house at Luscombe Lane. The Council, having bought the only other existing Slaughter-house in the area in 1954, expressed the desire to keep these premises for emergency only. This Slaughter-house known as the Crown and Anchor, is satisfactory in itself, but is situated in a congested area of the town.

The tolls for use of the Slaughter-house are 10/- per unit. Slaughtering is carried out by a Contractor who deals directly with the meat traders.

The amount received in tolls to the end of the year was £1315 1s. 8d.

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

The number of animals inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1955 are shown below, together with the numbers affected with tuberculosis and other conditions warranting condemnation :

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
818	90	155	3045	2104	—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl'dg. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	818	90	155	3045	2104	—
Number inspected	818	90	155	3045	2104	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	2	1	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	154	20	2	153	200	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	18.83	24.44	2.59	5.05	9.55	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	7	—	—	43	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.18	7.77	—	—	2.04	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouse was 7,337½ lbs.

(ii) Inspection of other Foods

Unsound Food

List of canned foods rejected :

Meats	.....	.....	.....	264
Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	491
Fruit	.....	.....	.....	625
Soup	.....	.....	.....	31
Milk	.....	.....	.....	58
Fish	.....	.....	.....	46
Preserves and Pickles	.....	.....	.....	10
Lemonade Powder	.....	.....	.....	1
Frozen Eggs	.....	.....	.....	1
Puddings	.....	.....	.....	5
				<hr/>
				1532
				<hr/>

Other foods rejected :

Meat	.....	.....	.....	825 lbs.
Cake	.....	.....	.....	36 lbs.
Sugar	.....	.....	.....	44 lbs.
Dried Fruits	.....	.....	.....	110 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	.....	.....	.....	112 lbs.
Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	1120 lbs.
Margarine	.....	.....	.....	22 lbs.
Sweets	.....	.....	.....	5 lbs.
Fish	.....	.....	.....	686 lbs.
Cheese	.....	.....	.....	37 pkts.
Nuts and Raisins	.....	.....	.....	43 pkts.

Fire Damage

7 cwt. 2 qr. 16 lbs. of food was rejected as the result of a fire.
Total weight of foods rejected, 3 tons 1 cwt. 3qrs. 16 lbs. 13 ozs.

Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

No cases were reported during the year.

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.

The 1955 figures do not compare so favourably with the previous years, but this may be the result of the hot summer. Satisfactory results were obtained in May and June, and 90% of the failures occurred in July, August and September.

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

Total number of samples taken	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
.....	103	104	97	85	73	97
Grade 1	48.4%	48.1%	55.6%	55.3%	65.7%	43.3%
Grade 2	22.2%	8.6%	29.2%	20.0%	19.2%	29.0%
Grade 3	13.7%	20.2%	4.1%	21.2%	11.0%	15.5%
Grade 4	15.7%	23.1%	11.1%	3.5%	4.1%	10.2%

Shellfish

45 samples of crab meat were taken during the year and the results varied considerably. The results of the canned crab processed at the local factory were very satisfactory.

This subject is a complex one as shown by the following example :

One sample from a crab which had been boiled and then placed in the refrigerator over the week-end was sterile. This led to experiments being made along these lines, but the results were disappointing ; and no explanation could be found as to why this one particular sample should be so good.

In addition to applying the test recommended by the Fishmongers Company, samples are also examined for other types of bacteria likely to be present.

All samples are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, whose staff have been most co-operative and helpful.

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

Number of Samples	Coliform Bacilli per gramme	Clostridium Group	Enteric Dysentery Group
3 Tins (mixed)	Nil	Nil	Nil
6 Tins (mixed)	Nil	Nil	Nil
11 Red	Nil	Nil	Nil
7 White	Nil	Nil	Nil
2 Red	Up to 216,000	Isolated	Nil
1 White	53,000	Isolated	Nil
5 Red	Up to 50,000 (non-faecal)	Nil	Nil
8 White	Up to 160,000 (non-faecal)	Nil	Nil
1 White	35,200,000 (non-faecal)	Nil	Nil
1 Mixed	100,000	Nil	Nil

Results of Samples of other Shellfish

Sample	Bact. coli per ml. of Flesh	Organisms of Enteric Dysentery Group	Conclusion
3 Cockles	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
4 Cockles	less than 5	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Cockles	less than 15	Nil	Suspicious
1 Mussels	less than 15	Nil	Suspicious
3 Mussels	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Winkles	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory

C. CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

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

There are 324 food premises in the area, comprising :

Grocers and Greengrocers 95

Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars 49

Fishmongers :

Wet 5

Fried 7

Wet and Fried 1

Greengrocer/Fishmongers 2

Butchers/Fishmongers 3

Butchers 22

Baker/Pastrycook Retail Shops 18

Bakehouses and Patisseries 9

Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments 2

Winery 1

Licensed Premises :

Public 23

Private 24

Wines and Spirits 9

Shellfish Processors 4

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 84 vendors and 5 manufacturers registered for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream. The types of premises retailing this commodity are as follows :

Grocers	19
Grocers/Greengrocers	10
Greengrocers/Fruiterers	3
Tobacconist/Confectioners	33
Confectioner/Greengrocer/Fruiterer	1
General Stores	3
Kiosks	10
Multiple Stores	1
Holiday Camp Shops	4

In addition to the above, ice-cream is retailed at 20 restaurants, 11 snackbars, 3 cinemas, 2 theatres and a summer pavilion.

Of the 5 ice-cream manufacturers, 4 manufacture by hot mix, and 1 by cold mix.

44 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	4

There is one dairy registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

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

Of the 941 inspections of all types of food establishments listed below, 332 inspections were made in respect of registered premises :

Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	149
Bakehouses	46
Bakers, Confectioners Shops	57
Hotel and Guest House Kitchens	161
Butchers	97
Grocers/Greengrocers	153
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	104
Dairies	2
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	65
Shellfish Dealers	35
Cooked Meat Vendors	5
Licensed Premises	26
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	4
Mobile Canteens	5
Mobile Fish Fryers	2
Food Delivery Vans and Itinerant Vendors	30

- (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.

It should be evident to all who have any connection with commercial food preparation that personal hygiene is the most important factor in hygienic food handling. The difficulty in a seaside town, from the Inspector's point of view, is getting the food handlers to be interested enough to give the matter a little thought and study. Many of the employees in the season are temporary workers only, and their winter employment often takes them to another sphere of work entirely. With this in mind, it is considered that explanations and advice given in the kitchen or food room achieve more success than giving lectures to weary workers in their spare time.

- (v) The method of disposal of condemned food.

The rejected meat from the Slaughter-house is sold by the butchers to a bye-products manufacturing firm, who arrange for the transport. 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

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease for the year is given in the following table which also shows the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

TABLE 3

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	24	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—
Measles	524	8	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	2	2	1
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever

There was a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever in November and December and the type gave rise to only a mild illness. The children attending one school in particular, Foxhole County Primary, were affected.

Measles

The expected biennial epidemic of Measles occurred this year, and the highest number of cases ever to occur in one year were recorded in Paignton—524. This epidemic occurred all over the county, but in the early months of the year, whilst in Paignton the epidemic did not get under way until the summer months, and reached its peak in November and December. There were 25 cases in July, 39 in August and 44 in September. A big rise in the number of notifications took place in October, with 98 received, and again in November when 157 were received, while in December there were 140 cases. There were few complications and no deaths occurred.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the District during the year. Both were paralytic, one of these was a visitor, who was infected before arriving in the town, and who died shortly after being admitted to hospital.

Table 4 shows the analysis of notified cases into age groups.

TABLE 4

		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	.....	—	—	—	2	2	8
1—2 years	.....	1	1	—	2	38	37
3—4 years	.....	1	1	—	—	58	61
5—9 years	.....	10	11	—	—	155	125
10—14 years	.....	—	—	—	—	23	8
15—24 years	.....	—	—	—	—	1	4
25 and over	.....	—	—	—	—	—	4

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

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955

TABLE 5

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	.....	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	.....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	.....	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	.....	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 and over	.....	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	.....	9	6	—	2	1	2	—	—

A total of 17 cases of tuberculosis was notified in 1955, of which 15 were pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. Table 5 shows the age distribution of these cases and the deaths occurring.

A Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited Paignton from 28th November, 1955, to December, 1955, and 2,924 people took the opportunity of having their chests X-rayed. Of these, 147 were recalled for a more detailed examination, and 108 were found to have significant X-ray changes sufficient to warrant complete clinical investigation. Out of this number, 6 persons were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis unknown to themselves or to their relatives, friends and other contacts to whom they were an unwitting danger, 22 had inactive tuberculosis, and 25 are still under observation. That is, 53 persons were found to be suffering or suspected to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. The importance of mass radiography in detecting the early stages of chest disease is not confined to tuberculosis as can be seen by table 6 which shows the disease and defects found in the remaining 55 persons who had abnormal X-ray films.

TABLE 6

Non-Tuberculous Cases	Male	Female	Total
Carcinoma of Bronchus	1	—	1
Congenital Cardiac Lesions	1	1	2
Acquired Cardiac Lesions	7	9	16
Congenital Lesions of bony Thorax	5	2	7
Acquired Lesions of bony Thorax	2	1	3
Pneumonitis	—	1	1
Pneumoconiosis	2	—	2
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1	—	1
Bronchiectasis	3	—	3
Sarcoidosis	—	1	1
Accessory Lobe	1	—	1
Pleural Thickening	1	1	2
Benign Tumour	1	1	2
Still under investigation (exact diagnosis not yet available)	2	1	3
Total	32	23	55

TABLE 7

TABLE OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON
FROM 1938—1955

Disease	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Tuberculosis	31	28	29	34	38	30	38	28	31	17	16	16	6	17	12	9	19	17
Scarlet Fever	42	10	25	17	14	37	23	19	10	10	27	7	31	36	9	4	11	25
Pneumonia	16	23	15	26	14	10	13	7	8	12	4	4	1	7	11	4	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	2	3	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas	3	4	7	3	6	12	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	—	1	—
Diphtheria	19	5	7	11	5	2	3	1	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	—	4	6	3	3	—	2
Dysentery	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	64	124	7	199	6	115	131	10	137	16	197	248	4	523
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	22	10	55	19	27	16	25	1	23	6	94	66	36	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	18	—	—	—

SECTION G

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

Sixty licences to store 77,166 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.

Eleven informal requests were made to provide or refill fire extinguishers, repair vents or exhibit abstracts. Eight 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.

SECTION H

HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1955

Eight flats were constructed during the year, also fifteen bungalows for old age persons, all of which were on the Foxhole Estate. In addition twelve houses and eighteen flats became vacant, which enabled forty-four families to be re-housed from the Housing List. Nine families were transferred to more suitable accommodation. One exchange was arranged with another town.

Units constructed consisted of two types: (a) five room flats at an inclusive rental of 26/6, (b) four room old age persons' bungalows at an inclusive rental of 15/-.

Five pre-war houses became vacant (at inclusive rentals of approximately £1.0.0) and were offered to families who were not in a position to pay the top rentals of the new houses.

Tenants are selected by the Housing (Allocation) Committee, which held three meetings for the allocation of tenancies during the year.

The following premises were allocated during 1955:

New Bungalows	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
New Flats	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Existing Houses (including 3 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Existing Flats (including 6 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
					<hr/> 53 <hr/>

Allocations were made for the following reasons:

				Families	Persons
Overcrowded conditions	.....	.....	.....	5	15
Unsuitable conditions	.....	.....	.....	14	35
Health reasons	.....	.....	.....	2	8
Key Workers	.....	.....	.....	5	14
High Rents	.....	.....	.....	2	8
Court Orders	.....	.....	.....	1	5
Miscellaneous reasons	.....	.....	.....	15	39
				<hr/> 44	<hr/> 124
Transfers	.....	.....	.....	9	35
				<hr/> 53	<hr/> 159 <hr/>
Transfers of tenancy	.....	.....	.....	4	
Sub-tenancies granted	.....	.....	.....	12	
Exchanges of premises	.....	.....	.....	3	
Exchanges with other Local Authorities	.....	.....	.....	1	

Types of Families Allocated to Bungalows and Flats during 1955.

				Families	Persons
One person families	.....	.....	.....	2	2
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	20	40
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	14	42
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	12	48
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	4	20
Seven person families	.....	.....	.....	1	7
				<hr/> 53	<hr/> 159

Number of New Bungalows and Flats Occupied on the Foxhole Estate during 1955.

		Bungalows	Persons	Flats	Persons
One person family	.....	1	1	—	—
Two person families	.....	13	26	—	—
Three person families	.....	1	3	6	18
Four person families	.....	—	—	2	8
		<hr/> 15	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 26

Council Housing Estates, etc.

Number of pre-war houses and bungalows	.....	392
Number of post-war houses and bungalows on Foxhole Estate	.....	} 500
Number of post-war flats on Foxhole Estate	.....
Number of post-war houses and bungalows on other Estates	.....	117
Total number of Council properties	.....	1009

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
„ „ „ „ „ 1955	.....	1656
Average number of persons per unit for 1955	.....	2.43

Housing List.

The Housing List consisted of the following applicants on 31st December, 1955.

One person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Two person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	107
Three person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	99
Four person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Five person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Six person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Seven person families	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Pensioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	87
Short List	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
					<hr/> 395
Outside List	.....	.....	.....	.....	112
Under five years residence in Paignton	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
					<hr/> 555

Two hundred and thirty-eight visits were made to verify housing applications from local persons, and two visits were made on behalf of other Local Authorities.

RIPARIAN HEALTH DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON

This report is based on the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Circulars 33/52 and 16/55, and follows the arrangement detailed in Form Port 20.

SECTION I

STAFF

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. K. Mac-Taggart	Medical Officer of Health	1954	M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.), D.P.H. (Lond.)	Medical Officer of Health for Brixham and Borough of Dartmouth
S. H. Bone	Chief Sanitary Inspector	1949	M.S.I.A. Cert. S.I.B.	Housing Officer Petroleum Officer
C. J. Turpin	Rodent Operator and Disinfecter	1929	—	—

Clerk : Mrs. S. Beaumont.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton. Tele : No. Paignton 82214.

SECTION II
AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION III

CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic :

Number of passengers INWARDS — Nil.

Number of passengers OUTWARDS — Nil.

Cargo Traffic :

Principal IMPORTS— Nil.

Principal EXPORTS — Nil.

Principal Ports from which ships arrived in 1955 : Nil.

SECTION IV

INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

SECTION V

WATER SUPPLY

- (1) Source of supply for (a) the District and (b) Shipping.
 - (a) The water supply of the District is from an upland surface catchment area on Dartmoor of 4,200 acres. The water is treated by storing, filtering, liming and chlorinating.
 - (b) The port is supplied by 2 stand pipes on the harbour quays.
- (2) Reports of tests for contamination.

Frequent samples are taken for bacteriological examination both from the reservoirs and from taps served by the main. The reports indicate that the supply falls in Class I of the Ministry of Health's classification.
- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

No precautions are taken.
- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats.

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS)

REGULATIONS, 1952

- (1) List of infected areas. (Regulation 6.)

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

No list of infected ports and areas is received from the Ministry of Health, consequently no action is possible under the regulation.

- (2) Radio Messages.

- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the District. (Regulation 13.)

The Post Office will make the necessary arrangements for transmission of wireless messages if required.

- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Messages are received through Niton radio who inform H.M. Customs at Dartmouth, who telephone the Public Health Department.

- (3) Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)). Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for action thereon.

The Coastguard Station on Berry Head receives all communications by semaphore, morse and international code of signals. The message is then passed on to the Medical Officer of Health, normally in his capacity as Medical Officer of Health of Brixham.

- (4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30). Situation of Stations, and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.

There is no quarantine buoy, but a quarantine anchorage is available at Brixham. The exact location of the anchorage is marked on charts in the possession of H.M. Customs and the Harbour Master.

(5) Arrangements for :—

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious cases (other than Smallpox—See Section VII).

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Torquay Isolation Hospital.

- (b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.

This is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

By arrangement with the Torquay Public Health Department the cleansing of persons is carried out at their cleansing station. The disinfection of any quarters aboard ship is carried out by the Rodent Operator, and the disinfection of other articles, including clothing, is carried out in the Council's Steam Disinfector.

SECTION VII

SMALLPOX

- (1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.

Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Exeter.

- (2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the crews.

Arrangements are made by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter. The vehicle is supplied by Exeter City Health Department, and is staffed by the hospital. All members of the crew are vaccinated regularly.

- (3) Names of Smallpox Consultants available.

The Consultants are :

Dr. C. Seward, Exeter.

Dr. W. J. Laird, Exeter.

- (4) Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.

Specimens are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory, (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, London, N.W.4.

SECTION VIII

VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among seamen are available at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, at clinics held on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m. In-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

Leaflets are circulated among ships crews with this information.

SECTION IX

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports	—	—	—	—

A short account should be given of the measure taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.

NIL.

SECTION X

OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

NIL.

SECTION XI

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

NIL.

SECTION XII

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

- (1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

If any ships were to arrive from foreign ports, their masters would be asked if there was evidence of the presence of or undue mortality in rats. The Sanitary Inspector and Rodent Operator would make any necessary inspections.

- (2) Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

These examinations would be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter. None have been sent.

- (3) Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Masters of ships would be referred to Plymouth for this service.

- (4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

No ships have required rat-proofing.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category		Number
Black rats	.....	Nil.
Brown rats	.....	Nil.
Species not known	.....	Nil.
Sent for examination	.....	Nil.
Infected with plague	.....	Nil.

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Paignton is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served			Result of serving notices
	Statutory	Notices	Other Notices	
General	Nil.	—	—	—
TOTAL	Nil.			

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

Information respecting any shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.

There are no shellfish beds or layings within the area.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Paignton is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

SECTION XVI

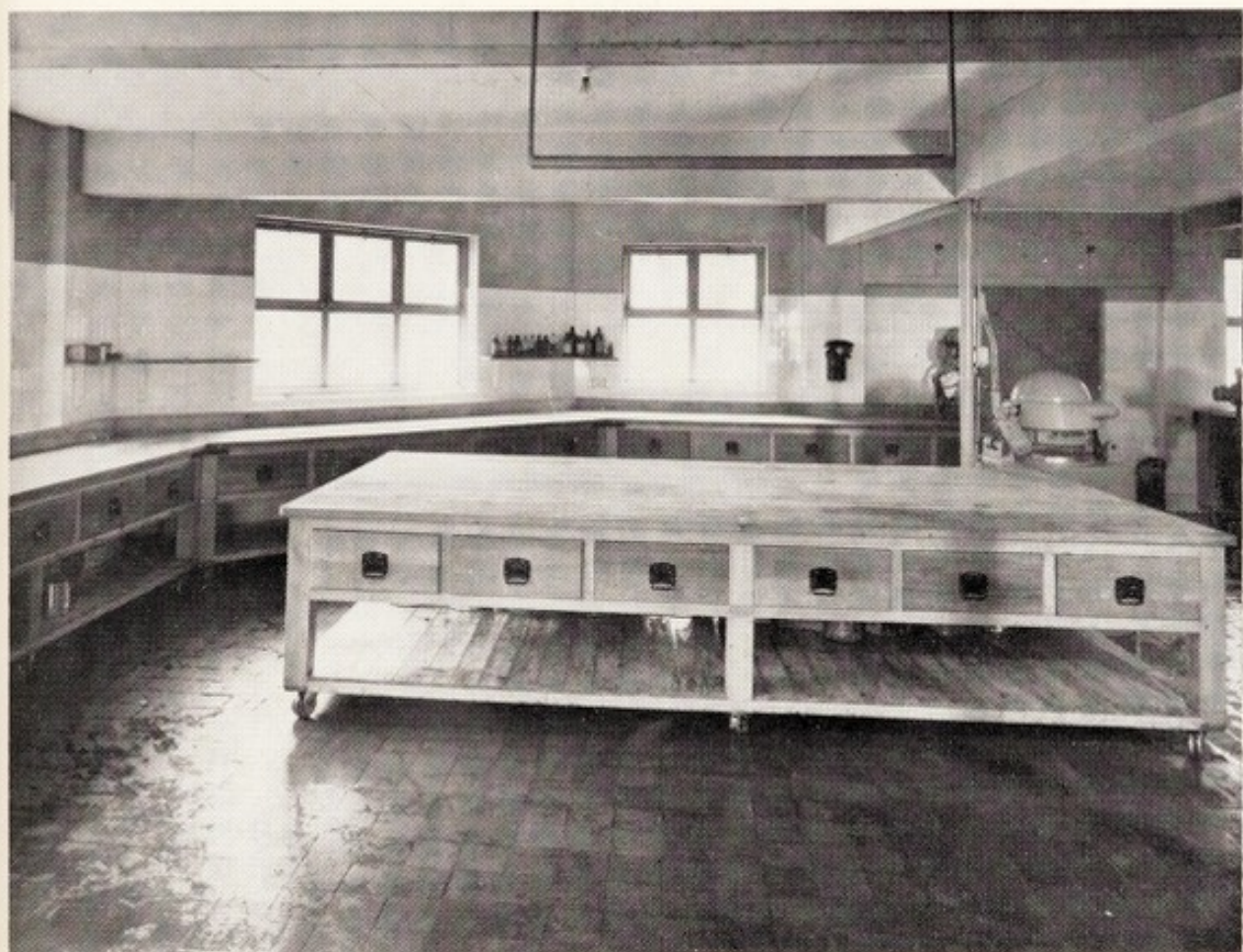
MISCELLANEOUS

Arrangement for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

The bodies of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease would be conveyed to the Council's mortuary in Palace Avenue whilst arrangements were made for interment or cremation. Any necessary precautions would be taken according to the type of disease.

D. K. MacTAGGART,

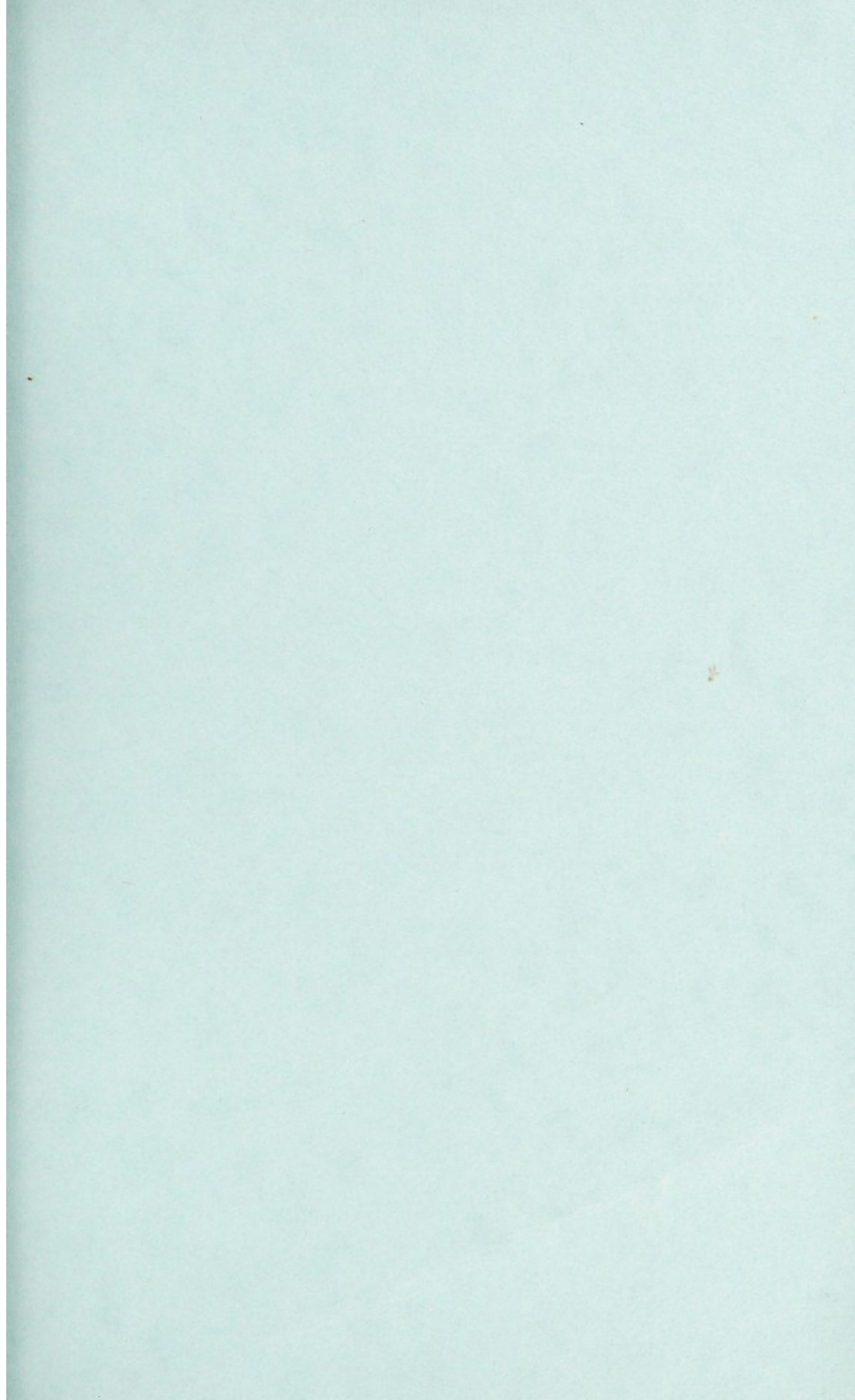
Medical Officer of Health



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