

**[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Saltash Borough.**

**Contributors**

Saltash (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1945

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/h8hmjasr>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY



BOROUGH OF SALTASH

---

# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945

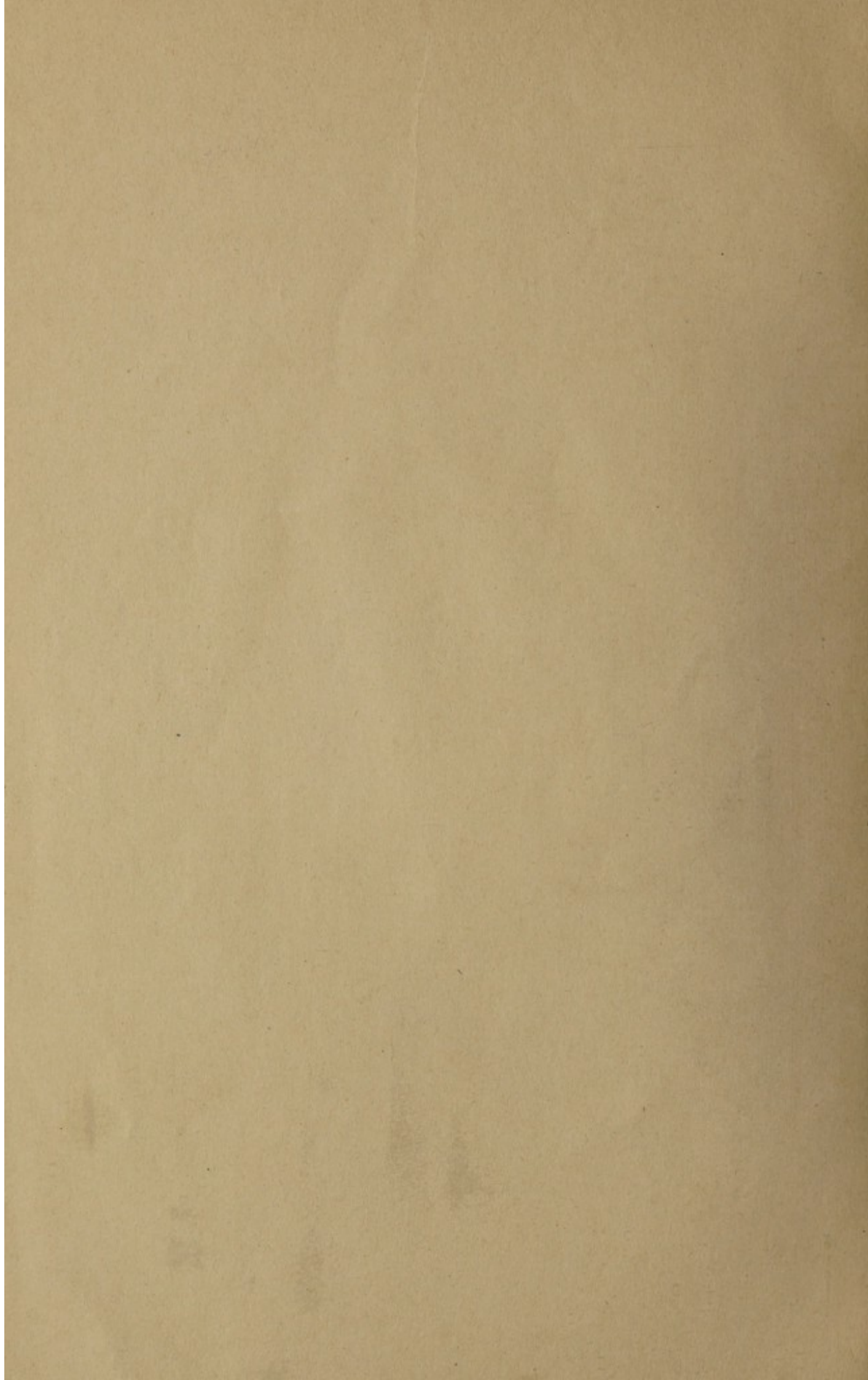
---

HUGH G. ROBINSON, M.B., Ch.B.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

---

SALTASH :  
DINGLE AND CO., PRINTERS,  
1946



## BOROUGH OF SALTASH

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1945

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1945.

This report is much on the same lines as those during the years of the war, except that, as last year, figures of population and extensions of public utility undertakings may be noted.

### SECTION A. SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND STATISTICS.

Area in acres, 6,257. Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 6,588.

The Borough consists of a residential area, with Saltash, St. Stephens and Burraton as a built-up area, and an agricultural area, consisting of the outlying part of St. Stephens and the villages of Trematon, Trehan and Carkeel.

Employment is provided for a number of men in two Quarries and there is a Creamery in Saltash which employs several men and women. A considerable number of the population are employed in the Government Establishments at Ernesettle, Bull Point and the Dockyard.

VITAL STATISTICS. Corrected by inward and outward transfer.

		BIRTHS		
		Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	....	122	59	63
Illegitimate	....	8	4	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		130	63	67
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total	Male	Female
Still Births	....	8	6	2
All these were legitimate				
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....			19.7
Rate for England and Wales	....			16.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....			1.2
Rate for England and Wales	....			0.46
The Live Birth Rate for 1944 was 20.0				

### DEATHS

Total number corrected by transfer 87

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	13.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	11.4

The Death Rate in the Borough last year was 14.5

The Death Rate from influenza was .91, compared with .08 for England and Wales.

Infantile Deaths. There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year, giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 38.4 compared with 46 for England and Wales.

Unnatural Causes. There were no deaths.

Appended is a table shewing the Causes of Death and Age Incidence.

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE

Disease	M	F	und'r 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-70	70-75	75 & over
Tuberculosis of the Lung	1	1					1		1					
Influenza	2	4			1				1	1	1	1		1
Cancer of Uterus		2						1					1	
Cancer of Stomach		1											1	
Cancer of Breast		1											1	
Cancer of Other Sites	3	2							2		1	1		1
Diabetes		1									1			
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease	6	7								1	3	1	5	3
Heart Disease	14	20					1			3	5	1	6	18
Bronchitis	1													1
Pneumonia	2		1						1					
Ulcer of the Stomach	1												1	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1		1											
Other Digestive Disease	3	1								1		1	2	
Nephritis		4									1	1	1	1
Premature Birth		1	1											
Congenital Debility		2	2											
All Other Causes	2	4								1	1		2	2
	36	51	5		1		2	1	5	7	13	6	20	27

In this table there is a slight discrepancy compared with the Return received from the Registrar-General

#### SECTION B.

There is no change as regards the staff on the Sanitary side, but an Architectural Assistant has been appointed for the New Housing Work. Bacteriological work is sent either to Doctor Wordley, at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Greenbank, or to Dr. Hocking, at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. There is now an Ambulance belonging to the St. John Ambulance Association, Saltash Division, which meets a much needed want which we had not before the war, though during the war the Civil Defence Ambulance was available.

Maternity and Child Welfare is a responsibility of the County Council, but the Infant Welfare Clinic, which was started in Autumn of 1944, has provided a much appreciated benefit in the town, and grateful thanks must be given to all those ladies, who, with the District Nurses and the County Health Visitor for this Area and the Doctors, have freely and willingly given their services, and to the Council who have granted the use of rooms free of charge. For the first financial year there was some expenses for equipment and 75% of this expense was refunded by the County Council. For the 2nd financial year I anticipate that we shall not have any claim for expenses. There are two Nursing Homes in the district, which are licensed and supervised by the County Council.

Hospital Services. Very useful work is done at St. Barnabas Hospital, where private patients, as well as Voluntary Hospital Scheme cases are dealt with, and cases are also treated in the Plymouth Hospitals.

The following Sections C, D and E embrace the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

#### SECTION C. WATER SUPPLY.

The Plymouth supply is satisfactory and in addition the Council are taking a minimum of 5,000 gallons a day from the S.E. Cornwall Water Board, which more adequately supplies Carkeel and the War Department Camp.

The Saltash Audit supply has been cut off, owing to adverse analytical reports; the quantity available here was 20,000 gallons per day.

Some trouble was experienced from over chlorination of the Plymouth Supply, but after several representations to the Plymouth Authority a considerable reduction in residual chlorine has resulted.

The supply to Lower Burraton has been improved by scraping operations.

Periodical bacterial and chemical examinations have been made.

Population supplied from Public Mains. (a) Direct to houses, 6,400

(b) Stand pipes, Nil.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Saltmill. The works here are badly overloaded and serious attention will have to be given to this in the near future. In difficult circumstances the best possible steps have been taken to minimise river pollution.

Forder. The fact that the Ministry of Health has granted a dispensation to pollute the River Lynher is in itself an indication of the position.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council have changed over from the contract system to their own vehicle; this will be more satisfactory. There has been difficulty in establishing a satisfactory controlled tip owing to the ground utilised not being in the Council's ownership. A Compulsory Purchase Order is to be made and when this is completed, control will be better and the present nuisance eradicated.

#### SEA WATER BATH.

Time and tide have almost wrecked the bath during the war years and a new site is being considered. Meanwhile, in its leaking condition, it still provides great pleasure to many children.

#### INSPECTIONS.

Cowsheds and Dairies	....	50
Refuse Collection, Disposal and Bins	....	30
Bakehouse, Fish and Chip Shops, Work-places		12
Water Supply	....	6
Drains, Testing, etc.	....	41
Defects found and remedied after notice		
Formal Notice	....	3
Informal	....	27

#### SECTION D. HOUSING.

##### REPAIRS AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

This work is almost static. Some additional sanitary assistance should be provided.

##### NEW HOUSING.

40 Temporary Houses are in course of erection. Proposals to erect 112 houses, and 12 flats at Warfelton, are in hand.

War destroyed Council houses rebuilt during the year by Borough Surveyor's Dept. (I believe these four houses are the first post war Council houses to be erected in the South West.)

##### TOWN PLANNING.

During the year the Ministry of Town and Country Planning has directed the Council to join with Plympton R.D.C. and Plymouth City Council and other Authorities in order to form a Plymouth Regional Planning Committee. The Council has therefore seceded from the East Cornwall Planning Committee.

##### OVERCROWDING.

There are 650 tenants applying for new Council houses, most of them with no house of their own. It has not been possible to abate overcrowding during the year except in one instance where a family have been placed in one of the new war-destroyed-rebuilt-houses. Their home was a converted poultry hut at Notter Bridge.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1. Inspection of houses during the year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	....	....	....	74
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose	....	....	....	86
2.	(a)	Number (included under Sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	....	....	....	Nil
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	Nil
3.		Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.	....	....	....	Nil
4.		Number (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding paragraph) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	Nil
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	....	....	....	6
3.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year	....	....	....	Nil
4.		Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding				
	(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. (On list for a Council House.)	....	....	....	Not Known
		2. Number of families dwelling therein	....	....	....	Not Known
		3. Number of persons dwelling therein	....	....	....	Not Known
	(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	....	--
	(c)	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	1
		2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....	....	7
	(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	....	....	....	---

## SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK.

A regular check of milk samples taken at Daw's Creameries is undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness by producers and retailers is becoming low.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The meat position is not satisfactory. There appears to be insufficient inspection of the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse. It is difficult to inspect meat carcasses satisfactorily without the whole carcass, especially the internal organs.

The most practical steps are taken in Saltash to ensure a pure food supply but the slaughtering is done outside the Borough.

## SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was rather more infectious disease during the year due to an epidemic of Measles of a mild type, 132 cases were reported. There were 12 civilian cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 non-civilian. No Diphtheria occurred. Immunisation against Diphtheria has steadily progressed, and practically all children between 1 and 4 inclusive have been immunised, several being dealt with at the Welfare Clinic and the others at their surgery by the doctors. There is no question in my mind about the great benefit of immunisation, and even if an immunised child gets Diphtheria it is usually of a very mild type. At last some information has been received on the advisability of children having a maintenance dose and it is recommended that those done in infancy should have a dose at about 5 years and again at 10. During the year, 96 children under 5, and 6 over 5 completed immunising doses.

Disinfection of premises where there has been infection, such as Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or Tuberculosis is carried out by the Authority.

Infection cases, where there are no facilities for isolation at home, can be treated at the Plymouth Isolation Hospital, and during the year one case was sent for treatment there as the patient was in rooms and unable to be properly nursed.

TABLE SHEWING AGE AND INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AMONG CIVILIANS.

AGE	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Pneumonia		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	AGE	M	F
Under 1 ....	5	6	2				0-5 ....	2	1
1-3 ....	12	16	2	4	1		5-15 ....	1	3
3-5 ....	21	24	3	3			15-45 ....	3	3
5-10 ....	19	20	2	1	2		45-65 ....	4	7
10-15 ....	3	3			5	2	65 & over....	2	2
15-25 ....					1	1		12	26
25 & over ....	1	2		2					
	61	71	9	10	9	3			

The rates of infectious disease notifications are as follows:—

Measles,	per 1,000 civilian population	....	20.03	England and Wales	....	11.67
Whooping Cough,	" " " "	....	2.88	" " " "	....	1.64
Scarlet Fever,	" " " "	....	1.82	" " " "	....	1.89
Pneumonia	" " " "	....	4.40	" " " "	....	.87

Tuberculosis. There was an improvement in the number of cases of Tuberculosis of the Lung reported; these being 8 compared with 13 in 1944 and of these 8, 5 were ex-service cases. A definite improvement has been noted in the rate of admission to the Sanatorium at Tehidy.

Two deaths occurred, both of the respiratory type.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

There has been no evidence of increase in this district.

I should like to express, in conclusion, my thanks to Mr. Drabble and his staff for all their assistance and for the able way in which they have carried out their duties.

Your obedient servant,

H. G. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

No.	Name	Age		Sex	Occupation	Marital Status	Education	Religion	Political Party
		At Birth	At Present						
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The following table shows the results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

The results of the investigation of the ...

