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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL

REPORT

of

the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR

1951

J. G. S. TURNER, C.M.G.,
M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
D.T.M.

ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1 2 5 1

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Chairman

MR. H. CECIL ROWSE, J.P.

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MR. W. G. SCOWN

MR. C. A. THOMAS

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

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1951.

The conditions prevailing throughout the year have been generally satisfactory, and although measles and whooping cough were prevalent, there was no mortality from these causes. The corrected birth and death rates compare favourably with those for the whole country.

I wish to draw your attention to the two reported cases of diphtheria. These indicate that the disease still lurks in the background, and that unless we achieve a better public realisation of the danger, and an increase in immunisation, the district may once again suffer from this scourge.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Watts, and Mr. Strutridge. I am indebted to Mr. King for parts of this Report and to him and to Mr. Saunders I owe thanks for much help.

It is a pleasure to thank Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. S. TURNER

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	18,379
Population	...	...	...	...	23,460
Number of Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	7,471
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£124,430
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£487

				<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	Total	Male	Female	St. Austell	England & Wales.

Total	325	172	153	13.84	15.5
Legitimate	306	163	143		
Illegitimate	19	9	10		

For comparison with other areas rate corrected
for age and sex distribution 15.2

STILL BIRTHS

Total	11	9	2	0.47	0.36
Legitimate	11	9	2		
Illegitimate	0	0	0		

DEATHS

352	181	171	15.0	12.5
-----	-----	-----	------	------

For comparison with other areas rate corrected
for age and sex distribution 11.7

MATERNAL DEATHS

0	0	0	0.79
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DEATHS (under 1 yr. of age) (Infant Mortality)

Total	11	8	3	34.8	29.6
Legitimate	11	8	3		
Illegitimate	0	0	0		

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is a list of the causes of Death in accordance with the abbreviated list of the International List of 1948.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections	0	2	2
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	3	13
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	4	4
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	19	10	29
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	0	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	24	48
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	12	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20. Other heart disease	39	55	94
21. Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
22. Influenza	4	5	9
23. Pneumonia	9	1	10
24. Bronchitis	11	4	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
30. Pregnancy, child birth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	15	22	37
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34. Suicide	5	0	5
35. All other accidents	0	2	2
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	181	171	352

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

<u>Age group at death</u>	<u>Percentage dying in each age group</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0-1	4.4	1.7
1-59	20.0	12.4
60-69	19.5	14.7
70-79	31.1	31.8
80-89	22.8	31.2
90 & over	2.2	8.2

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

AGES IN WEEKS

Causes of Death	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	Total
1. Bronchopneumonia	1	1	-	-	3	5
2. Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	2
3. Malformation	-	-	-	1	-	1
4. Asphyxia (inhalation of vomit)	-	-	-	1	-	1
5. Intussusception	-	-	-	-	1	1
6. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	3	1	-	2	5	11

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

Percentage dying in each age group	Percentage dying in each age group
1.7	4.4
12.4	20.0
14.7	19.5
31.8	34.1
31.2	22.8
8.2	2.2

Age group at death	Percentage dying in each age group
0-1	1.7
1-29	12.4
30-69	14.7
70-79	31.8
80-89	31.2
90 & over	8.2

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA - (In acres) 18,379. The District is mixed Urban and Rural, the main aggregations of population being in St. Austell Town, Par, St. Blazey, Tywardreath and Mevagissey. Par and Charlestown are ports dealing mainly with the China Clay trade, while Mevagissey deals with the fishing trade. The whole area is popular as a seaside resort and the population is greatly increased during the summer months.

POPULATION - 23,460

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - According to the Rate Book, the number of inhabited houses in the district was 7,471, the rateable value being £124,430 which gives £487 for a penny rate.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS - The year was cooler and wetter than the average. The following table supplied by the Engineer gives the rainfall as recorded in St. Austell.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>MONTHLY</u> <u>AVERAGE FOR LAST 41 YEARS</u>
January	5.32	5.31
February	5.36	4.03
March	5.65	3.61
April	3.99	2.48
May	3.40	3.54
June	0.81	2.37
July	1.72	3.07
August	5.03	3.87
September	4.76	3.84
October	2.01	4.37
November	6.87	5.56
December	5.02	5.51
<u>Total</u>	49.94	47.56
<u>Monthly Average</u>	4.16	3.96
<u>No. of Wet Days</u>	239	205.5

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Medical Officer of Health

J. G. S. Turner, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

2. Senior Sanitary Inspector, Petroleum & Shops Inspector

C. H. Watts, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspector

3. Additional Sanitary Inspector

L. H. Sturtridge, M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., Certified Meat & Food Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

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

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN

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

AMBULANCE SERVICE

- There is a main centre in St. Austell with an establishment of three ambulances and two utilicons. In addition St. Johns' and the Red Cross maintain voluntary ambulances at St. Austell and St. Blazey and these are available in emergencies.

The work of the service during 1951 is summarised

as follows :-

	<u>Patients Carried</u>	<u>Miles Run</u>
Ambulance	2,342	51,921
Utilicon	4,522	68,971
Hospital Car Service (Approximate figures)	1,120	16,810

The repair and servicing of vehicles by the Fire Service has been satisfactory.

Thanks are due to the Commandant, Officers, and Members of the B.R.C.S., and the Superintendent, Officers and Members of the St. Blazey Division of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade for their continued co-operation and assistance in manning both County and Voluntary vehicles at night and at weekends.

Thanks are due also to Mrs. Batchelor, Organiser of the Hospital Car Service and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport on request.

NURSING AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE HOME

These have worked well in spite of shortage of Staff. This establishment was as follows :-

	District Nurse Midwife Health Visitor	Health Visitor (Full time)	General Nurse & Midwife	TOTAL
Mevagissey	1	-	-	1
St. Blazey and Tywardreath	3	-	-	3
St. Austell and Trevorbyn	2	3	3	8

All nurses have now been trained in gas/air Analgesia and as circumstances permit they are sent for further training or for practical post-certificate courses.

Domiciliary Midwifery

Approximately 60% of all births occur at home, and provided the home conditions are good, and that difficulties are unlikely to arise, this is the best place.

Care and After Care

Children discharged from hospital are followed up until fit. Eleven cases of tuberculosis were given help by funds provided by the County Council.

Ante and Post-Natal Care

An ante-natal clinic was held weekly at Moorland Road by a specialist obstetrician. In addition a weekly clinic was held by midwives.

Infant Welfare

Clinics are held fortnightly at St. Austell and at Par. The attendances averaged 20.2 and 44.0 respectively. An attempt has been made to do health education at these clinics, but the response has not been very good.

Domestic Help Service

A total of 64 persons were helped of whom 38 were Maternity cases. There is a growing demand for this service and at the end of the year the establishment was increased from 4 to 6, much can be done to help old persons and near problem families and so keep them out of institutions.

Hospitals

The only hospital in the area is the St. Austell and District Hospital which deals with general medical and surgical cases. Cases requiring further examination and special treatment are sent to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Maternity cases go to Redruth and Infectious Diseases requiring isolation or special treatment are sent to the Isolation Division Hospital at Truro. A few of the more infective cases of tuberculosis are sent to Tehidy, but accommodation is very limited.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) Clinics held at Moorland Road are as follows :-

Ante-Natal & Gynaecology	Every Monday
Orthopaedic	Every Tuesday
Child Welfare	First, third & fifth Wednesday each Month.
Speech Therapy	Every Wednesday
E.N.T. Ophthalmia	As required
Dental	Wednesday
Child Guidance	Second & Fourth Wednesday each Month.
Skin Clinic	Thursday Morning

(b) Clinics held at the Hospital

General Medical & Surgical	Daily
Orthopaedic	Monday - forenoon
Veneral Diseases	Tuesday - afternoon
Tuberculosis	Monday - afternoon

SECTION C
SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

Consumer demands for water were adequately met in all parts of the district. As a result of the heavy rainfall during the summer months it was not necessary to restrict the hours of supply.

Bacteriological examinations have been made regularly on both the raw and treated water from all sources. Traces of contamination have been found at one or two of the sources, but not on the distributing system, indicating that methods of chlorination are satisfactory.

The water supply in the district is soft and the high silica content provides a natural check on plumbo-solvency. Lead pipes are not used on drinking supplies, galvanised iron or copper tubing being the standard materials used throughout the district.

Approximately 95% of the houses in the district have a piped supply and most have water indoors. Very few stand pipes are now maintained by the Council. During the year the mains in Molinnis Land and at Bethel were relaid. Borings were carried out at Kilgogue to improve the yield.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were no extensive changes to the sewerage system in the Urban District, but further survey work continued in the Par and St. Blazey districts with a view to renewing the whole system. The complete scheme is now with the Ministry of Local Government and Planning awaiting approval.

DISINFECTION

Concurrent and terminal disinfection is carried out as required.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The destruction of rats and mice continued to be carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, and the various regulations made under the Act. Special attention was paid to farm lands and heavy infestations reported to the Pests Control Officer for action. The two rodent operators were fully engaged throughout the year and were provided with motor transport.

The work as carried out was arranged in four sections as follows :-

(a) Private dwellings

367 weekly treatments were carried out.

These premises were treated free of charge. The Local Authority bears 50% of the cost and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries bear the remaining 50% cost.

(b) Business Premises

169 weekly treatments were carried out.

Baiting operations carried out at such premises are charged to the occupiers.

(c) Sewers

A variable proportion of manholes are baited according to experience. The results of the work carried out are as follows :-

8th Maintenance	228 Manholes baited and takes recorded	115
9th Maintenance	183 Manholes baited and takes recorded	67

Refuse & Sewage Disposal Works

Thirty treatments were given to refuse disposal works and six weekly treatments to sewage disposal works. Attention was also paid to the sewage leats located at St. Blazey and to various river banks which were found to be harbouring rodents.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This department is under the supervision of the Surveyor. A weekly house refuse collection is in operation throughout the Urban District, but in certain very congested areas in Mevagissey, where there is no storage accommodation, collections are made thrice weekly. Refuse is disposed of at tips at Menagwins, Par and Mevagissey.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Urban area is moderately well served with conveniences which are supervised by the Surveyor's Department. A twice daily cleansing service is maintained in the town area and at Par and Mevagissey.

Schemes have been laid to provide conveniences at Par, Pentewan and Penwithick. At Porthpean Beach the sea wall has been built and the new conveniences are in operation. The conveniences at Mount Charles and St. Blazey have also been completed.

There is an urgent need to meet the requirements of holiday makers in the district.

SECTION D

HOUSING

The demand for housing accommodation remains unabated and despite the building progress the number of families on the Council's waiting list has increased since the submission of the last report, details are as follows :-

Number without separate houses (including numerous cases of overcrowding)	900
---	-----

Number of Families with separate homes	
---	--

(a) Living in unfit houses	85
----------------------------	----

(b) Living in overcrowded houses	<u>320</u>
----------------------------------	------------

1,305

The preponderance of applications are from young people without separate homes. Overcrowding through the occupation of reasonable fit houses by two or more families is still a major problem.

Types required are as follows :-

1 bedroom type	50
2 bedroom type	963
3 bedroom type	280
4 bedroom type	12

The Council's waiting list is not a complete reflection of the true housing shortage in the area as many people living under deplorable conditions are clinging to their worn out but rent controlled cottages in preference to the higher priced Council houses.

The Council now own 1,147 houses and development is still proceeding on two main housing sites - work will also be shortly commenced on three additional sites.

House construction was carried out in the area during 1951 as follows :-

Dwellings erected by the Council	113
Dwellings erected by Private Enterprise	17

71 houses are now in course of construction by the Council and 18 by private enterprise.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

The retail supply of Milk was regularly supervised. There are still a number of distributors who make the final delivery in cans and measure out the milk at the door of the consumer. It is proposed to take legal action should this state of affairs continue.

There has been an increase in the amount of pasteurised milk retailed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat and Food inspection duties were regularly carried out. All animals slaughtered at the Government establishment at Tregonissey Road, are inspected by the Council's Inspectors aided by the Inspector of the Rural District Council.

I regret to report that little has been done by the Ministry of Food to improve the conditions at the slaughter-house. Action seems to be impossible failing the formulation of a national policy.

In the early spring a series of lectures on Food Hygiene supported by a number of Clean Food Films were arranged and given to proprietors and food handlers of the local food trade establishments. These lectures which were well attended, had the support of your Council and were opened on the first evening by Mrs. O. Selleck, Chairman of the Public Health Committee. An appropriate certificate signed by Mrs. Selleck was presented to all those food handlers who had regularly attended these lectures.

Wholesalers and retailers premises have been kept under constant review and inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors Staff. A List of foodstuffs condemned by them as unfit for human consumption is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report appended hereto.

Ice Cream

Manufacturers and retailers premises were supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors. The results shown below indicate considerable improvement over previous years :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Hot Mix</u>	<u>Cold Mix</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	46	2	48
2	10	2	12
3	9	0	9
4	0	0	0

SECTION E

(Continued)

CARCASES INSPECTED

The following table summarises the work done :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1643	714	1219	3720	870
Number Inspected	1643	714	1219	3720	870
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned	7	14	1	25	4
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	1112		3	128	22
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	48.02%		0.3%	4.1%	3%
Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcasses condemned	3	26	-	-	2
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	262		-	-	30
Percentage or number inspected affected with T.B.	12.3%		-	-	3.6%

SECTION F
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease
were received :-

Disease	Number of Cases 1951	Rate per 1,000 population		
		St. Austell U.D.C.		England and Wales.
		1950	1951	1951
Whooping Cough	91	0.96	3.88	3.87
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	-	0.08	0.03
Measles	512	2.44	21.81	14.07
Scarlet Fever	11	0.38	0.47	1.11
Poliomyelitis				
(a) Paralytic	2	0.13	0.08	0.03
(b) Non-Paralytic	1	-	0.04	0.02
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	0.30	0.04	0.99
Diphtheria	2	-	0.08	0.02
Rheumatic Chorea	1	-	0.04	-
Dysentery	1	-	0.04	-
		Rate per 1,000 Total Births		
Puerperal Fever	2	12.41	5.93	10.66

There was a widespread outbreak of measles which reached its peak during the month of May. There was a secondary rise in October due probably to the re-opening of the schools in September. There was no associated mortality.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified. The first, in an adult male, was notified on clinical grounds but the diagnosis was not confirmed in the laboratory. There is considerable doubt as to whether this was a case of diphtheria. The second case occurred in a child living at the Priory who had arrived recently from an adjacent area. Investigation showed that the child had had one injection only of diphtheria anatoxin and was therefore not protected. This case is an object lesson of the ever-present danger where there is inadequate or no immunisation.

There were three cases of poliomyelitis. The first occurred in a small child living at Bugle. There was no obvious local source of infection. The second case occurred in a child living in a caravan at Pentewan and the infection must here have been acquired outside the County. The third case was a soldier who had returned recently from abroad and who developed paralysis on the train en route to St. Austell. So far as is known there was no further spread from any of the cases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation up to the 31st December 1951 :-

Age at 31.12.51 i.e. born in year	-1 51	1 50	2 49	3 48	4 47	5 - 9 42-46	10 - 14 37 - 41	Total under 15 years.
No. Immunised	19	146	194	214	263	772	406	2,014
Estimated Mid- Year child Population	Children under 5 years. 1,814					Children 5-14 yrs. 3,004		4,818
Percentage Immunised	46.1					39.4		41.8

During the year 304 primary immunisations were carried out and 505 children were given a boosting dose to maintain their immunity.

It is believed that the figures given in the table above are not accurate, and that the level of immunisation is considerably higher than that shewn. There is little doubt however that the level is lower than desirable and that it is steadily falling to the safety limit. Should the tendency to assume safety, and to neglect to have young children immunised, continue for a few more years, the town will once again suffer from outbreaks with their attendant high mortality.

TUBERCULOSIS

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1951 was as follows :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Male	63	12
Female	48	11

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of newly notified cases and deaths for the year 1951 :-

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 yr.								
1 - 4				1				
5 - 9				-				
10 - 14				1				
15 - 19	2	1						
20 - 24	2	-						
25 - 34	1	2			2	1		
35 - 44	2	1	1		2			
45 - 54	1	-						
55 - 64	2	-			2			
65 - 74	1	1			1	1		
Over 75	1	-			1			
TOTAL	12	5	1	2	8	2	0	0

The figures given for deaths are those for persons known to be tuberculous, but tuberculosis may not have been the primary cause of death. The Registrar General records 5 deaths as due to this disease giving a rate of 0.21 per 1,000 as compared with 0.31 for England and Wales.

A scheme is now in being to examine all known contacts of pulmonary tuberculosis and to offer those who are discovered to be susceptible the protection of B.C.G. vaccination. Contacts are known to be about five times more likely to develop the disease than are the general population.

The Council have housed 35.3% of all tuberculosis families a very creditable effort. There is still a need to re-house some of the others as the living conditions making segregation of the cases practically impossible and increase the danger to others.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	27	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	192	98	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers' premises).	70	31	-	-
T O T A L	277	156	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)(a) Insufficient	4	-	-	4	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	-	-	4	-

TABLE NO. 4

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 317 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 683 |

2. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936 | |
| (i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | 2 |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 | |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 | |
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were made | |

3. Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year | 30 |
| Number of families dwelling therein | 45 |
| Number of persons dwelling therein | 208 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 10 |
| (c) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 10 |
| (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider to report: - | |

The main problem of two or more normal families in one house still remains and the only answer would appear to be a preponderance of 2 bedroom type houses in future housing schemes as large individual families suitable for 3 and 4 bedroom type houses are steadily decreasing. The number of families living under congested conditions although not overcrowded in a statutory sense should not be overlooked.

TABLE NO. 3

DRAINAGE, SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND MISCELLANEOUS

1.	No. houses & premises re-drained	...	...	42
2.	Repairs or amendments to existing drains	...	...	55
3.	Drains or gullies unstopped & cleansed	...	...	36
4.	Length in yards stoneware drains laid	...	...	687
5.	Manholes provided	...	...	69
6.	New manhole covers	...	...	58
7.	Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	18
8.	New gulley traps fixed	...	...	57
9.	Soil pipes & vent shafts fixed	...	...	14
10.	Soil pipes & vent shafts repaired	...	...	0
11.	Water tests applied	...	...	21
12.	Smoke tests applied	...	...	19
13.	Length in yards iron drains laid	...	...	0
14.	New W.C. accommodation provided	...	...	35
15.	New W.C. apartments provided	...	...	15
16.	New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	41
17.	W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	...	...	14
18.	New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	40
19.	Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	6
20.	Baths provided	...	...	9
21.	Sinks provided	...	...	38
22.	New Waste pipes provided	...	...	41
23.	Existing waste pipes trapped	...	...	1
24.	Paill closets and/or middens abolished	...	...	15
25.	Urinals provided	...	...	4
26.	Septic tanks provided	...	...	6
27.	Lavatory basins provided	...	...	1

TABLE NO. 3
(Cont.)

Miscellaneous

1.	New roofs provided	...	...	12
2.	Roofs repaired	...	...	47
3.	Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	...	...	56
4.	Stack pipes disconnected or repaired	...	...	37
5.	Damp walls remedied	...	...	91
6.	Ventilation under floors provided	...	...	0
7.	Yards paved	...	...	26
8.	Yards repaired	...	...	10
9.	Floors of rooms repaired	...	...	37
10.	Floors or rooms relaid	...	...	17
11.	Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	67
12.	New windows provided	...	...	15
13.	Windows repaired	...	...	25
14.	Plaster of walls or ceiling repaired	...	...	75
15.	Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	13
16.	Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	10
17.	Staircases provided or repaired	...	...	7
18.	Water Service pipes repaired	...	...	10
19.	Dust bins provided	...	...	15
20.	Nuisances - animals	...	...	1
21.	Nuisances - refuse	...	...	3
22.	Bakehouses cleansed	...	...	3
23.	Cowsheds and dairies cleansed	...	...	3
24.	Fish Fryers premises cleansed	...	...	2
25.	Insufficient water supply remedied	...	...	25
26.	Grates, ranges, copper renewed or repaired	...	...	23
27.	Rooms disinfected	...	...	18
28.	Rooms disinfested	...	...	28

TABLE NO. 1

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	317
Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	683
Drainage Visits	...	...	...	...	...	797
Slaughterhouse Visits	...	...	...	...	...	375
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	555
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	143
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	57
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	49
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	156
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	169
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	61
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	31
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	111
Tents Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	75
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	34
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	26
Petroleum and Carbide	...	...	...	...	...	105
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Theatres & Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	137
School Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4
Buildings Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Special Visits re-complaints	...	...	...	...	...	117
Poultry House inspections	...	...	...	...	...	6
					TOTAL	<u>4,019</u>

TABLE NO. 2

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES

The following table shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the renewal of conditions dangerous and injurious to health.

<u>Notices</u>	<u>No. Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Works done by the Council in default</u>
Informal	134	105	Nil
Statutory	6	7	2

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Housing Act 1936, Section 9	2
Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	4

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT for the YEAR
ended 31st DECEMBER 1951

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
ST. AUSTELL.

To the Chairman & Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Joyce & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my
fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1951.

During the year under review the standard of activity set up continued to compare very favourably with the high standards that has been maintained in the more recent years and a perusal of the following Report will show that much valuable work was carried out by your Sanitary Officers which necessitated a total of 4,326 visits in dealing with the several and varied branches of Sanitary administration.

This work continued to be chiefly investigating complaints received under the Housing, Public Health and Factories Acts. The inspection of food storage and catering premises under the Food and Drugs Act and meat inspection duties at the Government Slaughtering Establishment and Meat Allocation Depot. Also a considerable amount of attention was paid in the supervision of the several holiday camping sites situated within the urban area during the year.

Unlike the two previous years there were no major changes in the principle public health statutes excepting that the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951, came into operation on the first of November 1951. The purpose of the Act is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined.

The principle items of the Report are set out in classified order as follows :-

1. HOUSING

Details of the activities in connection with the work carried out under the Housing Act 1936 both by informal and formal action are shown in Table No. 4 Housing - appended at the end of this Report.

It has been impossible to commence a systematic inspection of the older type of dwelling houses many of which have now fallen into a very bad state of dis-repair and should really be considered under the heading "Slum Clearance". Many of these small dwellings are let at such reasonable and protected rents that the question of dealing with repairs has become a difficult and increasing problem.

A more aggravating problem has been to deal with numerous complaints of the damp and worn out condition of many of the slum houses contained in Clearance Areas which were made by the Ministry of Health several years prior to the late war. Several of these houses are becoming structural dangers.

Major repair or reconditioning schemes still can only be carried out by Building Licences under the control of Civil Building. These licences are granted by the Local Authority within the financial limits of £100-£500 upon receipt of application upon behalf of the owners concerned.

2. MEAT INSPECTION.

All animals destined for human consumption continued to be slaughtered at the centralised government slaughtering establishment situated at Tregonissey Road. During the year a total of 8,166 animal carcasses were slaughtered this being a decrease of 1,270 on the previous year. Meat inspection duties were shared by both your qualified Inspectors and the qualified Inspector of the St. Austell Rural District Council by working a one week in three, rota system. To ensure that a 100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered was maintained, meant the inspectorate staff working over-time during evenings, and week-ends at the peak periods of slaughtering.

The suggested improvements that should be carried out to facilitate the work of meat inspection at the above premises together with the provision of a more adequate water supply and drainage system submitted to the Ministry of Food by the Council towards the end of the year 1950, has not yet materialised, but as a result of a conference on site with technical representatives of the Food Ministry, Ministry of Works and the South West Regional Officer (Livestock Division) it is hoped that such proposed improvements will take effect during this present year 1952.

The transportation and handling of meat and offals is still conveyed in metal lined closed motor transports equipped with hanging rails complete with running hooks. The transporting of Home Killed Meat remains a vexed question nationally, and we look forward with much expectation to the time when the Ministry may enforce a more prescribed insulated type of transport vehicle to be used for the transporting of all meat supplies.

The allocation of meat is still the responsibility of the South Western Wholesale Meat Supplies Association whose allocation centre is still situated at the Market House, Market Street, St. Austell.

Butchers shops and their meat preparing rooms were frequently visited during the year, particular attention being given also to the cleanliness of meat delivery vehicles.

The following tables show in detail the number of animals slaughtered during the year and the condemnations made for various causes viz :-

BOVINE

3,576

(a) Bullocks 1,587

(b) Cows 714

(c) Bulls 56

(d) Calves 1,219

Sheep 5,720

Pigs 870

TOTAL 8,166

Meat Condemned

As a result of the inspections made during the year, the following carcasses and organs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

BOVINEPIGSSHEEP

	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Pt. Livers	Livers	Stomachs	Udders	Carcasses	Heads	Plucks	Livers	Carcasses	Heads	Plucks	Livers	Stomachs
STRONGYLUS RUFESCENS															4	8	
SEPTICAEMIA									2				2				
TUBERCULOSIS	29	131	241	7		30			2	29	6						
CIRRHOSIS			1		224	205					3	3				12	
CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA						132											
DISTOMATOSIS					413	23					1				7	39	
ABCESSES		1				23									6		
PERICARDITIS	1			2							1				2		
FEVER & DROPSY	18												10				
ROECKL'S GRANULOMA	1																
FATTY INFILTRATION						3			1							8	
FATTY DEGENERATION						1										8	

	BOVINE								PIGS				SHEEP				
	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Pt. Livers	Livers	Stomachs	Udders	Carcases	Heads	Plucks	Livers	Carcases	Heads	Plucks	Livers	Stomachs
HYDATID CYSTS			5														
FLUKES					1												19
PLEURISY	2		1								1		3		3		
MYOCARDITIS				5													
PNEUMONIA	1		1	3							3				4		
JOHNES DISEASE							3										
COENURUS CEREBRALIS														6			
UNFIT							5	116									
PERITONITIS				2							1				2		
INFLAMMATION			1			1	11		1		1	1	1	1	2		1

3. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

There were 20 licenced slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

4. OTHER FOODS

Numerous visits have been paid to food storage premises and food shops etc., during 1951 and large consignments of food stuffs were inspected.

As a result of these inspections, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of viz :-

1,113	tins of Meat	Blown, punctured & decomposition.
1,431	tins of Fruit	Blown, punctured and leaking
327	tins of Milk	" " " "
230	tins of Fish	" " " "
468	tins of Vegetables	Blown
63	tins of Soup	Blown
103	tins of Jam	Blown, punctured and leaking
121	lbs of Cheese	Moulds and Mites.
561	lbs of Mincemeat	Fouled with dirt
4	chicken	Decomposition
72	cartons of Italian Cheese	Moulded and mites

4 packets of Cornflakes	Damp
18 lb of prunes	Mouldy
6 lb of flour	Mouldy
5 cases of pears	Rotten and over-ripe
2 packets of suet	Mouldy
55 lb of skinned rabbits	Decomposition
5 Billets of Carrots	Fungus growths
192 lb of Cherries	Rotten and over-ripe
19 lb of cake	Rancid
1½ lb of bacon	Decomposition
8 lb of Porage Oats	Damp and Mouldy
8 lb of Self Raising Flour	Damp and Mouldy
2Qrs. 11 lb Drief Fruit Mixture	Damp and Mouldy
96 Jars of Sandwich Spread	Damp and Mouldy
1 tin of Xmas Pudding	Mouldy
56 lb figs	Fermentation
63 Jars of Mincemeat	Fermentation
46½ lb of Hogs Pudding	Mouldy and decomposition
54 lbs Grapes	Over-ripe and fermentation.

Food Catering & Storage Premises

A total of 694 visits were made to the various Food Premises within the urban area.

Particular attention was given to the food preparing rooms and restaurant kitchens with regard to methods employed for the hygienic cleansing of food containers and equipment.

An endeavour was made to bring home in a more striking way to food handlers the need and importance of the daily practice of food hygiene methods in the various branches of the trade by holding a series of lectures and film demonstrations during February and March of the year under review. Although these Lectures which were arranged by the Medical Officer of Health were fairly well attended and appreciated, one would rather have seen much more interest shown by all sections of the food catering trades by increased attendances at such lectures.

Premises Improved

In the course of inspection of a private retailers general stores and premises earlier in the year, the store building at the rear of the shop was found to be in a very dilapidated and unkept state. The proprietor was consulted on the matter with regard to providing more suitable and hygienic storage accommodation. Consequent upon this informal action he willingly co-operated forthwith by submitting plans to the Council for building a new permanent store on a more suitable site at the rear of the premises. This proposed building was erected in the late Autumn.

Also another of the local Wholesalers who has been housed in rather congested and unsuitable premises in the centre of the town at long last was able in the latter part of the year to build a new warehouse on a spacious site situate in the Trenance area, and on which site it is proposed to continue building extended modern warehouses sufficient to house the whole of this wholesale business. When such scheme is completed, both the old established large wholesale and provision firms of St. Austell will have been housed in suitable and up to date buildings.

Also as a result of informal action a new bread and cake etc., store and despatch room was built at a large bakery premises owned by a multiple business firm.

(a) Icecream (Heat Treatment) Regulations

A total of 69 samples of ice-cream were collected during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue tests. The results of these examinations were reported as follows :-

Provisional Grade 1	-	48 samples
" " 2	-	12 samples
" " 3	-	9 samples
" " 4	-	0 samples

The above total number of samples collected shows a small decrease on the number collected in the year 1950. The following table of percentages further prove that a higher standard of bacteriol cleanliness was obtained generally in ice-cream consumed within the urban area :-

	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
1949	27%	31.5%	17%	24.5%
1950	38%	30%	15.5%	16.5%
1951	69.5%	17.4%	13.1%	0.0%

During the year 15 applicants premises were registered upon which to retail ice-cream after such premises were made to conform to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act. Thus at the end of the year there was a total of 100 registered premises within the urban district, 9 of which were manufacturing premises.

Frequent visits were paid to manufacturers and retailers premises involving a total of 137 visits. The manufacturuers premises were found to be generally well controlled and it is encouraging to record that practically all the retailers deal only in the pre-packed commodity.

(b) Fish Inspection

During the year 1,122 half casks and 3,573 quarter casks of fish were exported from Mevagissey, making a total of approximately 1,745,100 pickled pilchards. The fish were inspected and found to be in good condition, official certificates being issued to that effect.

In addition, numerous visits were paid to fish-mongers premises inspecting consignments of fish exposed for sale for human consumption and as a result the following were condemned :-

5 boxes of kippers	} Decomposition.
5 stone of Cod Fillets	
5 stone of Hake	
1 cwt. of Herrings	
2 stone of Fish Roes	

5. MILK

During the year a total of 49 visits were made to the eleven milk "Distributors" dairies situated within the urban area.

There is still no plant set up in the urban area by which "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised" milk can be produced. Thus "Pasteurised" milk was still distributed over the greater part of the area in bottles by both the St. Austell and St. Blazey Co-operative Societies; the milk being pasteurised and bottled at the Penryn Milk Factory of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and despatched daily to St. Austell.

Increasing supplies of heat treated milk was received by other milk Distributors for retail sale from the Dried Milk Products Factory, Lostwithiel.

Pasteurised milk continued to be supplied to the several Council Schools by retailers who held "Dealers Licences" to use the special designation "Pasteurised" granted by the Local Authority.

Milk Licences were issued as follows :-

Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	1
Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	1

Two new Distributor's dairies were provided within the area during the year for the storage of bottled Pasteurised milk for retail sale.

6. FACTORIES ACT 1937

A total of 156 visits were made to Factory Premises during the year when sanitary inspections were made under Parts I and VIII of the Act dealing with Health (General Provisions) and Homework. Communication was received from H. M. Inspector of Factories in accordance with Section VIII(3) of the Act, informing the Local Authority of change of occupation of eighteen factory premises within the urban area. Of these changes six businesses passed to new managements, eight took up new or additional kinds of light industrial work and the remaining four factories were deleted from the Factories List. Also four notifications were received from H. M. Inspectors under Section IX of the Act during the year stating that it was found that "suitable and sufficient" sanitary accommodation was not provided at four different factory premises. Accordingly these four premises were inspected, the defaults confirmed and consequently informal notices served on the occupiers to carry out the necessary works.

One of these concerned a large motor transport undertaking who were settling into new and spacious premises situated in the northern area of the urban district. The management were found ready and eager to comply with the requirements of the Act in this respect. Thus a block of four water-closets and adequate urinal accommodation and separate block of canteen, cloakroom and offices were provided together with comprehensive new drainage scheme complete with septic tank and filter. Another case affected, one of the concrete block making works whose premises are situated in close proximity to the previously described case. Likewise the management readily co-operated and consequently a block of W.C. and urinal accommodation and new drainage system complete with septic tank and filter together with new canteen room adequately equipped with washups etc., has been provided.

7. CAMPING SITES

The number of licenced camping sites situated in the Urban area is four viz :-

"The Winnick", Pentewan Beach.

Cheesewarne Farm, Mevagissey.

Duporth Holiday Camp, Charlestown.

Par Beach Site (Owned and controlled by the Local Authority)

These four sites are situated immediately on the seaboard and each site is now fully provided with modern sanitary conveniences, water carriage drainage systems and main chlorinated water supplies.

Each site again appeared to be very popular with the camping holiday makers which invaded the immediate St. Austell Urban area, in over-flowing numbers during the peak periods of July and August when at Pentewan not a few applicants could not gain admission to the licenced camping site and were forced to camp in the adjoining farmers field temporarily.

Also at Par it was found necessary in the emergency to extend the camping site area so as to cope with the great influx of campers during the height of the season. Thus the Council have found it necessary as owners of the beach to permanently extend the camping site at the eastern end of the beach and to provide additional modern sanitary accommodation and main water supply for use during the 1952 season.

8. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams throughout the area have received constant attention consequent upon some residents in those areas adjacent to water courses being the habit of depositing various kinds of refuse therein.

Temptation to this practice continues in the more rural districts still not provided with main drainage.

The sewage leats at St. Blazey and banks of the White clay river running through the lower part of St. Austell has been regularly treated against rat infestation by the Council's Rodent Operators.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

There no no cases of bed bug infestation during the year.

Reports were received of other types of vermin infestation of premises, chiefly fleas. Investigations were made in each case and those cases confirmed were readily treated with liquid insecticide solutions containing an approved percentage of D.D.T. base and the pests eradicated. Consequently a total of 31 visits were paid to such premises being a decrease of 20 on the previous year.

10. THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Much work was done throughout the year in the destruction of rats and mice under the provisions of the above Act. Thus the rodent operators paid :-

903	visits to business premises
1,136	visits to private premises
381	visits to Local Authorities premises.
2,420	TOTAL

In addition the 8th and 9th Sewer Treatments were carried out in the months of March and August respectively. According to the results obtained it would appear that the sewers are not badly infested., Also a total of 46 farm land premises were surveyed during the year and a number of complaints investigated at various premises.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage works received regular baiting treatments throughout the year.

11. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A total of 61 visits were made in connection with the prevention of infectious disease. Each notified case was investigated and the necessary disinfection of premises, bedding etc., carried out. A total of 18 rooms were disinfected.

12. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

During the year a total of 9 samples of water were collected. One of these samples was from a main supply and the remaining 8 samples were from private well sources situated at :-

Nansladron Farm Cottage 3 samples

Levalsa Farm 2 samples

Village Well, London
Apprentice 2 samples

Hammermill Cottages,
St. Blazey 1 sample

These samples were submitted to Dr. Hocking, County Pathologist, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

The main water supply sample was collected upon complaint of matters of suspension in the water as drawn from tap at a Dental Surgery situated in Fore Street, St. Austell. The Analysts report showed that this water was unsafe for drinking purposes. Upon investigation it was found that this water was fed from the main to a storage tank built on the roof of the premises and the wood cover of which had perished and become dislodged and the tank had become fouled with organic matter. Consequently the owner of the premises readily agreed to dismantle this offending storage tank and connect the dental surgery direct to the Council's main. The work was expeditionally carried out.

The private well water at Nansladron Farm cottage proving to be contaminated, the owner readily agreed to re-construct the shallow well situated in the cottage garden. Accordingly the well was reconstructed in concrete blocks and interior walls rendered in Portland cement rendering and covered with 6" Portland Cement cover. Upon re-sampling, the water was found to be fit for human consumption.

Samples have been collected weekly throughout the year from the Council's main supplies by the Water Superintendent and submitted to Dr. Hocking, Royal Cornwall Infirmary Truro for bacteriol examination.

13. SCHOOLS

Inspections have been made to the various schools within the urban area, which are under the administration of the Cornwall County Education Committee. It is again to be noted that several of the smaller schools located in the more rural areas are in need of being provided with modern sanitary conveniences and drainage systems.

14. STAFF

The staff of Inspectors throughout the year consisted of myself, Mr. L. H. Sturtridge and the Pupil Assistant Sanitary Inspector, M. Jacob who has rendered valuable assistance, his work being much appreciated.

15. CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would once again like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for support given during the year. Also Dr. Turner for his most valuable help and advice at all times; Mr. Saunders, Mr. King and Mr. Sturtridge and all members of the Staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

C. H. WATTS

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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