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-1950-



THE RURAL DISTRICT

OF

ST. AUSTELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



To the Chairman and Councillors  
of the Rural District of St. Austell.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District  
for the year 1950.

The conditions prevailing throughout the district  
have been generally satisfactory and there has been no  
undue prevalence of infectious disease.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Lawless, the  
Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Council, and to his  
staff. I also wish to thank Mr. Mitchell and the Heads  
of Departments and their staffs for help and co-operation.  
It is a pleasure to record gratitude to the Chairman and  
Members of the Public Health Committee for their  
continued interest and support.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES TURNER.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. and to thank you for the information therein contained.

The work you refer to is being carried out in the laboratory of Professor [Name] and it is hoped that the results will be published in the near future.

I am sure that the results of your work will be of great interest to the scientific community and I am sure that you will be able to publish them in a journal of high standing.

It is a pleasure to hear that you are still active in your field and I am sure that your work will continue to be of great value to the scientific community.

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SECTION A.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	82,389
Population (Mid-year 1950 estimate)	20,410
Number of inhabited houses	6,210
Rateable value	£78,636
Sum represented by a penny rate	£308

The population has shown a slight increase amounting to 230 persons. There is a marked seasonal rise during the holiday season. The main occupations in the area are clayworking and agriculture. The former is a healthy occupation and is not associated with any industrial disease.

The district extends across the breadth of the County and is unique in having a northern and southern seaboard. As a result there are two types of climate - the northern, more bracing and with a slightly lower temperature than the southern, which is relatively mild with prevailing S.W. winds. The mean annual temperature is about 57°F. The rainfall recorded for the year amounted to 53.1 inches. The highest fall on any one day was 1.21" on November 20th. The wettest month was November with 8.65" and the driest month was June with 1.66". Rain fell on 234 days in the year.

A rain gauge was installed at Headra Pumping Station and daily recordings of rainfall were made throughout the year.

Summary of Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate/1000 Population</u>	
				<u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Legitimate	175	148	342	16.73	15.8
Illegitimate	14	5			
			Corrected birth rate	17.2	
<u>Still Births</u>					
Legitimate	3	4	8	0.39	0.37
Illegitimate	1	0			
<u>Deaths</u>	152	124	276	13.5	11.6
			Corrected for age distribution	11.75	
<u>Deaths under 1 yr. of age - Infant Mortality.</u>					
				<u>Rate/1000 Live Births</u>	
Legitimate	5	6	12	35.1	29.8
Illegitimate	1	0			
<u>Maternal Mortality</u>					
		1		2.92	0.86
<u>Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea</u>					
<u>Under 2 yrs, of age</u>					
	0			0	1.9

It will be seen that the corrected birth and death rates compare favourably with those for England and Wales. As I pointed out last year, no significance need be attached to the slightly higher Infant Mortality rate owing to the small numbers under consideration.

The following table gives the major causes of infant deaths:-

	Under 1 week	2	3	4	5 weeks- 12 mths.	Total
Congenital Diseases	1	1	-	-	1	2
Prematurity	6	-	-	-	-	6
Bronchopneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Accident (scalds)	-	-	-	-	1	1
Marasmus	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erythroblastosis	1	-	-	-	-	1
	7	1	0	0	4	12

The following is a list of the causes of death during 1950 given in accordance with the Abbreviated List of the International List of 1948.

	M.	F.
1) Tuberculosis, resp:	6	2
2) " " other	2	-
3) Malig: neoplasm, stomach	2	2
4) " " lung, bronchus	2	-
5) " " breast	-	2
6) " " uterus	-	2
7) Other Malig. & lymphatic neoplasms	10	7
8) Diabetes	2	1
9) Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	22
10) Coronary disease, angina	21	7
11) Hypertension with heart disease	4	5
12) Other heart disease	43	35
13) Other circulatory disease	3	2
14) Influenza	1	4
15) Pneumonia	4	5
16) Bronchitis	10	3
17) Other diseases, resp. system	1	2
18) Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	-
19) Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	2
20) Nephritis & nephrosis	1	1
21) Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
22) Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
23) Congenital malformations	1	1
24) Other defined & ill-defined dis.	16	15
25) Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
26) All other accidents	1	2
27) Suicide	2	-
	-----	-----
All causes	152	124
	-----	-----

The following brief table indicates the percentage distribution of ages at death: -

<u>Age Group (years)</u>	<u>Males %</u>	<u>Females %</u>
0 - 1	3.9	4.8
1 - 59	13.8	20.2
60 - 69	23.0	17.8
70 - 79	34.3	31.4
80 plus	25.0	25.8
All ages	100.0	100.0

#### SECTION B.

##### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

###### (a) Medical Officer of Health

J.G.S. Turner, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.                      1st Feb. - 31st Dec.

###### (b) Sanitary Inspector (whole time)

H.G. Lawless, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Food Inspectors' Certificate.  
T.J. Down, A.R.S.I.

##### Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

##### Diphtheria anti-toxin

A supply is maintained at the Health Area Office, St. Austell and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

##### Ambulance Facilities

These are provided from the main centres at St. Austell and Newquay and in addition from country centres at Indian Queens, St. Dennis and St. Blazey. The staff and vehicles both at St. Austell and at Newquay were increased during the year and provided a more efficient service. Thanks are due to the voluntary organisations who helped, to Mrs. Batchelor and Mrs. Bellingham, Organisers of the Hospital Car Service, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided transport on request.

##### Nursing Services

The establishment of nurses who carry out domiciliary services is as follows: -

District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor	-	11
Whole time Health Visitor	-	1

The services provided have worked smoothly but a few minor adjustments are necessary.

##### Domiciliary Midwifery

Approximately 60% of all births occurred at home, and, as nurses were trained, gas/air analgesia became available. Owing to the limited



accommodation at Redruth there is little likelihood of any change in arrangements for the birth of children.

#### Ante-Natal care

There are no ante-natal clinics held in the Area and women are referred to St. Austell, Newquay or Redruth.

#### Infant Welfare

A clinic was established at St. Columb, but the attendance was poor owing to the small population and the poor bus services, and at the end of the year closure was being considered. It proved to be impossible to establish centres at either Grampound or St. Dennis.

#### Care and After Care

This is confined at present to cases of tuberculosis. Six cases were helped at a cost to the County of £74. 14s. 9d.

#### Domestic Help Service

The establishment of full time help was revised to five, but as most or all were on a spare time basis there was no increase in cost. Miss Stokes, the Area Organiser, enrolled the services of more Sub-Organisers in order to bring the service closer to the needs of a widely dispersed rural population. During the summer months it proved to be difficult to obtain help owing to the competitive demands of holiday resorts. A total of 23 persons were helped of whom 7 were maternity cases. Thanks are due to Miss Stokes and to the ladies who assist her in organising this service.

#### Hospitals

There is no hospital in the district and cases are sent to Newquay and St. Austell district hospitals, to the R.C.I. at Truro for special investigations, to Redruth in the case of maternity and to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Truro for special treatment and isolation.

#### Clinics

The following clinics are held at the places and dates indicated: -

Child Welfare	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday
	(Newquay - Ambulance Hall, Weekly, Thursday.
	(Par - Gott Memorial Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday
	(St. Columb - Methodist Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Wednesday
Ante-Natal	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - Weekly, Monday
	(Newquay - Hospital - Weekly, Monday
Orthopaedic	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - Weekly, Tuesday
	(Newquay - Hospital - Weekly, Monday
Tuberculosis	(St. Austell - Hospital - Weekly, Monday
	(Newquay - Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday
Dental	(St. Austell - Moorland Road, Fortnightly, Friday & Saturday
	(Newquay - Ambulance Hall - Weekly, Saturday
Ophthalmic	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - by arrangement
	(Newquay - Hospital - by arrangement

Ear, Nose and Throat (St. Austell - Moorland Road - by arrangement  
Newquay - Hospital - 2nd and 4th Tuesday

### SECTION C.

#### Sanitary Conditions of the District

##### Water

###### New construction (a) St. Mawgan & Trenance Water Scheme

Work was commenced on this large and important scheme in April and the 50,000 gallon reservoir was completed by the end of the year. At the same time work on the distribution mains was begun, and it is anticipated that water will be available to most of the seaside area of Mawgan Porth and Trenance during 1951. St. Mawgan village will probably receive a supply early in 1952.

###### (b) Curyan Vale Water Scheme

This scheme to augment the water supply to the parishes of St. Stephen and St. Dennis has now been commenced and it is anticipated that it will be completed and in operation by the Spring of 1951.

###### (c) Queens-Fraddon-Sumnercourt Scheme

A Local Inquiry by a Ministry Inspector was held early in the year and approval has been received. It is hoped to begin construction in the Autumn of 1951.

###### (d) Goonamarris - Fernleigh Link Main

By the end of 1950 this scheme to link up two "dead ends" at Narpean was half finished.

##### Water Samples

During the year 94 samples of water from various public supplies have been submitted for analysis with the following results:-

Satisfactory	72
Slightly contaminated	12
Unsafe for drinking	10

In addition 17 samples were taken from private supplies with the following results:-

Satisfactory	4
Slightly contaminated	4
Unsafe	9

##### Sewerage

###### Grampound Sewage Disposal Works

A Public Inquiry was held at Grampound by a Ministry of Health Inspector in January; the original design of the proposed works has to be considerably amended and resubmitted to the Ministry in due course.

###### Cesspool Emitter

206 privately owned cesspools, together with those on the various Council Housing Estates have been emptied during the year.

The cesspool emptier has been employed also in cleansing the settling tanks at the various Sewage Disposal Works.

### Disinfection

This is carried out as required.

### Rodent Control

One operative was employed with a 5-cwt van. In addition to anti-rodent work this man carries out such duties as transport of men and materials and disinfection of houses after infectious disease.

The following results were obtained:-

No. of treatments of Trade Premises	82
" " " " domestic "	306
" " " " Authorities Tips	59
" " Block Controls	13
" " Villages surveyed	15

In addition to the above, constant survey work was carried out to discover infestations.

Towards the end of the year all the Council's Sewers were test-baited. A total of 140 manholes were treated and the results confirmed earlier investigations which showed that there was no rat infestation of sewers.

### Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

There were three lorries working full time and more than 90% of the district had a weekly collection. There are a few isolated properties where, by arrangement with the occupiers, a longer period elapses between collections.

There are four uncontrolled tips at St. Stephen, Grampound, Roscassa and near Demelza. Owing to its proximity to dwelling houses, the tip at Roche was closed and another started in an isolated place.

### Rivers and Streams

No action was taken. Most streams in the district are grossly polluted.

### Housing

The Council now own 495 houses but there is still a long waiting list of 524 families who need houses. Applications for houses are renewable every six months and unless this condition is fulfilled, the name is removed from the list. When allocating houses, consideration is given to the information provided by the Health Department regarding overcrowding and the health of members of the family.

The following is an analysis of applications received for Council houses:-

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (i) Number of applicants without separate houses, the majority of whom live in overcrowded conditions | 292   |
| (ii) Number of applicants with separate homes which are   |       |
| (a) Unfit   | } 172 |
| (b) Overcrowded   |       |

(iii) Number of unmarried persons	41
(iv) Number requiring houses for other reasons	19

The types of houses required are as follows:-

One bedroom type	7
Two " "	189
Three " "	297
Four " "	10
Unclassified	<u>21</u>

524

During 1950, 13 Cornish Unit and 4 Traditional Council houses were completed and occupied.

The construction work of laying water mains and sewers and building roads has been commenced on the St. Columb Road site (68 houses).

A Public Inquiry was held in September 1950 by a Ministry of Health Inspector into the Council's application to acquire compulsorily certain land to be used as a housing site at Gorran Churchtown. In November the Council was informed that the Minister of Health had decided not to confirm the Order. It will now be necessary to find another site, if houses are to be built at Gorran Churchtown.

It is anticipated that site preparation works for housing sites at Trolowth and St. Ewe will be commenced early in 1951.

#### SECTION E.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food

##### Milk

Since last year we have been concerned only with the 131 retailers who are not producers. Conditions are fairly satisfactory.

##### Meat

The only Ministry of Food slaughterhouse within the district is at Lane, adjacent to Newquay. Owing to the distance involved, it has been arranged that the Sanitary Inspector at Newquay should do the work. The slaughterhouse at Lane is not satisfactory and requires structural alterations. Inspections at the St. Austell slaughterhouse are shared with the Urban District Council Inspectors and relevant statistics are to be found in the U.D.C. Annual Health Report.

##### Tinned Food

A very few tins were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

##### Ice cream

No new premises have been registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream and all existing retailers sell only pre-packed products of reputable firms.

##### Premises where food is prepared or sold

These are inspected regularly. In general much requires to be done to render them hygienic.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were recorded:-

Disease	1950 No. of cases	Rate per 1000 population		
		St. Austell 1949	Rural 1950	England and Wales 1950
Whooping Cough	33	0.18	1.61	3.60
Pneumonia	9	0.35	0.45	0.70
Measles	219	3.27	10.71	8.39
Scarlet fever	5	1.19	0.24	1.50
Cerebrospinal fever	1	0.00	0.05	0.03
Poliomyelitis				
(a) paralytic	4	0.25	0.20	0.15
(b) non-paralytic	0	0.00	0.00	0.15

9 deaths were reported as due to pneumonia and 5 from influenza. Influenza is not a notifiable disease.

The measles outbreak began in the south of the district in June, spread to the St. Dennis area in July and to the St. Columb, Praddon and Queens area by August. There was no mortality.

The first two cases of poliomyelitis were introduced from Birmingham and Newport respectively. The third and fourth cases were in the Summerville area. Both children attended the same school. It is possible that the third case acquired her infection at the Summerville Fair. The fourth case was a contact of the third. His infection was missed at the time but the diagnosis was made evident by the later development of some paralysis.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December 1950:-

Age at 31.12.50 i.e. born in year.	- 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5-9 1941-45	10-14 1936-40	Total under 15 years
No. immunised	5	2	112	145	143	436	435	1368
Estimated mid- year population			1602			2623		4225
Percentage immunised			31.0			33.1		32.4

The above figures which are derived from doctors' returns are almost certainly an underestimate, but there is little doubt that the number immunised is about the lower limit of safety. The years of safety acquired through previous immunisation have allowed people to forget that this disease can still be a scourge and that safety lies only in continued immunisation of all infants.

Immunisation can be readily obtained by application to the family doctor or to the Welfare Clinic.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1950.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 yr.								
1-4	1							
5-9		1						
10-14		1						
15-19	1	2	1					
20-24	2	2						
25-34	3	2				1	2	
35-44	3	3			2	1		
45-54					1	1		
55-64	3				1			
65-74	1					1		
Over 75								
Total	14	11	1	0	4	4	2	0

At the end of December 1950 there were 95 cases of pulmonary and 25 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the register as compared with 85 and 34 respectively for the year 1949.

Tuberculosis is the most important infectious disease and causes a vast amount of chronic illness and misery. The Council can contribute to the prevention of further cases by making houses available to those families where existing conditions do not permit segregation of infectious cases.

Factories Act (1937)

Annual Report - Part I

Premises (1)	1/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	18	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	73	16
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-
TOTAL		91	23

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred	
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	4	5	5	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		5	5	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council. (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	Sec. 111
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c) (3)			No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises. (6)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. Cleaning and Washing.	13	1	-	-	-
TOTAL		1	-	-	-