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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR

1958

J.G.S.TURNER
Medical Officer of Health



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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1958

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MR. W. WILLIAMS

MR. F. JAMES

MR. W. WINDLE

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

Mr.Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual
Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the
year 1958.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr.Watts
and his staff, and to Mr.King and Mr.Mules, to all of whom I am indebted
for parts of this report.

I wish to thank also the Members of the
Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. G. S. TURNER

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	18,379
Population	...	...	...	...	...	23,520
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,391
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£230,021
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£900

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate 1,000 Population</u>	
				<u>St. Austell</u>	<u>Eng & Wales</u>
Legitimate	180	138	329	14	
Illegitimate	5	6			
Corrected for age and sex distribution				15.2	16.4

<u>Still Births</u>					
Legitimate	4	6	10	29.5	21.6
Illegitimate	-	-			

<u>Total Live & Still Births</u>	339				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		
<u>Infant Deaths</u>	2	4	6		

<u>Infant Mortality</u>					
Rate per 1,000 total live births				18.2	22.5
Rate per 1,000 total legitimate births				18.9	-
Rate per 1,000 total illegitimate births				0.0	-

Neo Natal (First 4 weeks) Rate per 1,000 live births 9.1 16.2

Illegitimate live births. Per cent of total live births 3.3%

Maternal deaths Nil.

Maternal mortality rate. Per 1,000 live & still births 0.0 0.43

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate 1,000 Population</u>	
				<u>St. Austell</u>	<u>Eng & Wales</u>
	171	147	318	13.5	
Rate corrected for age & sex distribution				11.35	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is an abbreviated list of the causes of death of persons of all ages :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis-respiratory	2	0	2
2. Tuberculosis-other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective & Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	4	6	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	2	0	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	4	4
14. Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	16	13	29
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16. Diabetes	3	2	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	28	52
18. Coronary disease, angina	31	8	39
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	4	8
20. Other heart disease	34	39	73
21. Other circulatory disease	5	4	9
22. Influenza	1	0	1
23. Pneumonia	3	6	9
24. Bronchitis	7	1	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	6	0	6
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	3	0	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	0	2	2
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	0	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	13	18	31
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	2	2	4
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
All causes	171	147	318

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of deaths in various age groups.

<u>Age Group at death</u>	<u>Percentage dying in each age group</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0-1 year	1.2	2.7
1-59 yrs	18.7	12.9
60-69 yrs	18.1	16.3
70-79 yrs	36.8	38.1
80-89 yrs	22.2	25.8
90-99 yrs	2.9	4.1
100 +	0.0	0.0

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Ages in weeks</u>						<u>Total</u>
	<u>-1</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>-5</u>	<u>-52</u>	
Congenital Heart	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Birth Trauma	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchopneumonia (Congenital Heart)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Atelectasis of Lung	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sarcoma of Heart Muscle	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

The deaths of children under the age of 1 week together with stillbirths are found to be of similar causation and are termed Perinatal deaths. Over the past five years this rate has been as follows :-

1954	..	..	..	54.3	
1955	..	..	..	64.2	
1956	..	..	..	43.3	
1957	..	..	..	49.6	
1958	..	..	..	38.3	Av. 49.9

The rate for the County is about 43 and for the United Kingdom 37.

During this century the major improvement in saving infant lives has been in those over the age of 1 week and has resulted from the control of infections and the increased knowledge of child care. Perinatal mortality results from inherent defect, infections in the mother, and other even less well understood causes. It is proving very difficult to reduce the rate but a high standard of care in the pregnant woman a sound diet, good housing and an efficient health education service can do much.

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 and Mevagissey. Par and Charlestown are ports dealing 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 - 23,520

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

According to the Rate Book, the number of inhabited houses in the district was 8391, the rateable value being £230,021 which gives £900 for penny rate.

CLIMATE

The average rainfall was above the normal for the past 20 years, the summer was wetter than usual due to prolonged periods of rain.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RAINFALL 1958</u>	<u>MONTHLY AVERAGE FROM 1916 - 1950</u>
January	6.77	5.61
February	6.59	4.08
March	4.09	3.53
April	1.24	2.93
May	5.14	3.06
June	4.48	2.04
July	4.30	3.39
August	7.58	3.56
September	6.94	3.55
October	3.83	5.07
November	3.64	5.57
December	7.26	5.58
Total	61.86	47.97
Monthly Average	5.15	3.96
No. of wet days	238	-

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.

Area Health Office,
Moorland Road, St. Austell.
Telephone - St. Austell 2206.

2. Senior Public Health Inspector

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

3. Additional Public Health Inspectors

L. H. Sturtridge, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.

J. T. Rostern, C.R.S.I., until 31.3.58.

C.F. Quantrell, M.A.P.H.I. from 2.6.58.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

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

PROPHYLACTICS

Supplies of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus prophylactics are available in various combinations. Poliomyelitis vaccine became available in limited amounts but its use was confined at first to County Medical Staff. Supplies are now available to Medical Practitioners at the Area Health Office, St. Austell, on request.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The control of this service has been passed to a Controller stationed in Truro. There is no change in the method of obtaining help and the service will maintain its high efficiency.

NURSING AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE HOME

These have worked well in spite of staff shortage. The establishment was as follows :-

(contd)

	District Nurse Midwife Health Visitor	Health Visitor (Full-time)	General Nurse & Midwife	Total
Nevagissey	1	-	-	1
St. Blazey and Tywardreath	3	-	-	3
St. Austell and Treverbyn	2	3	3	8

All nurses as circumstances permit 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 and old people discharged from hospital are followed up until fit.

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. Relaxation classes have been established at Par and in St. Austell. A mother's club has been established in St. Austell and has very successful meetings.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinics are held fortnightly at St. Austell and at Par. The attendances averaged 31.3 and 25.2 respectively. Emphasis is placed on health education.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

A total of 94 persons were helped of whom 11 were maternity cases. Many of the cases helped are old people who, without help, would be unable to stay in their own homes.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Old People's Welfare Association extended its activities by arranging to deliver Cornish Pasties twice weekly to those who would like a hot cooked meal. The Chiropody service has continued to be a boon and there is now a likelihood of this service becoming part of the National Health Service. The Rest Room offers a haven to tired older people on shopping expeditions and is much appreciated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

One elderly lady living alone under insanitary conditions became acutely ill and refused to leave home. She was removed to hospital under a S.47 order which was allowed to lapse. She is still in hospital.

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 treatment are sent to the Isolation 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.	As required
Dental	Daily
Child Guidance	Second & fourth Wednesday each month
Psychiatric	Tuesday afternoons
Family Planning	Fourth Friday evening & second Monday afternoon

(b) Clinics held at the Hospital :-

General Medical & Surgical	Daily
Orthopaedic	Monday-fore-noon
Veneral Diseases	Tuesday afternoons
Tuberculosis	Monday afternoon
Skin Clinic	Thursday mornings

SECTION C

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

Consumer demands for water were adequately met in all parts of the district.

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 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, plastic or copper tubing being the standard materials used throughout the district.

Approximately 97% of the houses in the district have a piped supply and most have water indoors. During the year new mains were laid at Stenalees and Bugle.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Schemes have been prepared for Ruddlemoor and Mevagissey (Stage I of modernization). An intensive programme of new schemes and modernization has been approved.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection has been carried out as required and a total of 19 rooms were disinfected during the year.

RATS AND MICE DISTRUCTION

This service was well maintained throughout the year. The work was done as follows :-

(a) Private Dwellings

293 weekly treatments were carried out free of charge to the householder. 50% of the cost is recovered from the Ministry.

(b) Business Premises

175 weekly treatments were carried out and the cost charged to the firms concerned. Most occupiers of these premises have agreements with the Local Authority for regular treatments.

(c) Sewers

The biannual baiting of sewers was carried out in July and November. The sewers were found to be in a very satisfactory condition. These treatments were administered under the "Block Control" system as advised by the Ministry's Pest Officer in the interests of economy.

(d) Refuse Disposal Works

These were regularly surveyed & treatments carried out as required.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This activity is under the supervision of the Surveyor. A weekly 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 Mevagissey, Sawles Road, and Par and little or no nuisance is caused.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

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

SECTION D

HOUSING

Details of applicants are as follows :-

Number without separate houses (including numerous cases of overcrowding)	790
Number of Families with separate homes	
(a) Living in unfit houses	216
(b) Living in over occupied houses	<u>234</u>
	<u>1,240</u>

Applications from young people without separate homes heavily outweigh all other applications and overcrowding through the occupation of reasonably fit houses by two or more families is a major problem.

Types required are as follows :-

1 Bedroom Type	30
2 Bedroom Type	990
3 Bedroom Type	220
	<u>1,240</u>

It is again emphasized that the housing shortage in the area is even greater than reflected in the Councils waiting list as owing to the rise in the cost of new houses and the consequential high rentals, many people prefer to remain in unsatisfactory cottages where, however, the rent is controlled and indeed in many instances a normally low.

The Council owns 1,760 houses and development is still proceeding.

Details of house construction in the area during 1958 are as follows :-

Dwellings erected by the Council	60
Dwellings erected by Private Enterprise	49

38 houses are in the course of construction by the Council and 45 by Private Enterprise.

(N.B. Many families although not overcrowded in a statutory sense are living under unsatisfactory conditions in over occupied houses.)

SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year 54 persons, comprising 19 families, living in unfit houses were rehoused by the Council.

Twenty houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense & one Closing Order & 16 Demolition Orders were made. One undertaking not to use and two undertakings to make fit were accepted

Slum Clearance did not progress as well as I had hoped, but I feel certain that if the Council will give priority to the rehousing of families living in unfit houses more rapid progress will be made with the programme during 1959.

SECTION E

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

Constant supervision of the retail distribution of milk was maintained throughout the year.

Samples of milk were obtained regularly throughout the year from retailers & submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

These tests showed that the heat-treatment & cleanliness of milk consumed within the district continued to be maintained at a high standard.

MEAT

The daily visits by your inspectors to the licensed slaughterhouses within the district, for the purpose of meat inspection, continued throughout the year. In order to maintain a 100% meat inspection service, your inspectors found it necessary to work late evenings and Sundays.

A large percentage of the animals slaughtered was for export to other towns and to the London market.

As in previous years it is pleasing to note that the butchers in the Urban area are still eager to deal in the best grades of meat. Consequently the percentage of condemnations of unsound meat during the year was low.

The following table summarises the results of meat inspection :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,150	404	69	4,354	15,977
Number inspected	2,150	404	69	4,354	15,977
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	5	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	316		-	11	255
Percentage of number insp.affected with disease other than T.B.	12.4%		-	4%	1.6%
<u>T.B. only</u> Whole carcass condemned	1	4	-	-	5
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	102		-	-	250
Percentage of number insp.affected with T.B.	4.1%		-	-	1.6%

There were no cases of Cysticercus Bovis in the animals inspected during the year.

SECTION E (cont)

ICE-CREAM

Premises at which Ice-Cream is manufactured and retailed, received continued attention by the Health Inspectors during the year. Collection of samples was maintained during the season and these were submitted to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test at the Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Testing and Advisory Scheme.

The results of these tests are shown below:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	63
2	22
3	11
4	3

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 population		
		St. Austell Urban Dist.	England & Wales	
		1957	1958	1958
Whooping Cough	2	0.85	0.08	0.74
Measles	99	7.13	4.20	5.51
Pneumonia	4	0.08	0.17	0.51
Food Poisoning	15	0.13	0.64	0.23
Acute Rheumatism	1	0.0	0.04	-

Apart from the continued measles outbreak there has been only slight prevalence of infections.

The cases of food poisoning belonged to two groups. The first outbreak was in the members of a film unit. As the persons affected lived in various hotels and the only meals taken together were lunches, it was considered that they were responsible. Confirmatory evidence was obtained by infection in the residents in a hotel outside the area, where some of the lunches had been taken.

The second outbreak was in the staff of a local hotel. The cause could not be discovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table gives the immune state of the child population i.e. the number at 31st December, 1958 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. At any time since January 1st, 1944).

Age at 31.12.58 i.e. Born in the year	Under 1 1958	1-4 1957-54	5-9 1953-49	10-14 1948-44	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(a) 1954-58	19	874	1,243	734	2,870
(b) 1953 or earlier	-	-	369	1,237	1,606
(c) Estimated mid-year child population	314	1,257	1,560	1,786	4,917
Immunity Index A/C x100	6.6	69.4	79.7	41.0	58.4

During the year the following immunisations were carried out :-

<u>Primary</u>	317
<u>Booster</u>	423

It would be a great help both to mothers and to doctors if there was a generally recognised standard scheme for the various types of injection. Nowadays each child receives at least 5 injections in his first year of life and suffers some discomfort.

Such a scheme has lately been suggested by a representative group of experts and is as follows :-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Visit</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Injection</u>	<u>Interval</u>
2-6 months	1	Triple	1	4 weeks or more
	2	(Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)	2	"
	3		3	"
7-10 months	4	Polio-myelitis	4	"
	5	"	5	"
15-18 months	6	Triple (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis)	6	
		Polio-myelitis	7	
18 months - 5 yrs	7	Smallpox vaccine	8	
5 yrs (School entry)		Diphtheria & tetanus	9	
8 - 9yrs		" "	10	
10 - 15 years		B.C.G.		

POLIO-MYEELITIS

1740 children in St. Austell have now completed their 3rd injection and a considerably larger number, have received either 1 or 2 injections.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

A total of 191 primary vaccinations and 40 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The total number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1958 was as follows :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Male	77	8
Female	60	18
Total	137	26

The following short table gives the average annual number of new cases and of deaths since 1939.

	<u>New Cases Pulmonary (Av. Annual)</u>	<u>Deaths (Av. Annual)</u>
1939-43	22	11
1944-48	13	9
1949-53	22	8
1954-59	14	3

The rise in the number of new cases during the years 1949-53 coincided with the establishment of a more efficient case finding organisation. Since 1956 there has been a considerable fall both in new cases and in deaths.

There is undoubtedly a small hard core of infectious cases who are uncooperative and they are responsible for many of the new infections.

The table given below shows the age and sex distribution of new cases and of deaths during 1958 :-

Age Group	<u>New Cases</u>						<u>Deaths</u>						
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Respiratory		Meninges		Other		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-64	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above, movements in and out of the district were as follows :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Transfers in	2	4	0	-
Transfers out	3	2	1	-
Recoveries	3	1	1	1

The preventive measures taken to limit the spread of infection include the examination of all close contacts of cases, mass radiography in limited areas, and the special testing and vaccination of school children in their 14th year.

235 school children in the age group 13-14 years were Mantoux tested and 88.2 proved to have had no previous contact with tuberculosis infection. 225 children were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

271 school children and .39 school staff were X-rayed. None were found to have evidence of infection.

A survey of the general population by the Mass Radiography Unit was held at St. Austell in May. 1718 people were examined and disease was found as follows :-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Requiring treatment	2
For observation	3
No further action	7
Previously known	5

Other Conditions

Bronchitis	1
Heart Disease	2

The examination of school entrants was continued and 126 children were tested. No reactors were found and it has been decided not to continue with this investigation. The supposition is that there are very few families with young children in which a source of tuberculosis infection is unknown.

108 contacts of known cases of tuberculosis were given B.C.G. Vaccination as a protective measure.

All cases of tuberculosis are supervised and they and their contacts are advised on methods of limiting spread and maintaining health. Special consideration is given to rehousing patients where overcrowding exists.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises	No. in Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	19	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	191	93	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	97	20	-	-
<u>Total</u>	321	132	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	No of cases in which prosecution was instituted.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Inadequate drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and members of the St. Austell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Joyce & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-first Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

A total of 5297 visits were made by your Inspectors during the year. The majority of these visits were made in carrying out their Statutory duties under the Public Health, Housing and Food & Drugs Acts.

1. HOUSING

Visits to, and inspections of, houses have continued to occupy a great deal of time.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

During the year, 20 dwellings were represented as being unfit for human habitation, 11 houses were demolished, 1 house was closed and one undertaking not to use was accepted by the Council.

Only 19 families living in unfit houses while 81 families from the general housing list were rehoused by the Council.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

18 applications for certificates of disrepair were received and considered by the Council and it was decided that 17 such Certificates should be issued.

2. MEAT INSPECTION

A considerable amount of your inspectors time has been devoted to this important aspect of their work and in order to maintain 100% inspection of all carcasses and offal of animals slaughtered, it has been necessary, once again, to work during evenings of each week and every Sunday throughout the year.

The total of 22,885 animals slaughtered represents an increase of 9.6% over the preceding year.

MEAT INSPECTION (contd)

1474 visits were paid to the slaughter-houses in the district when the following carcasses & offal were inspected.

<u>BOVINE</u>	2,554
(a) Steers	1,525
(b) Heifers	555
(c) Cows	404
(d) Calves	69
(e) Bulls	1
<u>SHEEP</u>	4,354
<u>PIGS</u>	15,977
	<u>22,885</u>

The following table shows the comparison between 1956, 1957 and 1958.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
<u>BOVINE</u>	1909	2131	2554
(a) Steers	1273	1360	1525
(b) Heifers	450	563	555
(c) Cows	140	144	404
(d) Calves	46	63	69
(e) Bulls	-	1	1
<u>SHEEP</u>	5047	4766	4354
<u>PIGS</u>	7377	13972	15977
<u>GOATS</u>	-	-	-
	<u>14,333</u>	<u>20,869</u>	<u>22,885</u>

As a result of these inspections the following meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

123 Bovine Livers	Distomatosis
21 Bovine Livers	Abscesses
12 Bovine Livers	Cirrhosis
5 Bovine Livers	Cavernous Angioma
92 Bovine Part Livers	Distomatosis
54 Bovine Part Livers	Cirrhosis
30 Bovine Heads & Tongues	Tuberculosis
9 Bovine Heads & Tongues	Actinomycosis
67 Sets of Bovine Lungs	Tuberculosis
4 Bovine Hearts	Tuberculosis
2 Bovine Hearts	Myocarditis
246 Pigs Heads	Tuberculosis

MEAT INSPECTION (contd)

176 Pigs Plucks	Fleurisy with adhesions
15 Pigs Plucks	Pneumonia
22 Pigs Hearts	Pericarditis
19 Sets of Pigs Lungs	Fleurisy
13 Pigs Livors	Cirrhosis
5 Pig Carcasses & all offal	Tuberculosis with adhesions
1 Pig Carcase & all offal	Died in Lairage
1 Pig Carcase & all offal	Fleurisy & Fevered
1 Pig Carcase & all offal	Emaciated & Dropsical
1 Pig Carcase & all offal	Emaciated & Fevered
1 Casualty Cow Carcase & all offal	Emaciated & Fevered
4 Cow Carcasses & all offal	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Steer Carcase & all offal	Generalised Tuberculosis
4 Sow Carcasses & all offal	Emaciated, Dropsy & Fevered
4 Sheep Carcasses & all offal	Emaciated, Dropsy & Fevered
1 Sow's Kidney	Hydronephrosis
1 Ewe Carcase & all offal	Fevered, Dropsy & Emaciation
4 Sows Heads	Tuberculosis
3 Sows Plucks	Fleurisy with adhesions
2 Sows Hearts	Pericarditis
1 Set of Sows Lungs	Fleurisy

3. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

There were 38 licenced slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

4. OTHER FOODS

Numerous visits were paid to wholesale and retail premises during the year and as a result, the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

12,253 Tins of Fish	Decomposed
680 Tins of Meat	Decomposed
1,561 Tins of Fruit	Blown
625 Tins of Vegetables	Blown
180 Tins of Milk	Blown
108 Tins of Soup	Damaged & Leaking
67 Tins of Jam	Decomposed
32 Tins of Orange Juice	Punctured & Leaking
36 Pkts of Cereals	Contaminated
12 Tins of Rice Pudding	Blown
11 Pkts of Cake Mixture	Contaminated
11 Pkts of Flour	Contaminated
9 Tons of Gutted Pilchards	Decomposed
9 Tins of Lemonade	Wet & Mouldy
8 Pkts of Biscuits	Contaminated
5 Tins of Marmalade	Decomposed

OTHER FOODS (contd)

3½ Stone of Fish	Decomposed
3 Tins of Syrup	Damaged & Leaking
2 Tins of Sweet Corn	Blown
2 Tins of Milk Powder	Wet & Mouldy
2 ½lb Pkts of Butter	Contaminated
1 Jar of Honey	Broken
1 Pkt of Beef Suet	Decomposed
1 Tin of Pickles	Blown

FISH INSPECTION

During the year 548 quarter-casks of Pickled Pilchards were exported from Mevagissey. In addition 2025 lbs of crayfish, 50 lbs of Crab and 1,135 lbs lobsters were exported to France.

5. MILK

During the year 59 visits were made to the distributors and dairymens' premises throughout the district.

There are now 19 retailers selling Tuberculin Tested milk, and 28 selling Pasteurised milk.

Routine sampling was maintained and all samples subjected to the appropriate tests at the County Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. The results of these samples show that of the 120 samples collected, 116 passed the tests and 4 failed.

6. ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS

A total of 99 samples of ice-cream were collected during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro for bacteriological examination. The results of these tests were as follows :-

Provisional Grade I	63 samples
" " II	22 "
" " III	11 "
" " IV	3 "

Table for comparison with previous years.

	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>
1956	91.0%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1957	61.2%	33.3%	5.5%	0.0%
1958	63.6%	22.2%	11.1%	3.1%

During the year 4 premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream making a total of 146 registered premises within the Urban District.

7. CAMPING SITES

There are 8 licenced sites in the area and 17 licences were issued for owners to station caravans on private sites.

8. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY TESTS ACT

The destruction of rats and mice has continued during the year but it is very noticeable that the rat population has been considerably reduced over the past few years. Survey work is still being carried out and complaints are dealt with as they are received. Thus a total of 564 visits were made by your operator as follows :-

- 175 visits to business premises
- 293 visits to private premises
- 92 visits to Local Authorities' premises
- 4 visits to farm premises

9. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Of the 144 samples submitted for examination during the year, 86 were satisfactory and 58 unsatisfactory.

Where the results were unsatisfactory, the consumers were advised to boil the water before using it for drinking purposes.

10. STAFF

The Staff of Inspectors during the year consisted of Myself, Mr. L. H. Sturtridge, Mr. J. T. Rostern (to 31.3.58) Mr. C. F. Quantrell (from 2.6.58) and Mr. J. Crowle, Pupil Assistant.

11. CONCLUSION

I would now take the opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and support given during the year, and also to Dr. Turner for his invaluable help and co-operation at all times. Also I would thank Mr. Saunders, Mr. King, my colleagues, Messrs. Sturtridge and Quantrell and all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and support.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

CHARLES H. WATTS

Senior Public Health Inspector

Municipal Offices,
Truro Road,
ST. AUSTELL.

TABLE NO. 1.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICTVISITS

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Water Supply	104	140	67
Drainage	654	983	476
Stables and Piggeries	6	26	4
Fried Fish Shops	6	8	21
Tents, Vans and Sheds	134	126	114
Factories and Workshops	129	129	132
Theatres and places of entertainment	48	40	67
Licensed premises	13	14	0
Refuse Disposal	15	26	35
Rats and Mice destruction	114	96	70
Atmospheric Pollution	14	2	5
School Inspections	10	5	3
Shops Act	36	40	23
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	192	78	58
Appointments and Interviews	199	341	210
Petroleum Acts	50	84	144
Insect Pests	3	5	10
Verminous premises	103	116	35
Bakehouses	-	-	45
Public Health Act	328	445	385
Housing Act	1,019	900	511
Infectious Diseases	14	35	14
<u>Inspection of Meat at :-</u>			
a) Slaughterhouses	1,292	1,346	1,474
b) Shops and Stalls	8	16	11
Butchers	-	-	150
Canteens	-	-	8
Dairies and Milk Distributors	70	57	59
Fishmongers and Poulterers	-	-	131
Food preparing premises	-	-	108
Grocers	-	-	164
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	-	-	186
Ice Cream Premises	88	131	83
Restaurants	60	102	62
Wholesalers	-	-	69
<u>Sampling</u>			
a) Milk -	-	-	120
b) Ice Cream	-	-	99
c) Water	-	-	144
Food Shops	182	810	-
	<u>5,391</u>	<u>6,101</u>	<u>5,297</u>

TABLE NO. 2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

VERBAL, INFORMAL AND STATUTORY NOTICES

The following table shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous and injurious to health :-

<u>Notices</u>	<u>No. Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Work done by Council in default</u>
Verbal	42	37	-
Informal	18	18	-
Statutory	1	2	-

TABLE NO. 3.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND MISCELLANEOUS

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
1. No. of houses & premises re-drained	78	122	26
2. Repairs or amendments to existing drains	124	24	29
3. Drains or gullies unstopped and cleaned	20	45	36
4. Length in yards stoneware drains laid	628	1,119	698
5. Manholes provided	59	71	77
6. New manhole covers	55	64	80
7. Intercepting traps fixed	10	7	10
8. New gulley traps fixed	41	57	80
9. Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	26	21	24
10. Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	2	5	2
11. Water tests applied	6	8	19
12. Smoke tests applied	20	11	11
13. Length in yards iron drains laid	78	54	50
14. New W.C. accommodation provided	36	37	30
15. New W.C. appartments provided	19	15	31
16. New W.C. pedestals provided	42	30	33
17. W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	11	14	9
18. New flushing cisterns provided	40	39	28
19. Flushing cisterns repaired	6	4	8
20. Baths provided	31	26	35
21. Lavatory basins provided	38	25	40
22. Sinks provided	42	46	43
23. New waste pipes provided	92	78	106
24. Existing waste-pipes trapped	2	22	12
25. Pail closets and/or middens abolished	7	6	12
26. Urinals provided	2	0	0
27. Septic tanks provided	6	9	7
28. Cesspools cmptied	20	28	32

TABLE NO. 3 (contd)

<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
1. New roofs provided	20	12	25
2. Chimney stacks repaired	31	35	60
3. Roofs repaired	40	37	55
4. Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	63	60	76
5. Rainwater pipes disconnected or repaired	45	31	65
6. Damp walls remedied	59	79	99
7. Ventilation under floors provided	-	2	1
8. Yards paved	18	18	33
9. Yards repaired	10	20	16
10. Floors of rooms repaired	32	46	70
11. Floors or rooms relaid	24	32	39
12. Rooms cleansed and redecorated	74	119	133
13. New windows provided	48	43	90
14. Windows repaired	24	51	80
15. Plaster of walls or ceiling repaired	200	172	201
16. Doors repaired or renewed	43	38	71
17. Ventilated food stores provided	20	23	30
18. Staircase provided or repaired	7	12	17
19. Water service pipes repaired	24	24	45
20. Dustbins provided	19	31	42
21. Nuisances - animals	7	2	4
22. Nuisances - refuse	4	3	12
23. Bakehouses cleansed	1	7	5
24. Cowsheds and dairies cleansed	1	3	-
25. Fish Fryers premises cleansed	-	4	6
26. Insufficient water supply remedied	22	23	34
27. Grates, ranges, coppers renewed or repaired	31	50	67
28. Rooms disinfected	2	4	19
29. Rooms disinfested	42	20	9

TABLE NO. 4

HOUSING

<u>1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
(A) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	225	200	132
(B) Number of inspections made for the purpose	953	1,345	724
<u>2. Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>			
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1957			
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	4	5	-
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice			
(a) By owners	3	4	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1	-	1

TABLE NO. 4 (contd)

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	-	1	-
(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957	7	6	22
(D) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.			
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6	-	-
3. <u>Housing Act, 1957 - Overcrowding</u>			
(a) Number of dwellings statutorily overcrowded at the end of the year	29	25	20
Number of families dwelling therein	41	38	32
Number of persons dwelling therein	142	122	100
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2	5	27
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6	9	20
(d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider to report			

TABLE NO. 5

RENT ACT, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	18
Decisions not to issue	1
Decisions to issue in respect of	
a) Some defects	5
b) All defects	12
Undertakings received & accepted	6
Undertakings received & refused	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	3
Disrepair remedied without an undertaking being given	8