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URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON

ANNUAL REPORT


on

The Health of the Area

For the Year

1958

Report presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector



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GOODRINGTON SANDS, PAIGNTON



POSITIVE HEALTH—in Old Age



URBAN DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON

ANNUAL REPORT

on

The Health of the Area

For the Year

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Report presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector

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INTRODUCTION

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
OLDWAY, PAIGNTON

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report on the Health of the Area during 1958. Generally speaking, health was maintained at a satisfactory level, and no major public health problems were encountered except in the field of the Care of the Aged. This subject is dealt with further on.

Vital Statistics

The population showed an increase estimated to be 660 persons, brought about entirely by persons migrating into the area. There were 272 Births, giving a Standardised Rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population. This is below the National Average. Nearly 62% of the births occurred in hospital. On the other hand there were 463 deaths, giving a Standardised Rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population, as compared with the National Average of 11.7 per 1,000 population.

Once again by far the greatest single cause of death arose from disease of the heart and circulation, and the 265 deaths in this category amounted to 57% of the total. The deaths also included two from home accidents. Both were elderly women. One died of burns and the other from a broken leg caused by a fall.

Measles

An outbreak of Measles amongst children resulted in 329 notifications. This disease usually occurs in epidemic form in alternate years.

Food Poisoning

Three suspected food poisoning incidents were investigated, but no actual cases were officially notified. A summary of the incidents is as follows :

In April, 1958, a report was received that a resident of Paignton who had consumed locally grown watercress, was ill with suspected food poisoning, due to Salmonella B.A.O.R. Full investigations, including swabbing of the stream in which the watercress had grown, failed to locate the source of infection. Also the patient denied having had contact with anyone connected with Germany, or the British Army of the Rhine, where this type of Salmonella infection was first discovered.

In June, a child who had attended a birthday party developed symptoms of food poisoning two days later. Full investigations, including laboratory tests on all the family contacts and other children who attended the party, failed to trace the source of infection.

During August, 23 cases of diarrhoea affecting visitors and some staff occurred suddenly at a hotel. The provisional diagnosis was Sonne Dysentery. Appropriate action was taken by the General Practitioner looking after the patients, and the management, following advice given by the Public Health Department. Bacteriological investigations did not support the diagnosis, but indicated that the illness might have been caused by meat infected with *Clostridium welchii*. This germ is normally found in the intestines of animals and poultry, and infects the food before it is cooked.

In all three of these episodes the patients made a full and rapid recovery, and no other cases were reported.

Smallpox

Another function of the Public Health Department is to authenticate the signatures of local Medical Practitioners who have carried out vaccinations against Smallpox in accordance with the International Sanitary Regulations, 1952. During the year 173 certificates were signed. These were in connection with people who were about to travel abroad. Whilst on the subject of smallpox, I was called in by a local doctor to inspect a rash which could have been smallpox. The patient aged 23 years was a contact of a family of children who had chickenpox. The father of these children was a Customs Officer and his occupation frequently brought him into contact with travellers from abroad. The possibility that this young man's illness, and that of the children, was modified smallpox was borne in mind, but the history and clinical signs supported the diagnosis of chickenpox.

Food Hygiene

During the year the Health Department has offered advice on many aspects of food hygiene. Whilst proprietors and managers of businesses are generally most helpful, their efforts towards higher standards of hygiene are made difficult by the seasonal shortage of the right type of labour. Poor standards of personal hygiene together with a lack of knowledge or understanding of the basic principles of good health are at the root of the trouble. Your Inspectors find from experience that hygienic standards amongst workers in the food industry can be improved by frequent visits to those concerned. But much of their good work is lost at the end of the season when the temporary workers cease employment, so that they have to start afresh next year.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

On December 17th it was necessary to remove an old lady to Newton Abbot Hospital in accordance with an Order issued by a Justice of the Peace under the above Acts. The old lady had been living alone and was suffering from a chest illness. She refused to enter hospital and it was impossible to look after her properly at her home. She died in hospital the next morning.

Earlier in the year I was called in by a doctor to see another old lady who was incontinent of urine and faeces, and who appeared to be in need of care and protection. She was persuaded to enter Newton Abbot Hospital, and no Order was necessary. The Hospital reported that her symptoms cleared up within a fortnight, and that all that had been wrong with her was a feeling of insecurity, anxiety and loneliness.

The Council arranged one burial in accordance with Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Positive Health in Old Age

Positive Health in Old Age is the aim of us all. Take a look at those happy folk in the photograph at the front of this Report. They are bursting with good health and happiness. They happen to be living in an Old Folks' Home, where they have security, companionship and receive loving kindness from their fellow creatures. They are indeed lucky, but why should one's health and happiness in old age depend upon luck? What about the thousands of other old folk who still live in their own homes; surely they are just as much entitled to this health and happiness?

The increase in the population of aged folk will, during the next decade or so, outstrip our capacity to construct or adapt expensive-to-run buildings in which our old folk may dwell in comparative comfort. Hence why not make it possible for them to continue to live in their own homes? Indeed, from choice they would prefer it that way.

Growing old is a natural process, not a disease, so why all this keenness in certain quarters to whisk old people away into institutions as soon as they become old? The infirmities of old age must be viewed in the light of the individual's capacity to live and enjoy his or her life. A happy person is a healthy person, and in my experience much of the misery and suffering in old age is brought about not by actual physical disease, but by loneliness, insecurity, anxiety, and a feeling of not being wanted. Put those things right, and the old person takes on a new lease of life. But let us not wait until there is room in an institution, let us do more for the old folks in their own homes. Not only will the old people be made happy and comfortable at home but they will remain healthy far longer, thus delaying the time when they must be admitted to hospital or to an institution. This in turn will help relieve the pressure on available beds, leaving room for the admission of more urgent cases.

To make greater provision now for more extensive domiciliary care of old people will in the long run prove to be far cheaper and will benefit more people than to spend vast sums of money constructing "gold plated" institutions for the care of relatively small numbers of old folk.

With this object in view, the Paignton Council, along with other Councils in Devonshire, has strongly supported Newton Abbot's plea to the Devon County Council to augment its domiciliary services for the aged, and to amalgamate the Welfare and Health Departments so as to provide a better all round service.

Meanwhile the Paignton Council of Social Service is very active in the matter, as indeed are numerous individuals and other voluntary organisations in the area. But there is no time for complacency, the problem is upon us, and is increasing every year. It will only be solved by a combined operation between the Devon County Council, who have the powers, and the voluntary organisations who have the enthusiasm.

Existing services for the Domiciliary Care of the Aged include visits by Friendly Visitors, Home Helps, Health Visitors and District Nurses, also a Chiropody Service and a Good Neighbour S.O.S. Scheme. Old people are encouraged to join in local activities to promote an active interest in life. An extension of these services is desirable and could be augmented by week-end Home Helps, Night Sitters, a Laundry Service and by Meals-on-Wheels. Good meals would be of especial value where old people living alone cannot be bothered to cook proper food and tend to live on bread, butter and tea, thus becoming under-nourished. This self neglect also extends to household cleanliness and I have met instances where nothing short of an initial and complete spring cleaning and scrubbing out of homes would have been desirable.

Fifty years ago all these requirements were met by relatives and members of the family. To-day families are smaller, sons and daughters cannot find jobs in their home town so move away to distant places, and the houses they live in are far too small to enable Mum and Dad to move in with them. Also in places like Paignton old people from other parts of the country cherish the idea of living in retirement in the locality where they have often spent many happy holidays, so they sell up and move into the area. They are strangers in a fast growing community, and are many miles from their loved ones. All these people have earned their retirement, let us therefore do our utmost to help them enjoy what few remaining years they may have in the evening of their lives.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for its support during the year, and also my colleagues on the staff, for their advice and help.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health

Paignton. October, 1959.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

JOHN H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond).,
D.P.H.(Lond.).

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Municipal Offices, Oldway,
PAIGNTON, DEVON.

Telephone : PAIGNTON 82214

(M.O.H. Private Telephone : Brixham 3113)

Public Health Inspectors

S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Meat Cert., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Housing Officer, Explosives and Petroleum Officer.

W. D. MUGFORD, Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Meat Cert., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

F. C. BIDGOOD, Cert. S.I.E.J.B., Meat Cert., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Clerical

Mrs. S. BEAUMONT (M.O.H. Clerk).

Miss N. HART

Mrs. R. VILLIS

Other

C. J. TURPIN, Disinfector.

A. L. DOHERTY, Rodent Operator.

I. J. WILLIAMS, Abattoir Attendant.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the Session
1958-59 was Councillor G. W. CORNELIUS, J.P., and the Vice-
Chairman was Councillor Mrs. E. A. Flemons. Also on the Com-
mittee were Councillors E. M. Bishop, Mrs. M. B. Bolton, J. Coles,
H. R. Denley, J.P., A. C. Jenkins, J. C. P. Kingsland, Mrs. E. C.
Mumford, J. S. Rundle, T. S. Sharp, J.P., G. Stabb, A. B. Steart,
H. R. Sterrett, and A. J. Tremeer, J.P., C.C.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1958

Table 1

Population

ESTIMATED (MID-YEAR) POPULATION	26,920
Natural increase or decrease	— 191
Migration in or out	+ 851
Total increase or decrease	+ 660

General Statistics

AREA IN ACRES	5,188
Area of pleasure grounds (acres)	349.024
Area of foreshore (acres)	151.300
Length of coastline	4.58 miles
Coastline owned by Council	3.66 miles

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF 1958 (according to Rate Books)	9,982
Number of houses per acre	1.92
Number of persons per acre	5.1
Number of persons per house	2.7
RATEABLE VALUE OF DISTRICT	£497,754
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£1,993

Table 2

Births

STANDARDISED BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	12.5
Area Comparability Factor	1.24
NUMBER OF BIRTHS : TOTAL	272
Male	130
Female	142
Legitimate	260
Illegitimate	12

Deaths

STANDARDISED DEATH RATE (per 1,000 population)	10.8
Area Comparability Factor	0.63
NUMBER OF DEATHS : TOTAL	463
Male	201
Female	262

DEATHS OF INFANTS :

Under four weeks of age	3
Four weeks to one year of age	0
TOTAL under one year of age	3
Still Births	3

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Related Live Births)	11.0
--	------

Comparison with the Rates for England and Wales

Birth Rate 16.4	Death Rate 11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Related Live Births)	22.5

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified during 1958

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	Age Group in Years					
		Under					Over
		1	1—	5—	15—	25—	65
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0	5	0	0	0
Measles	329	7	112	198	9	3	0
Acute Pneumonia	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	8	0	0	0	2	5	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	2	0	0	0	1	0	1

Table 2

DISEASE	TOTAL	Incidence by Quarters				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Scarlet Fever	5	1	2	0	2	
Measles	329	52	166	102	9	
Acute Pneumonia	2	2	0	0	0	
Erysipelas	3	1	0	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	1	0	0	
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	8	4	2	2	0	
Tuberculosis (Other)	2	1	1	0	0	

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1958

Line No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
	All causes	201	262	463
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2	5
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	1	1
3	Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	6	13
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	2	10
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	13	13
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	28	42
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	4	6
16	Diabetes	1	4	5
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	46	69
18	Coronary disease, angina	47	27	74
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
20	Other heart disease	35	61	96
21	Other circulatory disease	9	10	19
22	Influenza	2	2	4
23	Pneumonia	10	10	20
24	Bronchitis	2	2	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	5	0	5
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	20	33
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
34	All other accidents	4	7	11
35	Suicide	3	1	4
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
(a)	Still births	1	2	3
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	2	3
(c)	Deaths of infants four weeks to one year of age	0	0	0

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN PAIGNTON

LABORATORY SERVICE

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

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 Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, 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 Analysts, 83 and 84 Queen Street, Exeter.

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following are some of the County Council Services available under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, Medical Department, 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter, Devon.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres

There are six District Nurse/Midwives, three Health Visitors and a Nursing Assistant. Child Welfare Sessions are held at 14 Midvale Road, Paignton (Telephone Paignton 59131) on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and at the Baptist Church Hall, Preston, Paignton, on Wednesday afternoons.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, Immunisations

A Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this service free of charge.

Special sessions of immunisation against Poliomyelitis are also arranged for school children, young persons, young adults and expectant mothers.

Home and Domestic Help

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. M. Fors, 16 Shorton Road, Paignton (Telephone Paignton 57510).

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Station (Telephone Paignton 57602 by day and Paignton 59922 by night) is situated at Mill Yard, Littlegate Road, Paignton.

The Service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer, but the local administration is 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 (Telephone Torquay 63276) for cases entering the Hospital from the Paignton area.

Special arrangements exist for the treatment of smallpox at Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital, Exeter. Arrangements for transport of such cases are made through Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter.

Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

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. It transports sitting cases who can enter or leave a vehicle unaided. Arrangements for a hospital car will be made by the hospital, upon application by a Medical Practitioner.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officers, Miss O. F. Evans and Mr. W. J. Gliddon, Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton (Telephone Paignton 59132).

HOSPITAL SERVICES

These are provided by the Torquay and District Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the South-Western Regional Hospital Board.

The Paignton and District Hospital, situated at Church Street, Paignton, is a General Hospital with an establishment of 50 beds.

There is a Recovery Hospital with 24 beds at Kings Ash, Paignton, with a General Practitioner Staff (as for Paignton Hospital).

The District is also served for general cases by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, whilst cases of infectious disease (except small-pox) are received at the Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICE

There are 18 Doctors in General Practice at Paignton.

DENTAL SERVICE

There are 9 Dentists at Paignton, and a School Dental Clinic.

OTHER SERVICES

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 (Telephone Paignton 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.

Old People's Welfare

There is a Rest Centre, an Old People's Home, two Old People's Clubs, Friendly Visitors, a Clothing and a Chiropody Service. These are co-ordinated by the Paignton Council of Social Service (Telephone Paignton 57604).

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Sessions are held at the Rest Centre, Bishop's Place, Paignton, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except at weekends. Facilities for Marriage Guidance can be arranged.

Infertility and Family Planning Clinics

Clinic sessions at the Central Clinic, 14 Midvale Road, Paignton, are held regularly by the Torbay Branch of the Family Planning Association. Interviews arranged by appointment—Telephone Paignton 82019.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The following details have kindly been supplied by the Water Engineer, Mr. J. C. Peters, A.I.W.E., A.I.Struct.E.

Source of Public Supply

All the water is obtained from two upland moorland catchment areas, known as the Holne and Swincombe Catchment Areas, on Dartmoor, and from springs at Great Parks Reservoirs, Blagdon, Paignton. Water from Swincombe is piped to the Holne Reservoir.

Distribution

From the impounding Reservoir at Holne the mains convey water to Paignton Service Reservoirs at Beacon Hill, St. Mary's, Fernicombe and Alston. They also distribute water in bulk to the South Devon Water Board, the Urban Districts of Brixham and Teignmouth and the Rural District Council of Newton Abbot.

By the end of the year, plans were complete for constructing an additional Service Reservoir with a capacity of one million gallons, at Windmill Hill.

Approximately 99.7% of the population are supplied with water direct to the houses, and there are no standpipes. A total of 261 new houses were connected to the mains. There are now 132 miles 173 yards of water mains, an increase of 1 mile, 216 yards since the previous year.

Quantity

The quantity of water available at Holne has been ample. The lowest level recorded of the impounding Reservoir at Holne which has a capacity of 190 million gallons, was 51ft. 4ins., that is to say, 2ft. 8ins. below the top water level.

To augment this supply, 10,898,000 gallons were pumped from Great Parks Reservoirs to Beacon Hill Reservoir during the summer season.

Quality of Supply

The whole of the supply is passed through pressure filters and the naturally acid water is treated with hydrate of lime and subsequently sterilized by the application of gaseous chlorine. Chlorinating and neutralization plants are operating at Holne, acting independently on each trunk main.

Bacteriological Examination of the Raw Water

No samples of untreated water were collected during 1958.

Bacteriological Examination of the Treated Water

32 samples were bacteriologically tested. A total of 25 contained no B.coli in 100ml and were highly satisfactory. There were seven unsatisfactory samples. These were taken following an electricity failure, which interfered with chlorination. Repeat samples taken after the fault had been rectified were completely satisfactory.

Chemical Examination of the Raw and Treated Water

No samples for chemical examination were collected in 1958. However, samples taken in 1957 revealed that the raw water has the character and quality of water drained from a clean moorland catchment area. It is free from deleterious constituents and possesses no abnormal qualities.

Analysis of the treated water reveals that treatment is fully effective. The water is not plumbosolvent.

Private Sources of Supply

The Public Health Department took 14 samples of water from private sources of supply in the Blagdon and Beechdown areas of Paignton. Twelve samples showed gross pollution with Coliform bacilli, many of them of faecal origin. Consumers were advised to boil any water intended for drinking purposes. Of the two satisfactory samples, one was from a roof tank, and the other had passed through a bacterial water filter.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

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.S.H., for the information on drainage, sewerage and refuse disposal

Sewage flows to the sewage pumping station in the Clennon Valley, whence it is pumped into a trunk sewer which discharges into the English Channel off Sharkham Point, Brixham (outside Torbay).

Sewerage

Considerable extensions of the sewerage system have been made by Estate Developers.

A length of 540 yards of 40in. diameter steel and 39in. diameter concrete sewers were laid at Goodrington to complete the scheme to relieve flooding mentioned last year.

A loan application for £345,000 was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to duplicate sewers in many parts of the town which have caused flooding in the past, to construct the new storm water overflows and to provide two additional sea outfalls, one at Preston, duplicating the present outfall, and the other to the east of the Harbour, in place of the existing inadequate outfall.

Public Conveniences

A new public convenience has been built at Three Beaches, Goodrington.

Plans have been approved for the construction of conveniences at Goodrington South Sands, Oldway and Smallcombe Road.

Refuse Disposal

Ridgeway Claypit is still in use. During 1958, 13,000 tons of household and trade refuse were disposed of by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Drainage and Sewerage

223 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	.....	.....	145
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	688

Existing Buildings

Sewer connections inspected	.....	.....	2
Tests of drainage	.....	.....	120

Choked Drains

Informal action was taken in 50 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.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

277 rooms, involving 113 premises, were treated for the following reasons :

Notifiable Diseases (ex. Tuberculosis)	.....	.....	6
Other Infectious Disease	.....	.....	5
New Tenancies	.....	.....	55
Earwigs	.....	.....	1
Flies	.....	.....	5
Fleas	.....	.....	14
Beetles	.....	.....	9
Moths	.....	.....	3
Ants	.....	.....	4
Other Causes	.....	.....	11

Articles Treated were as follows :

Mattresses	.....	.....	16
Pillows	.....	.....	22
Blankets	.....	.....	1
Bolsters	.....	.....	5
Eiderdowns	.....	.....	6
Jumpers	.....	.....	5
Underclothing	.....	.....	2
Library Books	.....	.....	10

Camping Sites

39 sites were occupied during the year by tents, caravans and buildings of short lived materials. 9 are licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and 9 others have been granted a licence under the Town Planning Act. 9 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 licensed, in many cases conditions do approach the standard set for licensed sites.

Sanitary accommodation was increased at 2 sites before the commencement of the season. Plans to improve sanitary accommodation at another holiday camp were also approved.

A survey made during the last week in July gave the following figures :

	1958	1957
Number of Campers	10,272	8,776
Number of Caravans	1,492	1,317
Number of Huts and Chalets	697	662
Number of Tents	994	723
Total	3,183	2,702

Clean Air Act, 1956

There was no serious smoke nuisance in the area during the period under review, and minor complaints were overcome following a verbal request.

Swimming Pools

There are 2 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.

15 samples were taken during the year, 14 of which proved satisfactory.

Old Metal or Marine Store Dealers

5 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 4 premises required to be licensed under the Act.

Rag Flock Act, 1951

Four 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.

Shops Act, 1950

The Council is responsible for the administration of the whole of the provisions of the Shops Act.

Informal action was taken in respect of the following :

Provision of washing facilities and sanitary accommodation	5
Repair and redecorate sanitary accommodation	1
Provide sufficient ventilation	6
Hours of closing	35

There are 592 shop premises in the area, to which 352 visits were made for the purposes of the Act.

One Order made by the Devon 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.

Four prosecutions were made in connection with Sunday trading. Three were successful and fines were imposed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 10% of the sewers in the District are test baited annually. From evidence based on the results of this test two maintenance tests were 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 were free of charge, but business premises were charged at the rate of 6/- per hour.

The following Table summarises 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, Fisheries and Food.

	Type of Property				Total
	Council's Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business Premises	
Number of properties inspected	45	693	10	164	912
Number found to be infested by rats	21	346	0	8	375
Number seriously infested by mice	2	12	0	6	20
Number of properties treated for infestations	23	358	0	14	395
Number of block control schemes carried out					178

Wasp Nests

A number of requests for assistance in exterminating wasps were received during the year, resulting in the destruction of 23 wasps' nests.

Nests located inside buildings are treated initially by spray insecticide to facilitate removal to a safe place. Complete extermination is then effected by fumigation with the gas of Hydrocyanic Acid (HCN).

HOUSING ACTS

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT

Inspection of Dwelling Houses—Sub-standard Housing

94 premises were inspected for housing defects or statutory nuisances under the Housing Acts or Public Health Act, and 46 notices were served. The number of inspections made for this purpose was 245. Most of the work was carried out following the service of an Informal Notice, and no Statutory Notices were served.

Eight families, comprising 19 persons, were rehoused by the Council.

Two houses were demolished.

Improvement Grants

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

Certificates of Disrepair

Applications received during 1958	.....	.....	8
Undertakings given by Landlords	.....	.....	6
Certificates of disrepair issued (all defects)			0
Certificates of disrepair issued (some defects only)	.....	.....	3

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 26 persons are registered as distributors of milk.

Dealer's licenses issued during 1958, authorising the use of special designation in respect of milk retailed, were as follows :

Special Designation " Pasteurised "	.....	.....	.....	26
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	.....	.....	.....	18
Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) "				23

Three 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	4	0

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 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 £837. 9. 6.

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

The numbers of animals inspected by the Public Health Inspectors during 1958 are shown below, together with the numbers affected with tuberculosis and other conditions warranting condemnation :

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
699	35	67	2191	961	0
Total :					3953

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned during 1958

	Cattle exclgd. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	699	35	67	2191	961
Number inspected	699	35	67	2191	961
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	1	5	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	124	8	2	71	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	17.74	25.71	4.48	3.47	5.83
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	1	0	0	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.18	2.40	0	0	1.56
Cysticercosis :					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0

The total weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouse was 2 tons 5 cwt. 0 qrs. 26 lbs.

The six cases of Cysticercosis represented 0.82% of the total number inspected.

(ii) Inspection of Other Foods

Unsound Food

List of Canned Foods Condemned :

Meats	.....	.....	.....	267
Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	331
Soup	.....	.....	.....	44
Fish	.....	.....	.....	88
Fruit	.....	.....	.....	1131
Milk	.....	.....	.....	62
Cream	.....	.....	.....	4
Cereals	.....	.....	.....	13
Golden Syrup	.....	.....	.....	2
Preserves	.....	.....	.....	19
Fruit Juices	.....	.....	.....	19
Dog Food	.....	.....	.....	1
				<hr/>
				1981
				<hr/>

Approximate weight of canned foodstuffs condemned, 27 cwt.

Other Foods Condemned :

Bacon	.....	.....	177 lbs.
Sausages	.....	.....	103 lbs.
Split Peas	.....	.....	1 lb.
Semolina	.....	.....	10 lbs.
Prunes	.....	.....	60 lbs.
Grapes	.....	.....	66 lbs.
Fruit	.....	.....	9 jars
Fish Spread	.....	.....	1 jar
Cheese	.....	.....	48 packets
Jellies	.....	.....	2 packets
Prawns	.....	.....	35 lbs.
Fish	.....	.....	27 stone

Ice Cream

88 samples of ice cream were bacteriologically tested.

The following table gives the results, and compares them with the results of samples taken during previous years :

Year	Total number of Samples	Percentage of Samples in Provisional Grade			
		1	2	3	4
1955	97	43.3	29.0	15.5	10.2
1956	89	75.3	13.5	5.6	5.6
1957	87	64.4	26.4	4.6	4.6
1958	88	70.4	17.0	4.5	8.1

Note : Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgement should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Shellfish

17 samples of crab meat were taken during the year. The results of the canned crab processed at the local factory were very satisfactory.

In addition to applying the test recommended by the Fish-mongers' 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 tables give the bacterial counts.

Bacteriological Examination of Shellfish

Sample	Bact. coli per ml. of Flesh	Organisms of Enteric Dysentery Group	Conclusion
2 Cockles	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
7 Cockles	less than 5	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Cockles	between 1 and 5	Nil	Suspicious
2 Cockles	more than 15	Nil	Unsatisfactory
2 Mussels	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Mussels	less than 5	Nil	Satisfactory
2 Whelks	less than 5	Nil	Satisfactory
1 Oysters	less than 5	Nil	Satisfactory

Bacteriological Examination of Crab Meat

Sample	Total Count per Gram	Faecal coli	Coliforms	Micrococci	Staph: Albus	Staph: Aureus	Clostridia Group	Enteric Group
Red Crab Meat	2,200,000	in 1/100th Gram	100,000	1,200,000	900,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	230,000	in 1 Gram	104,000	6,000	120,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	210,000	Nil	10,000	140,000	60,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	80,000	Nil	50,000	20,000	10,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	60,000	Nil	50,000	4,000	6,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	23,000	Nil	16,000	3,000	4,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Red Crab Meat	18,000	Nil	3,000	11,000	4,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mixed Crab Meat	30,000	Nil	Nil	10,000	20,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mixed Crab Meat	20,000	Nil	Nil	11,000	9,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	11,200,000	in 1/10th Gram	10,780,000	320,000	100,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	2,160,000	Nil	1,760,000	250,000	150,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	1,400,000	Nil	1,230,000	80,000	90,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	820,000	Nil	320,000	440,000	60,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	700,000	Nil	140,000	500,000	60,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	450,000	Nil	370,000	50,000	30,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	24,000	Nil	7,000	9,000	8,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
White Crab Meat	5,200	Nil	4,500	Nil	700	Nil	Nil	Nil

C. CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

(i) Food premises in the area by type and number :

There are 362 food premises in the area, comprising :

Grocers and Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	88
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Fishmongers :					
Wet	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Fried	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Wet and Fried	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Greengrocer/Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Holiday Camp Shops/Kitchens	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Baker/Pastrycook Retail Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Bakers' Sundriesman	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bakehouses and Patisseries	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	.....				2
Winery	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Licensed Premises :					
Public	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Private	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Wines and Spirits	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Shellfish Processors	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	52
Confectionery Wholesalers	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cooked Meats Vendor	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Kiosks and seasonal structures :					
Refreshments/Ice Cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Shellfish	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Candyfloss, Toffee Apples	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

(ii) The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :

There are 81 vendors and 5 manufacturers registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream. The types of premises retailing this commodity are as follows :

Baker/Confectioner	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Greengrocers/Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
General Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Kiosks	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Multiple Store	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Holiday Camp Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

In addition to the above, ice cream is retailed at 20 restaurants, 10 snackbars, 3 cinemas, 1 theatre, and a summer pavilion.

Of the 5 ice cream manufacturers, 3 manufacture by hot mix, and 2 by cold mix.

45 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	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
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 1,189 inspections of all types of food establishments listed below, 345 inspections were made in respect of registered premises :

Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	.....	.....	.....	.....	189
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Bakers, Confectioners Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	67
Hotel and Guest House Kitchens	.....	.....	.....	.....	141
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	120
Grocers/Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	188
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	.....	173
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	66
Shellfish Dealers	.....	.....	.....	.....	53
Cooked Meat Vendors	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Licensed Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Mobile Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

Wholesale Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Food Delivery Vans and Itinerant Vendors	.....				38
Factory Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Beach Kiosks	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Winery	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Holiday Camp Kitchens	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

133 Informal Notices were served specifying work to be carried out to enable premises to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. 126 of these were complied with by the end of the year.

(iv) Food Hygiene Lectures

Past experience has shown that the education of food handlers in a seaside town has to take place in the kitchen, rather than holding meetings after working hours. Considerable time is spent at business premises explaining the various points as they apply in each individual case.

(v) Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat from the slaughterhouse is disposed of by the butchers to a by-products manufacturing firm, who arrange for the transport.

All other condemned foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip.

(vi) Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

SECTION D

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

140 inspections were made in respect of 171 premises listed in the Factories Register. 2 outworkers were listed in August as required by Section 110(1) (c).

The following table is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (revised) in respect of the year 1958.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories without Mechanical Power :

Number on Register	.....	.....	25
Inspections	.....	.....	23
Written Notices	.....	.....	0

Factories with Mechanical Power :

Number on Register	.....	.....	134
Inspections	.....	.....	103
Written Notices	.....	.....	0

Other Premises under the Act :

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	.....	.....	12
Inspections	.....	.....	14
Written Notices	.....	.....	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Defects	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :		
(a) Unreasonable temperature	..... 1	..... 1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	..... 6	..... 6
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	.....	..... 0
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	.....	..... 2

SECTION E

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

59 licences to store 96,131 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 two gallon foam extinguishers in the vicinity of the storage tanks.

The testing of tanks in use for more than twenty years was commenced, and 7 such tanks were tested and found to be satisfactory.

Notices were served requesting the following work to be carried out :

Renewal of ventilator gauzes	.....	1
Tanks to be fitted with number plates		2
Foam extinguishers to be provided	.....	2

On new installations 5 new underground tanks were tested. One tank of 200,000 gallon capacity was constructed above ground and tested with water in December.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 AND 1923

Classification of Stores :

31 licences were issued for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives.

Explosives in magazine—Mode "A"	.....	.....	2
Shops for the sale of cartridges Class 6 Division 3			4
Shops for the sale of fireworks Class 7 Division 2			25

SECTION F

HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1958

During 1958 a new estate at Primley Cross was opened up consisting of compact, labour-saving bungalows and flats, primarily intended for single, elderly persons.

Eighteen houses were constructed at Foxhole and nineteen Bungalows were completed at Primley Cross during the year. Twenty-three houses and sixteen flats became vacant during the year, and one house was loaned back by the Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd. Seventy-seven families were rehoused from the Housing List and thirty-two families were transferred to more suitable accommodation. Three exchanges took place between local tenants.

The units constructed consisted of :

- (a) 10 four room houses at Foxhole at an inclusive rental of £1. 13s. 3d.
- (b) 8 five room houses at Foxhole at an inclusive rental of £1. 13s. 3d.
- (c) 9 two room bungalows at Primley Cross at an inclusive rental of £1 9s. 4d.
- (d) 10 three room bungalows at Primley Cross at an inclusive rental of £1 9s. 4d.

A fifty week rent year was introduced during 1958, whereby the rents were increased by a small weekly amount, enabling the tenants to have a rent free week at Christmas and August Bank Holiday.

The Housing (Allocation) Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. E. A. Flemons, held eight meetings during the year for the allocation of tenancies.

The following premises were allocated during the year :

New Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Existing Houses (including 8 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Existing Flats (including 24 transfers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
						—
						109

Allocations were made for the following reasons :

	Families	Persons
Overcrowded conditions	7	25
Unsuitable conditions	20	56
Health reasons	9	20
Key workers	3	10
High rents	1	3
Landlord and Tenant Act evictions	6	16
Court Orders	2	8
Demolition or Closing Orders	7	17
Miscellaneous reasons	22	57
	—	—
	77	212
Transfers	32	113
	—	—
	109	325
Transfers of tenancies .....	.....	12
Sub-tenancies granted .....	.....	4
Exchanges between tenants .....	.....	3

431 visits were made in connection with applications for Council houses.

499 interviews were held with applicants.

Types of Families Allocated to Houses, Flats and Bungalows during 1958

	Families	Persons
One person families	19	19
Two person families	21	42
Three person families	36	108
Four person families	15	60
Five person families	14	70
Six person families	3	18
Eight person families	1	8
	—	—
	109	325

Number of New Houses occupied on the Foxhole Estate during 1958

	Houses	Persons
Two person family	1	2
Three person families	10	30
Four person families	4	16
Five person families	2	10
Six person family	1	6
	—	—
	18	64

Number of New Bungalows occupied on the Primley Cross Estate during 1958

			Premises	Persons
One person families	.....	.....	16	16
Two person families	.....	.....	3	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			19	22

Housing Estates

Number of pre-war Council Houses	.....	.....		393
Number of post-war houses on the Foxhole Estate			256	
Number of post-war maisonettes on the Foxhole Estate	.....	.....		12
Number of post-war flats on the Foxhole Estate			308	
			<hr/>	576
Number of post-war Bungalows at Primley Cross				19
Number of post-war Houses on other estates				117
				<hr/>
Total number of Council properties	.....	.....		1105

Estimated population on the Foxhole Estate at the end of 1958 = 2,380.

Average number of persons per unit for 1958 = 2.97.

Housing List

The Housing List consisted of the following applications on 31st December, 1958 :

One person families	.....	.....	19
Two person families	.....	.....	113
Three person families	.....	.....	79
Four person families	.....	.....	47
Five person families	.....	.....	12
Six person families	.....	.....	5
Seven person families	.....	.....	2
Eight person family	.....	.....	1
Pensioners	.....	.....	112
Short List	.....	.....	40
			<hr/>
			430
Under five years	.....	.....	35
Outside List	.....	.....	142
			<hr/>
			607

SECTION G

RIPARIAN HEALTH DISTRICT OF PAIGNTON

A detailed Report based upon the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Circulars 33/52 and 16/55, and in Form Port 20, is required by not later than March 31st, each year. The appropriate Report on the Riparian Health District of Paignton was compiled for the year 1958 and posted to the Ministry in March, 1959.

The Report was similar to those of previous years, and showed no change in local circumstances.

A copy is available for inspection at the Public Health Department.

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