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1954

THE RURAL DISTRICT
OF
ST. AUSTELL

HEALTH
A-60055
CR. 40

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE
AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
OF LONDON
AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND
AND THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE
AND HYGIENE
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AND HYGIENE
OF LONDON

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 1954.

In spite of a poor year climatically mortality experience
has been low.

There has been a steady advance in the provision of
adequate water supplies to the greater part of the area.

I am indebted to Mr. Townsend, the Council's Engineer and
to Mr. Lawless, the Chief Sanitary Inspector for considerable portions
of this report and to them and to other Council officers I wish to
express my thanks.

It is a pleasure to record thanks 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.

Malignant disease caused 18.7% of all deaths, motor vehicles and other accidents 2.6%.

Since 1950 fourteen male and two female deaths have been recorded as due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. This is 9.1% of all deaths due to malignant disease. There has been no change over this period.

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males %</u>	<u>Females %</u>
0 - 1	4.5	0.9
1 - 59	15.5	27.8
60 - 69	27.3	19.1
70 - 79	24.3	33.9
80 - 89	25.6	14.8
90 plus	2.7	3.5

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

(a) Medical Officer of Health

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

(b) Sanitary Inspectors (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 Prophylaxis

In addition to the supplies of diphtheria prophylactic previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine both alone and combined with that for diphtheria are available 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, Fowey and St. Blazey. The work carried out from the above centres during the year is shown in the following table. About one-third of the patients carried belonged to the Rural District.

(a) <u>Ambulance</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Miles</u>
St. Austell and Newquay	4,737	69,529
(b) <u>Utilicons</u>		
St. Austell and Newquay	10,272	88,988
(c) <u>Hospital Car Service</u>		
St. Austell and Newquay	5,161	59,586
(d) <u>Country Centre Ambulances</u>		
Indian Queens, Fowey & St. Blazey	619	18,697

Thanks are due to the voluntary organisations who helped, to Mrs. Batchelor and Miss Boldock, Organisers of the Hospital Car Service, and to 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.

Domiciliary Midwifery

All nurses are now trained in the use of gas/air anaesthesia and this is available to all patients. About 60% of women have their babies at home.

Ante-Natal Care

There are no ante-natal clinics in the rural area and all pregnant women are referred either to St. Austell or to Newquay.

Infant Welfare

The centre at Roche has continued to be very successful with an average attendance of 10.4. The centre at Indian Queens has averaged 24.6 and the new centre at St. Dennis 23.0.

The success of these centres is partly due to the help given by voluntary workers for whom there is still great opportunity.

The infant welfare centres provide a most convenient place for immunisation.

Care and After Care

Two cases of tuberculosis were helped by grants from the County.

Young children on discharge from hospital are followed up by the District Nurses.

Domestic Help Service

This service has worked well, but difficulty has been experienced during the summer months in obtaining spare-time helps. At the end of the year the establishment was increased to the equivalent of seven full-time helps.

Thanks are due to Miss Stokes and to the ladies who assist her in organising this Service. A total of 89 persons of whom 16 were maternity cases were given help.

Hospitals

There is no hospital in the district and cases are sent to Newquay, Fowey and St. Austell District Hospitals, to the R.C.I. at Truro for special investigations and treatment, to Redruth in the case of maternity and to the Isolation Hospital at Truro in the case of infectious diseases.

Clinics

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

Child Welfare	(St. Austell - Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday
	(Newquay - Ambulance Hall - Weekly - Thursday
	(Par - Gott Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Child Welfare (cont)	{	Roche	- Church Hall - 1st and 4th Tuesday.
		Indian Queens	- Ambulance Hall - 3rd Wednesday.
		St. Dennis	- Methodist Sunday School - 4th Thursday.
		Summercourt	- Memorial Hall - 2nd Wednesday.
Ante Natal	{	St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Weekly - Monday forenoon.
		Newquay	- Hospital - Weekly - Monday afternoon.
Orthopædic	{	St. Austell	- Moorland Road - Tuesday forenoon.
		Newquay	- Hospital - Weekly - Monday.
Tuberculosis	{	St. Austell	- Hospital - Weekly - Monday.
		Newquay	- Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday.
Tuberculosis (Contacts)	{	St. Austell	- 1st Monday and last Tuesday (afternoon).
		Newquay	- 3rd Tuesday (afternoon).
Dental	{	St. Austell	- Moorland Road - every day.
		Newquay	- Berry Road - Thrice weekly.
Ophthalmic	{	St. Austell	- Aylmer Place - 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
		Newquay	- Hospital - by arrangement.
E.N.T.	{	St. Austell	- Moorland Road - by arrangement.
		Newquay	- Hospital - by arrangement.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions

(1) Water (i) New Schemes

(a) Bears Down Water Supply Scheme

In October a Local Investigation was made by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposals submitted for this scheme. As a result the scheme has received approval in principle but subject to agreement being reached with Wadebridge R.D.C. concerning the sale of water in bulk and the purchase of the necessary land for the reservoir at Gluvian, St. Columb.

(b) Fowey River Joint Water Scheme

In conjunction with the Fowey Borough and St. Austell U.D. Councils further progress has been made in the preliminary stages of this scheme. In view of the satisfactory negotiations between the Ministry, the County Council and the three participating Authorities invitations were sent to the Lostwithiel Borough Council to rejoin the scheme and to the Turo R.D.C. to enquire whether that Authority was interested in participating.

(c) Water Supply to Mountjoy, Colan

This scheme was completed in November. It involved a mains extension by the Newquay and District Water Company whereby this Council will guarantee to the Company a minimum annual revenue for a prescribed period.

(ii) Existing Schemes

(a) Analyses

During the year a total of 173 samples of water taken from various public supplies were submitted for bacteriological analyses with the following results :-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Treated water	63	3	66
Untreated water	69	4	73
Village wells and pumps	23	11	34
	<u>155</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>173</u>

The unsatisfactory samples of treated water were the result of abnormal conditions in the river at Talskiddy. The other unsatisfactory samples were from sources where control is impracticable.

(b) Availability of Supplies

The high rainfall enabled full supplies to be maintained throughout the year and little or no use was made of reserve supplies.

(c) St. Dennis Reservoir

The repairs carried out in the Spring were successful in preventing any further leakage from the reservoir and protecting the structure from further deterioration.

(iii) Private Water Supplies

A total of 14 samples were taken from private water supplies for the purpose of deciding the state of purity of the supply.

The following results were obtained :-

Satisfactory	4
Reasonably safe	2
Unsafe for drinking purposes	8

In the cases of the unsatisfactory supplies the following action was taken

either (a) the supply was completely discontinued
or (b) certain action was advised such as filtration or chlorination.

and this latter action produced satisfactory results in all cases.

Special action was necessary in respect of two private supplies.

- (a) To a large house run as a private residential school where the only water available was either rainwater stored or polluted river water conveyed some distance at about monthly intervals by the Fire Brigade. Representations made to the proprietors of the School and to the owner of the premises resulted in the School removing to other more suitable accommodation.
- (b) To the village of St. Michael Caerhays where the village pump supply is augmented by mainly untreated water from a stream liable to gross pollution. Water from this latter source is piped into the houses and although it is supposed to be used for purposes other than drinking it is in fact used for drinking also. Meetings took place with the Agent for the Estate and plans were prepared to improve the storage and filtration of the stream water and in addition to chlorinate.

(2) Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

(a) Trewoon & Polgooth Sewerage

The modified scheme submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government was approved in principle and sanction was given to advertise for tenders with a view to work commencing in the Spring of 1955.

The drainage scheme has been designed as a "separate" system and no surface water from public or private properties will be allowed to enter the sewers.

(b) Sludge beds at Sewage Disposal Works

New sludge drying beds were constructed at Gwindra, St. Stephen. Work on those at St. Columb Road was also commenced.

(c) Flood relief works

Storm overflow chambers were constructed at St. Dennis and Terras, St. Stephen to prevent surcharge and flooding from the sewers during times of heavy rainfall.

(d) Reconstruction of Existing Sewage Disposal Works

Schemes for the reconstruction of the existing Sewage Disposal Works at St. Dennis and St. Stephen Churchtown are in course of preparation. The effluents discharged from these works continue to be unsatisfactory.

(e) Cesspool Emptying

The work of the vehicle during the year has included the following :-

240	Emptyings of privately owned cesspools
141	" Council House "
150	" Lane slaughterhouse "
48	" cesspools outside the Rural District.

In addition the vehicle has again been used for desludging tanks at Sewage Disposal Works.

(3) Disinfection of Premises

Terminal disinfections are carried out after cases of T.B. and in any other cases on request.

(4) Disinfestation

Disinfestation was carried out in two houses after particularly dirty families had left the premises.

(5) Rodent Control

Our Operator with a 10 cwt. van is employed now solely on rodent control. He continues to deal with domestic and trade premises together with the Local Authority works, i.e. sewers and sewage works, refuse tips and various buildings such as public conveniences, water works and stores. The Operator has surveyed an increasing number of farms, without finding any major infestations. The C.A.E.C. continue to treat farms on a contract basis, but in many cases farmers are dealing successfully with their own minor infestations by the use of cats and dogs, traps and warfarin, the comparatively new poison which is not harmful to animals other than rodents.

Summary of Work, 1954

Domestic premises treated	1437
Trade " "	224
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	18
Villages surveyed	23
Farms inspected	224
Block controls	47

(6) Nuisances

A number of nuisances of varying types and degree have been satisfactorily dealt with by informal action. The landlords of some defective houses have been served with Notices under the Public Health Acts, this action has resulted in the necessary repair work being carried out.

(7) Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

Three refuse collection vehicles are used for the collection of refuse in the district. Each is manned by a driver and one loader. The major portion of the district has a weekly collection, the remainder is dealt with on a fortnightly or monthly basis.

The main tip at Terras, St. Stephen takes practically all the refuse of the area and a system of controlled tipping was commenced there in May. The covering material used is china clay sand conveyed by contract to the tip. A tip Attendant has been engaged to spread the refuse and cover down with sand. This has resulted in a greatly improved refuse tip, very largely abating the nuisance caused by fire smoke and vermin, to say nothing of the fact that it is not nearly as unsightly. The tip at Rescassa is used for refuse collected in the Gorran area. One or two loads from the Golant and Lanlivery areas are being deposited on a tip owned by the Povey Borough Council, a mutual arrangement has been arrived at between the two Councils.

(8) Public Conveniences

The seven Public Conveniences are still in existence in the area and there has been no addition to that number although there has been discussion on the erection of further conveniences in certain parts of the district.

(9) Caravan Sites

There are three main approved caravan sites in the area together with four smaller ones. The large one in the Northern Seaboard caters for the holiday visitors. The other two sites have a majority of permanent occupants although the sites are also used by some visitors. All the large sites have mains water supplied to the occupants of the caravans by means of stand pipes within reasonable distance of each caravan. Flush lavatories are also available on each site.

SECTION D

Housing

The Council now own a total of 702 houses, including 237 erected before the war. The demand for Council houses is gradually decreasing due to the steady building programme, the waiting list at present has been reduced to 209.

The following is an analysis of the applications :-

(1) No. without separate houses		84
(2) No. with separate houses living in		
(a) Unfit houses	39	
(b) Overcrowded conditions	<u>23</u>	62
(3) No. of unmarried persons		24
(4) No. of persons requiring houses for other reasons		39

Type of houses required by the applicants are as follows :-

1 bedroom	3
2 bedrooms	112
3 "	78
4 "	4
Unclassified	12

During the past twelve months many of the families living on a requisitioned R.A.F. Camp have been rehoused on Council Housing Estates. Due regard is paid to reports made by the Public Health Department in the letting of Council houses.

Private Enterprise Building

The number of private enterprise houses built in the district during the year was 23.

Houses built by the Council

(i) New Traditional Houses

(a) Edgcumbe Crescent, Roche

The erection of 16 Cornish Unit Type "M" houses commenced on this site in September.

(ii) Traditional Houses

The following houses were completed and occupied during the year :-

Creakavose, St. Stephen	42
Coombe, St. Stephen	8
Highfield Avenue, St. Columb	12 *
High Cross, St. Columb	12
	<u>74</u>

(* included 4 A.P. Bungalows).

The following are under construction :-

Highfield Avenue, St. Columb	2
High Cross, St. Columb	22
Summercourt	14
	<hr/>
	38
	<hr/>

(iii) Summary of Housing Progress

Dwellings occupied at 1.1.54	628
Dwellings completed during 1954	74
	<hr/>
Dwellings occupied at 31.12.54	702
Additional dwellings under construction	54
	<hr/>
	756
	<hr/>
Pre-war Houses	237
Ennisworgey adaptation	1
Post war conversions	4
Post war houses	514
	<hr/>
	756
	<hr/>

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

The supply and distribution of milk continue as before. Practically all distributors, either producer or non producer retailers, deliver milk in bottles. Of the non producer retailers three have been granted licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk and four have been granted licences for the sale of Pasteurised milk. In the majority of cases where Pasteurised milk is sold, the distributors receive their supply already bottled from Daw's Creameries Ltd., Saltash.

Ice Cream

A further five premises have been registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. This makes a total of 84 premises registered at the end of the year. There are still no manufacturers of ice cream operating in the District, and as strict control and sampling operates within the districts where the prepared varieties are manufactured it is considered unnecessary to take further samples at the retail premises.

Meat Inspection

The arrangements for slaughter as previously reported ended on July 4th when rationing ceased and private slaughtering was reinstated. A total of 13 slaughter-houses were licensed after inspection and, in some cases modification. 12 of these are operated by individual butchers and 1 at Lane near Newquay, by a Retail Butchers Association on lease of the premises from the Newquay Urban District Council which authority is responsible for the meat inspection there.

Owing to the wide distribution of the slaughterhouses throughout the district and differing days and times of slaughter the work entails much time and travelling but the maintenance of 100% inspection is, for many reasons, considered essential and is carried out.

Carcases Inspected

Bovines, adult	614	
Calves	3	
Pigs	604	
Sheep and Lambs	387	<u>Total 1,608</u>

Condemnations

1 ox. Carcase	}	Tuberculosis.
13 " Heads		
23 " Lungs		
2 Fore Quarters		
2 part Fore Quarters		
3 ox. Livers		
3 " Hearts		
1 " Kidney		
5 " Stomachs		
29 Pigs Heads		
32 ox. Livers		Cavernous angioma or Cirrhosis
61 part ox. Livers		do.
4 ox. Livers		Pyæmia
1 sheep carcase		Emaciation and Dropsey
1 " pluck		Strongli
7 " livers		Flukes
1 carcase Veal		Umbilical pyæmia

Food Premises

There has been no change in the number of food premises, butchers, shops, bakeries and cafes etc. situated throughout the district. Regular inspections are carried out and generally the premises are kept in a satisfactory state.

Very little food has been condemned in the area. That which has been, is of the tinned variety and at the request of the local shopkeeper. A one cwt. box of filleted wet fish consigned to a Fish and Chip Frier was condemned as being unfit due to decomposition it had been on rail for several days.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over infectious
and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received :-

Disease	1954 No. of cases	Rate per 1000 population		
		St. Austell 1953	Rural 1954	England & Wales 1954
Scarlet Fever	5	0.04	0.23	0.93
Whooping Cough	46	8.00	2.10	2.39
Pneumonia	4	0.18	0.18	0.60
Erysipelas	1	-	0.05	0.12
Chorea	1	-	0.05	-
Measles	135	13.07	6.18	3.32

The outbreak of Whooping Cough reported last year continued into the first quarter of 1954. There were three cases under 1 year of age, seven between 1 and 3, and eight between 3 and 5 years of age. Much of the suffering and anxiety caused would be obviated by early immunisation.

The measles epidemic also continued into 1954 and produced a rate considerably higher than that for the country as a whole.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation in relation to the Child Population

Number of children at 31st December 1954 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1940):-

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-50	5-9 1949-45	10-14 1944-40	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(A) 1949-1953	36	599	974	878	2,482
(B) 1948 or earlier	0	0	298	190	488
(C) Estimated mid-year child population	330	1,399	1,450	1,310	4,489
Immunity Index $\frac{A}{C}$	9.8	42.8	67.2	62.5	55.4

Combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation is now offered to infants aged 4 months so that it is possible for the immunity index for those infants to be 66.6%. The figure shown together with the low figure for those aged 1-4 years does indicate considerable apathy and a failure of parents to realise the risks to which they subject their children.

During the year the following immunisations were carried out :-

<u>Primary</u>	Diphtheria alone	127
	" plus Whooping Cough	179
	Whooping Cough alone	1
<u>Boosters</u>	Diphtheria alone	301
	" plus Whooping Cough	10
	Whooping Cough alone	1

Smallpox Vaccination

97 primary vaccinations and 9 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year. The vaccinal state of the community is very low.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December 1954 was as follows :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	69	40	109
Non-pulmonary	10	8	18

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1954. Deaths in this table include all notified cases who may have died from other causes.

Age Group	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Respiratory		Meninges		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 64	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	5	0	1	2	2	6	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above the following alterations to the register were made :-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Transfers - in	8	5	2	1
" - out	4	5	0	1
Recoveries	4	3	3	1

An effort is being made to deal with the tuberculosis problem from the Public Health point of view by the examination of contacts of acute cases. All those who, on examination, show no sign of previous infection, are offered B.C.G. vaccination. In the rural area 75 persons have been protected during 1954.

During 1954 a scheme was introduced to examine by skin test and if necessary by X-ray examination all school children in their fourteenth year. The purpose of these examinations is to ascertain those who have had at some time in the past some slight experience of tuberculosis infection or are at present infected. All children who showed no signs of present or past infection were offered B.C.G. vaccination which confers some resistance to future infection.

The following results were obtained :-

Number X-rayed	190
" of clinically significant cases of tuberculosis found	1
% children with a positive skin test	6.8%
Number of children given B.C.G. vaccination	68

The above results refer only to children attending schools in the rural area. Those children who attend schools in other districts have the results recorded in those schools but the experience is similar to that in the rural area.

It is proposed to carry out those examinations each year and thus to build up a resistant population.

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948

Annual Report - Part I

Premises	M/c line No.	No. on Register	No. of Inspections
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	16	5
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	73	11
TOTAL		89	16

c/fwd.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
Total b/fwd.		89	16
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-
TOTAL		89	16

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.1)	4	4	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		4	4	Nil	Nil

Part VIII

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110	Section 111
		No. of outworkers Sect.110(1)(c) (3)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)
Making of wearing apparel	13	1	Nil.

