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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Borough of South Molton

FOR THE YEAR 1960.





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# Borough of South Molton

Telephone No.  
South Molton 17

Public Health Department,  
8, East Street,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1960.

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E. WILLIAMS  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES  
M.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

REPORT OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for  
the Year 1960.

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	—	Councillor E. J. Kingdon, J.P.
CHAIRMAN	—	Alderman F. J. Loosemore, J.P.
ALDERMAN	—	S. J. Kingdon
COUNCILLORS	—	Miss A. Williamson
		W. H. C. Thomas
		W. G. Brown
		F. J. Priest
		L. L. Lock

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## STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### Part-time Officers—

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.,

G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Additional Public Health Inspectors.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in acres	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	3,120
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.1961)	£39,940
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1960/61 Estimate)	£159
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1961)	1,044
Number of Corporation Houses	255
Extracts from Vital Statistics—	
Births: Comparability Factor	1.09
Deaths: Comparability Factor	0.73

## VITAL STATISTICS—

Live Births—	
Number	28
Rate per 1,000 population	8.97
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	Nil
Stillbirths—	
Number	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	34.46
Total Live and Still Births	29
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 Year)	1
Infant Mortality Rates—	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	35.71
Legit. .. .. . Legit. .. .. .	35.71
Illeg. .. .. . Illeg. .. .. .	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	35.71
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	35.71
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	68.96
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	62
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	19.87

## BIRTHS—

During the year there were 28 Live Births as compared with 48 in 1959.

### LIVE BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	17	11	28
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	8.97
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	9.77

#### STILL BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population			0.30
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births			34.46

#### DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Borough during the year was 62 as compared with 52 in 1959.

Death Rate per 1,000 population	19.87
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	14.60

There were 9 deaths at Beech House Welfare Home, 6 of these were local deaths, the remaining 3 were non-local and had been resident for less than 6 months.

The following table gives Causes of Death:—

	M	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	2	0	2
„ „ —Lung, Bronchus	2	0	2
„ „ —Breast	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	2	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	3	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	0	5
Other Heart Disease	8	12	20
Other Circulatory Disease	1	0	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia or Prostate	1	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	3	2	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	1
Suicide	0	1	1
Total	35	27	62

#### Deaths occurred in the following age-groups:—

Under 1 year	1	45 — 64 years	8
1 — 4 „	0	65 — 74 „	13
5 — 14 „	1	75 — 84 „	25
15 — 24 „	0	85 — 94 „	14
25 — 44 „	0	95 + „	...

### Infant Mortality Rate—

During the year 1 infant died under the age of 1 year.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	1	0	1
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0

### Maternal Mortality—

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

### Cancer Deaths—

There were 10 deaths due to cancer during the year.

	M	F	Total
Stomach ... ..	2	0	2
Lung and Bronchus	2	0	2
Breast ... ..	0	1	1
Others ... ..	4	1	5
Total ...	8	2	10

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One case only, viz:—Whooping Cough—Male—2 years.  
(Visitor from Hemel Hempstead)

There were no cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the 31st December, 1960.

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
M	F	Total	M	F	Total
9	10	19	3	3	6

### Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

## HOUSING

As a result of the Ministry's request that Local Authorities should review the housing situation within their area and submit a further list of unfit houses to be demolished in the next 5 years, a further 40 dwellings were submitted as being unfit for habitation.

During the year 3 families have been rehoused from unfit dwellings. 4 Council owned houses were erected during the course of the year, and 8 private dwellings were erected within the Borough within the same period.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with under this Act during 1960.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Tuberculosis

Hawley Hospital, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

### Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

### Isolation of Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious cases.

### Smallpox

The Smallpox Hospital, to which cases of Smallpox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

### General

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

FEMALES—Monday 4.00 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.  
MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## **Professional Nursing in the Homes**

There is 1 District Nurse in the area who acts as a Midwife.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## **Infant Welfare Centre**

Held Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4.30 p.m. at 99 East Street, South Molton.

## **Ante Natal Clinic**

Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 99 East Street.

## **Ambulance Services**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

E. WILLIAMS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON

For the Year ended 31st December, 1960.

8 EAST STREET,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present by Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1960.

During the year 2,754 visits and inspections were made including:—

PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	61
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	68
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	26
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	30
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	84
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	227
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	30
Disinfestations/Disinfections	...	...	...	...	—
General	...	...	...	...	22
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	6
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...	...	...	...	55
FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	258
General	...	...	...	...	39
Waste Foods	...	...	...	...	6
FACTORIES—With Power	...	...	...	...	2
Without Power	...	...	...	...	1
HOUSING—					
Slum Clearance/Rent Acts, Housing					
Acts	...	...	...	...	151
Council Houses Supervision, etc.	...	...	...	...	377
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—
HIGHWAYS	...	...	...	...	471
LANDS AND PARKS	...	...	...	...	73
CORPORATE ESTATES, TOWN HALL, ETC.	...	...	...	...	126
MARKETS	...	...	...	...	171
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders & Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	168
MEETINGS	...	...	...	...	68
SWIMMING BATHS	...	...	...	...	3
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	...	73
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	131
CAR PARKS	...	...	...	...	17

## WATER SUPPLY

The Public mains supply has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. Chlorination by drip feed has been in operation and a pleasing result of this is that each chlorinated sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination has been placed in Class I. of the Ministry's recommended Standards for Public Mains Supplies.

Four of the eight unchlorinated samples submitted, taken from inlet to reservoir, were unsatisfactory.

Regular leak detection has been carried out and no restriction on the use of water has been necessary.

The three Candy Filters at Westland Bridge have received regular attention.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The newly completed sewage disposal works and pumping station have operated satisfactorily during the year. Samples of effluent taken by the River Board were satisfactory.

## FOODS CONDEMNED

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:—

			cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	...	...		104	0
Fish	...	...		56	0
Tinned Fruit	...	...		11	14
Tinned Meat	...	...		106	8
Tinned Fish	...	...			2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Marmalade	...	...		2	0
Total	...	...	2	56	8 $\frac{3}{4}$

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	117	1	352	431	Nil
Number inspected	117	1	352	431	
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	Nil	8	22	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	27.35 %	Nil	2.27 %	5.10 %	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.56	Nil
<b>Cysticercosis</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	N	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	N	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Regular killing continued at the two licensed slaughterhouses and as will be seen from the preceding table 100% meat inspection was carried out involving 258 visits during the year. It was necessary to condemn 2 cwts. 20 lbs. of carcase meat and 4 cwts. 5 lbs. of offal.

Both slaughterhouses were surveyed and lists submitted to the occupiers of the requirements to bring the premises up to the standard required to comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. One occupier decided to carry out the necessary alterations and the other decided to build a new slaughterhouse and to discontinue using the existing one.

## ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of premises where ice cream is sold have been made. With one exception all the retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT

The Council have continued to have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt efficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

L. W. EVES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



