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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District  
of Stratton for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

## SECTION A.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 56,285 acres. *JAK*  
Estimated Population. *4,612*  
*4,450*  
Inhabited Houses. 1,416.  
Rateable Value. £11,255.  
Penny Rate Produces. £53 2s. 2½d.



## Physical and General Character. Agricultural.

## Vital Statistics.

Total number of Deaths, *JAK* ~~69~~ *62*. Males 33. Females *JAK* ~~27~~ *29*. Rate per 1,000, 13.456.  
Total number of Births, 66. Males 33. Females 33. Rate per 1,000, 14.8.  
Illegitimate Births, 6. Males 3. Females 3.  
Stillbirths, 3. Males 2. Females 1.  
Natural Increase, 6.  
Deaths from puerperal causes, Nil.  
Deaths from Cancer, 10. Males 5. Females 5.  
Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea, Nil.

## SECTION B.

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (1) One part time Medical Officer of Health.  
One whole time Sanitary Inspector.
  - (2) (a) Laboratory Facilities. None in the District.
  - (b) Ambulance Facilities. Ambulance provided and maintained by the Urban and Rural District Councils jointly. Adequately provides for the needs of the District.
  - (c) Nursing in the Home. Provided by the Local Nursing Association.
  - (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. Situated at Launceston and Plymouth.
  - (e) Hospitals. Cottage Hospital situated at Stratton contains 18 Beds and is supported by voluntary subscriptions and payments from Patients.  
Isolation Hospital containing 14 Beds is maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils.
2. Maternity and Child Welfare.
    - (1) Midwives resident in the District.  
Child Welfare Clinic held at Bude.
    - (2) Institutional Provision for Mothers & Children. At Launceston.
    - (3) Health Visitors. Nil.
    - (4) Child Life Protection. Nil.
    - (5) Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. Cases. Schools inspected by Doctors.  
Orthopaedic Cases attend Clinic at Launceston.
  3. Nursing Homes. None in the District.

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) **Water.** The village of Marhamchurch, and Widemouth in the Parish of Poundstock, are supplied by the Bude-Stratton Urban District Main Water Supply. The remaining villages are at present dependent on wells which are in general privately owned.

The sinking of the Borehole at Kilkhampton, from which it is hoped that a supply for the village will be derived, has been completed and it is anticipated that this supply will shortly be laid on to the village.

No improvement has been effected to the water supply for Woodford in the Parish of Morwenstow. During the year an Anti-Aircraft Camp has been established at Cleave, Morwenstow, and the War Office has been approached by the Council with a view to utilizing the Water Supply now being laid on to the Camp for the purpose of supplying Woodford. Negotiations are still proceeding.

Generally, no serious shortage of water has occurred during the year.

- (2) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The larger villages are partially sewered and a number of houses are drained into Septic Tanks and Cesspits.

During the year a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has been laid down by the Council at Boot, in the parish of Whitstone, replacing the existing system of open roadside channels in which waste water from the houses was discharged, with the result that the sanitary arrangements for this village have been considerably improved.

New drains were readily laid by the owners of the property concerned, and in most cases the closets previously on the conservancy system were converted to water closets.

Increased building development at Widemouth Bay is laying a heavy burden on the existing Sewage Disposal Systems. It has been considered necessary by the Council to instruct a firm of Engineers to report on the possibilities of a comprehensive Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for this area.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No serious cases of pollution have been reported.
3. (1) **Closet Accommodation.** Generally the closets in the area are on the conservancy system, but an increasing number of conversions to the water carriage system is taking place each year.
- (2) **Public Cleansing.** Refuse Collection at Widemouth Bay is undertaken by the Council. Refuse Dumps are provided in most of the remaining Parishes.
- (3) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Total number of inspections made for all purposes, 869.

New private water supplies provided, 11.

Number of samples of water analysed, 5. Satisfactory 4. Unsatisfactory 1.

Existing private water supplies improved, 10.

Pail or Privy Closets converted to water closets, 11.

Number of complaints received, 25.

Nuisances abated, 21.

Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected, 45.

Number of samples of milk taken, 2. Satisfactory 2.

Number of inspections of Bakehouses, 8.

Number of inspections made of Camping Sites, 15.

Number of premises fumigated, 5.

Number of inspections of Schools, 7.

Housing Statistics. Number of New Houses, 9.

By the Local Authority, Nil.

By other persons, 9.

- (4) **Shops and Offices.** The Shops in this District are very small and no action has been necessary.

- (5) Camping Sites. Number of Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 5.
  - (6) Smoke Abatement. No action necessary.
  - (7) Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no such baths in the area. Sea bathing takes place along the coast.
  - (8) Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been necessary.
4. Schools. The sanitary condition and water supply of schools is generally satisfactory. The improvements asked for at the Grimscott and North Tamerton Council Schools have not yet been effected.

#### SECTION D.

##### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 82.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 190.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, 38.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 93.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 14.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 55.

##### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, 39.

##### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, Nil.
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
    - (a) By owners, Nil.
    - (b) By local Authority in default of owners, Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 2.
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
    - (a) By owners, 2.
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners, Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
  - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, 10.
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
  - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, Nil.
  - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, 5.  
 (2) Number of families dwelling therein, 5.  
 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein, 27.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, Nil.
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, Nil.  
 (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases, Nil.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, Nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply. The cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected and increasing interest is being taken in the methods of clean milk production.
- (b) Meat and other Foods. The slaughterhouses are frequently inspected. Number of Private Slaughter Houses:— Registered 3. Licensed 8.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Bovines.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ... ..	—	—	—
Number inspected ... ..	138	245	51

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned ... ..	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	11	5	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.9	2.4	1.9

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned ... ..	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	3	—	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	2.2	—	3.9

Bakehouses are well kept and clean.

- (c) Adulteration, etc. No action required.
- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. No Laboratories in the District. No action has been required.
- (e) Nutrition. No action taken.
- (f) Shell-Fish. No beds in the District.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

An Isolation Hospital is provided which meets the requirements of the District.

A very small number of Infectious Diseases has been reported during the year, namely:—  
 Scarlet Fever 2.      Diphtheria 2.  
                           Enteric Fever 1.      Puerperal Pyrexia 1.

T. A. KING,  
 M.O.H.