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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year ending  
31st December, 1956



TIVERTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE  
AUTHORITY

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TO THE  
TIVERTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

**Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.**

**Area:** 114,139 Acres.

**Population,** estimated: 20,600 (R.G.'s Mid-1956  
Estimate).

**Rateable Value:** £181,098 at 1st April, 1956.

**Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:** £742 5s. 7d.

**Social Conditions.** Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.

**Slaughtering Industries.** Messrs. Lloyd Maunder Ltd., C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., both at Tiverton Junction, and the West of England Meat Company, at Cullompton, are the principal slaughtering premises.

**Other Main Industries:**

Wiggins, Teape & Co. (1919) Ltd., Devon Valley Paper Mills, Hele;  
Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Silvertown Mills, Hele;  
Culm Leather Dressing Co., Cullompton;  
Fox Bros., Weavers, Higher Street, Cullompton;  
Dreven & Brown, Glove Manufacturers, Cullompton;  
Sellwood Bros., Tanneries, Cullompton;  
Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Cullompton;  
John Heathcoat & Co., Net Mending, Cullompton;  
Fox Bros., Weavers, Uffculme;

Wilts United Dairies, Milk Factory, Hemyock;  
 Dulverton Saw Mills, Exebridge;  
 Bramber Engineering Works, Willand;  
 Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co. Ltd., Willand.

**EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.**

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	326	163	163	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the population—16·5
{ Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Still Births { Legitimate	4	2	2	} Rate per 1000 total births—12·0
{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Corrected Birth Rate	..	..	..	18·1 per 1000
Deaths .. ..	236	128	108	} Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—11·3
Corrected Death Rate	..	..	..	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	..	M.—1;	F.—2	
Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy and child-birth				{ from sepsis .. Nil { from other causes Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
"  "  Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
"  "  Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	Nil

**Excessive Mortality during the Year.**

Deaths from Cancer in 1949 were 40; in 1950—43; in 1951—32; in 1952—35; in 1953—39; in 1954—40; in 1955—44; and in 1956—40.

	Males.	Females.	
Stomach .. ..	6	2	
Bronchus and Lung	5	2	
Breast .. ..	—	3	
Uterus .. ..	—	—	
Others .. ..	10	12	
	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>	= Total of 40.

I publish a chart showing the incidence of gastric cancer in the various villages during the past 10 years.

My reason for doing so is to bring to notice the very remarkable incidence of this condition at Cullompton. It can be seen that in this township gastric cancer is three to four times more common than in the rest of the district, or indeed, in the South West as a whole.

Reference to the 1951 census rules out any possible fallacy related to age distribution.

The majority of cases were verified by X-rays or laparotomy.

Popu- lation	Parish	1st qtr.										TOTALS 1948—1st qtr. 1957
		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	
1614	Bampton							1				1
211	Bickleigh						1					1
1767	Bradninch	1			1	1		2				5
699	Burlescombe	1							1			2
96	Butterleigh			1								1
143	Cadbury											—
165	Cadeleigh											—
165	Clayhanger											—
461	Clayhidon					1						1
432	C. Morchard		1									1
3377	Cullompton	4	4	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	2	27
716	Culmstock								1			1
1281	Halberton				1					1		2
1065	Hemyock							1				1
179	Hockworthy											—
489	H Rogus		1		1							2
149	Huntsham											—
670	Kentisbeare						1			1	1	3
145	Loxbeare					1						1
364	Morebath			2								2
359	Oakford											—
669	S. Peverell			1			2	2				5
1274	Silverton			2			1	2	1	1		7
260	Stoodleigh											—
135	Templeton											—
701	Thorverton					1	1	2	1			5
1688	Uffculme					1	1		1	1		4
302	Uplowman											—
323	Washfield											—
808	Willand			1								1
11560	Tiverton Borough	1	3	4	2	2	7	3	3	1		26



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. **Nursing in the Home—Home Help Service.** Cases are dealt with by direct application from the District Nurses or Health Visitors to the County Office.
2. **Number of Midwives.** The District Nurses, of whom there are 16, act in this capacity.
3. **Laboratory Facilities.** Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before, also at the Pathological Department of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.
4. **Legislation in Force.** There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. **Post Hill Hospital.** This Hospital now has 30 medical and convalescent beds. The former Diphtheria block is out of use owing to lack of available funds and the difficulty of obtaining staff.
6. **General Surgical and Medical Cases.** These are admitted to Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. The Devon and Exeter Hospital has a considerable waiting list and consequently accommodation cannot be considered adequate. Exeter City Hospital—formerly entirely for aged sick—is now taking a proportion of surgical and medical cases from this district.
7. **Maternity Cases.** The majority are admitted to the Tiverton and District Hospital, admission being controlled by the County Medical Officer.
8. **Aged Sick.** The Belmont Hospital, Tiverton, with 100 beds, is the chief hospital for this purpose, but cases are frequently sent to other chronic sick hospitals in the county owing to the great shortage of beds for these cases. Considerable hardship has occurred during the year both from delay in admission and also due to the fact that patients are compelled to accept vacancies in hospitals remote from their relatives.
9. **Social Worker in Mental Health** and duly authorised officer:—Mr. W. P. Thomas, The Clinic, St. Andrew Street, Tiverton.

**Notifiable Diseases** (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1956, giving age incidence.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Paratyphoid	Dysentery (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
Under 1	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	1	—	7	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 years	—	—	13	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 years	—	—	9	42	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 years	—	—	12	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9	1	—	29	201	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	3	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - over	1	—	2	2	13	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Tuberculosis.** New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—30	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-over	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**  
No action was taken during the year.

**Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.** No action was taken during the year.

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## **Section B—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supplies.**

The quantity of the water supplied by the Council on its various water schemes has been satisfactory.

On the Regional scheme water shortages have occurred in various areas, but these have been very much less than last year owing to the installation of booster pumps at strategic points. A new booster pump was installed at Culmstock to improve the supply at Hemyock, Holcombe Rogus and Burlescombe.

Generally speaking the Summer was a wet one, which tended to reduce consumption and so assisted the supply at the sources. It was again necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water for gardens and car washing. The Council have been deferring applications for new connections to the mains except in the case of domestic supplies or new buildings. A scheme to take water in bulk from the St. Thomas R.D.C. mains at Latchmoor, Thorverton, to relieve supply difficulties in the Silvertown-Thorverton area, was not agreed to.

Progress on the preparation of the augmentation scheme at Stapley has been steady. Owing to the national financial difficulties it was necessary to cut down the original scheme and Ministry approval has been obtained for a reduced scheme; tenders have been received and work is about to start.

There have been a number of small water main extensions during the year on new housing sites, and at Stoodleigh a new pumping plant has been installed on the main scheme.

Village main water supply schemes have been satisfactory generally and there was a small surplus at each, even in the driest period.

During the year, the following premises have been connected to main supplies :

Domestic Premises .. ..	51	
Trade Premises (including Farms)	34	(metered supplies)
	<hr/>	
Total of New Connections during year	85	
	<hr/>	

The following is a statement of the consumers on the Water Schemes throughout the District :

Parishes in the Statutory Area of Supply of the Council	Estimated Population	Approx. Population Supplied from Mains	No. of Dwelling Houses Connected	No. of Dwelling Houses Supplied by Standpipes
Bradninch	1757	1439	462	—
Burlescombe	699	384	128	—
Butterleigh	96	60	20	—
Clayhidon	461	—	—	—
Cullompton	3367	2691	895	—
Culmstock	716	478	161	—
Halberton	1271	842	284	—
Hemyock	1068	527	177	—
Hockworthy	179	58	17	—
Holcombe Rogus	489	254	82	—
Huntsham	149	—	—	—
Kentisbeare (including Blackborough)	670	418	136	—
Sampford Peverell	669	564	188	—
Silverton	1264	1029	344	17
Thorverton	691	603	193	—
Uffculme	1654	1298	427	—
Uplowman	303	113	34	—
Willand	798	808	268	—
	<hr/>			
	16,301	11,566	3,816	17
	<hr/>			

Parishes in the Council's Area but within the N.D.W.B. Area of Supply	Estimated Population	Approx. Population Supplied from Mains	No. of Dwelling Houses Connected	No. of Dwelling Houses Supplied by Standpipes
Bampton (including Shillingford)	1596	1039	344	25
Bickleigh	211	74	16	—
Cadbury	143	—	—	—
Cadeleigh	165	—	—	—
Clayhanger	165	56	16	—
Cruwys Morchard	432	28	9	—
Loxbeare	148	—	—	—
Morebath (including Exbridge)	364	139	45	3
Oakford	359	60	19	4
Stoodleigh	260	110	14	2
Templeton	135	—	—	—
Washfield	323	75	20	—
	4,301	1,581	483	34
Total for District	20,602	13,147	4,299	51

### Sewerage.

Parish.	Details.
Bampton.	Full treatment of the sewage is carried out at the sewage works and the effluent during the year was satisfactory. A scheme to prevent the sewers becoming surcharged during heavy rainfall has been carried out during the year and since the work was completed there have been no complaints regarding flooding of low-lying premises.
Bickleigh.	The whole of the sewage from the village of Bickleigh now receives full treatment and the treatment works, which was installed during the year, is giving a satisfactory effluent.
Bradninch.	Partial treatment of the sewage is carried out by means of settling tanks and a system of irrigation. The sewers have been satisfactory during the year under review.

Parish.	Details.
Burlescombe. (Westleigh).	Complaints have been received during the year from the Parish Council and the main sewer in the village of Westleigh has been relaid in conjunction with the Devon County Roads Department. The effluent pipe in Mr. Grant's field has been extended. However, a new scheme to treat the whole of the sewage from this area is required.
Butterleigh.	No sewerage scheme. Now that main water is being supplied to the houses in the village, bathrooms, water closets and kitchen sinks are being installed. It has been necessary to serve notices upon several owners calling on them to provide proper septic tank drainage. This is only a temporary expedient and a new sewerage scheme is required.
Cadbury.	Conservancy. There is only a small number of houses in the actual village and practically all these have earth closets.
Cadeleigh.	Partly sewerred. The septic tank and filter bed have functioned satisfactorily during the year under review.
Clayhanger.	No sewerage scheme, mainly pail closets.
Clayhidon.	No sewerage scheme. The parish is very scattered and the small groups of houses at Rosemary Lane and in the village are served by septic tanks.
Cruwys Morchard.	Cruwys Morchard is a very scattered parish. Where groups of houses have been erected by this Council, small sewerage plants have been installed and the effluents have been satisfactory during the year under review.
Cullompton.	A comprehensive scheme, estimated cost £82,000, has been prepared in outline and submitted to the Ministry. The scheme deals with certain trade effluents and there are numerous preliminary investigations to be carried out in connection with these trade effluents before the scheme can proceed.

Parish.	Details.
Culmstock.	A storm relief drain has been installed during the year under review and there have been no further reports of flooding in the Millmoor area.
Halberton.	The new sewers and disposal works have functioned in a satisfactory manner during the past twelve months. A sample of the effluent taken by the Devon River Board was found to be entirely satisfactory.
Hemyock.	There is no treatment of the sewage whatever. A proper disposal works is required to prevent gross pollution of the River Culm.
Hockworthy.	The small plant at Staple Cross is satisfactory.
Holcombe Rogus.	Sewers and sewage disposal are not at all satisfactory.
Huntsham.	Conservancy, mainly pail closets.
Kentisbeare.	There is a very primitive sewerage system with no proper disposal works. It is hoped that a small scheme to alleviate the nuisance at the rear of the school canteen will be carried out during 1957.
Loxbeare.	Conservancy, mainly pail closets.
Morebath.	The village sewers and disposal plant are working satisfactorily.
Oakford.	Sewerage scheme with septic tank and filter bed.
Sampford Peverell.	Full treatment of the sewage is given at the new sewage disposal works. There have been no complaints during the year under review.

## Parish.

## Details.

- Silverton. A public sewerage scheme with a small sewage disposal plant. This scheme is maintained by part-time labour, which is unsatisfactory. A complaint has been received from the Devon River Board and efforts will be made during the coming year to obtain a satisfactory effluent. It may, however, be necessary to enlarge the works on account of the post-war building programme in this parish.
- Stoodleigh. Conservancy, mainly pails.
- Templeton. Conservancy, mainly pails.
- Thorverton. A public sewerage scheme with an antiquated sewage disposal works.
- Uffculme. It is now three years since the Ministry's Inspector visited Uffculme and approved of the scheme which has been prepared by our Consulting Engineers. Conditions are still very unsatisfactory and it is recommended that a further approach be made to the Ministry during 1957 in the hope that a starting date may be awarded.
- Uplowman. Conservancy, mainly pails and septic tanks.
- Washfield. A small scheme has been installed to serve the village. However, a considerable amount of storm water is getting into the old village sewer. Steps may have to be taken to have this diverted.
- Willand. A deputation, including the Clerk and the Medical Officer of Health, visited Whitehall and the scheme has now been approved and a starting date awarded. It is hoped that the scheme will be put out to tender in 1957.

In addition to the above, treatment plants have been provided for isolated Council estates. In accordance with the Ministry recommendations, these tanks are emptied at regular intervals by contractors. Arrangements have also been made for the filter beds to be attended to weekly and part-time labour is employed for this purpose.

A number of the filter trays installed at some of the smaller housing sites require replacement and a start will be made on this work during 1957.



### **Shops Acts.**

Apart from informal action to secure compliance with requirements as to sanitary and washing facilities in two premises, it was not necessary to take any action during the year relating to Ventilation, Temperature and Sanitary Conveniences.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No action was taken during the year under review.

### **Swimming Baths.**

During the year several visits were made to the swimming baths at Waterloo Cross, Uffculme. The water is filtered and chlorinated at regular intervals and a sample taken proved to be satisfactory.

There is a small swimming bath at Ravenswood School, Stoodleigh. The water is continually being changed and is satisfactory.

### **Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.**

The Council is operating two refuse vehicles, one with a capacity of 12 cu. yards and one of 16 cu. yards.

Refuse is collected weekly in the larger villages and built-up areas and fortnightly in the smaller out-lying villages. Hamlets and groups of houses in isolated areas receive a monthly collection and arrangements are made where possible to pick up the refuse from individual farms. The farmers usually arrange to bring their refuse to the nearest road which can be negotiated by the refuse lorry.

During the year a total of 25,476 miles was covered by the two vehicles and approximately 18,252 cu. yards of refuse was collected and disposed of. Refuse is disposed of at Gaddon Down and during the year no complaints were received. The tip is treated for rats at least four times a year and is always treated after threshing on the neighbouring farms.

### **Cesspool Emptying.**

All the Council's septic tanks are emptied at least twice a year by a cesspool emptying firm. At the present time we have 25 small sewage disposal works serving groups of houses in isolated hamlets. A small weekly payment is made to the tenants of certain Council houses who have been asked to maintain the filter beds.

The Council does not undertake to empty private cesspools and owners of private tanks are advised to contact one of the cesspool emptying firms operating in this district.

**Summary of Inspections of the Area by Public Health Inspectors.**

Inspections of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) ..	45
Milk Samples taken from Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) .. .. .	Nil
Bakehouse Inspections .. .. .	31
Inspections of Shops, Food Stores, Cafes and Restaurants (including Inspections relating to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955) .. .. .	443
Inspections of Knacker's Yard .. .. .	35
Rodent Control Inspections .. .. .	64
Building Bye-law and Town and Country Planning Act Inspections .. .. .	719
Petroleum Storage Inspections .. .. .	143
Caravan Inspections .. .. .	66
Inspections of Hide and Skin Stores .. .. .	19
Inspections of Public Houses .. .. .	16
Inspections of Public Conveniences .. .. .	60
Inspections in connection with Private Water Supplies	43
Drainage Inspections .. .. .	314
Cattle Market Inspections .. .. .	6
Inspections in connection with Infectious Diseases ..	28
Inspections in connection with Ice Cream ..	3
Refuse Tip Inspections .. .. .	40
Refuse Complaints Investigated .. .. .	64
Slaughterhouse Inspections .. .. .	371
Sewage Works Inspections .. .. .	182
Smoke Abatement Inspections .. .. .	1
Nuisances and Complaints Investigated .. .. .	221
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases 7, Verminous 9 ..	16
Inspections of Schools .. .. .	12
Factory and Workshops Inspections .. .. .	52
Housing Act, 1949 (as amended), relating to Improvement Grants Inspections .. .. .	262

### Water Sampling (Private Supplies and Wells).

Water Samples Taken (Private Supplies and Wells):—

Parish.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Total Taken
Bradninch ..	1	—	1
Cadeleigh ..	—	1	1
Cullompton ..	1	—	1
Halberton ..	2	2	4
Loxbeare ..	2	—	2
Oakford ..	—	2	2
Stoodleigh ..	1	1	2
Uplowman ..	1	1	2
Willand ..	1	—	1
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

### Caravan, Moveable Dwelling and Camping Sites.

(Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936).

Number of sites licensed during 1956 ..	8
Total No. of Sites licensed at end of 1956 ..	24

Each site has received planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the sites are licensed for temporary periods of not more than one year normally, after which time the cases are reviewed and subsequent permissions granted as merited.

### Section C—FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

#### 1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number of			
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Informal Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories .. .. (Including Factory Laundries)	10	—	—	—
Workshops .. .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	38	—	2	—
Workplaces . . . . (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	4	—	2	—
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>

## 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Want of cleanliness—3. Remedied—3.

Sanitary Conveniences:

(a) Insufficient—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

(b) Unsuitable or defective—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

Inadequate ventilation—1. Remedied—1.

## 3. Outworkers (Section 110).

The number of outworkers employed on homework by industrial firms during the six months preceding August, 1956, was 28.

## 4. Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Section 34).

Two certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were granted during the year under review.

## 5. Register of Factories.

At the end of 1956 there were 145 registered Factories, Workshops and Workplaces in the district.

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### Section D—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947, BUILDING BYELAWS AND RELEVANT SECTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

	Deposited	Approved	Rejected
Plans and applications in respect of Buildings and other development and applications under the Control of Advert. Regs., 1948 ..	246	233	13

### Section 16, Town and Country Planning Act, 1947—Appeals.

There were no appeals during the year against decisions by the Council acting for and on behalf of the local planning authority, under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

### Section 28, Town and Country Planning Act, 1947— Tree Preservation Orders.

No orders were made during 1956.

**Sections 23 and 24, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—  
Enforcement of Planning Control.**

No action was taken during 1956 in this connection.

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**Section E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD  
AND FOOD PREMISES.**

**1. Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—Sections 13 and 14.  
Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16.**

**(a) Ice-Cream Premises—**

(i) Number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream during the year .. .. .	5
(ii) Total number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream at the end of 1956 .. .. .	72

Of the total number of premises registered, five were registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and the remaining 67 were registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream only.

**(b) Bakeries—**

No new bakeries were registered under the Acts during the year. Informal action was taken to secure compliance with the appropriate requirements. No formal action has been necessary.

**(c) Fried Fish Premises—**

No new registration of fish frying premises was made during the year.

**(d) Egg-Packing Stations—**

The number of egg-packing stations on the register remains at six. No action has been necessary in regard to the stations.

**(e) Butchers' Shops—**

One butcher's shop was registered for the manufacture of sausages and meats.

Most of the above-mentioned premises have been subjected to stringent inspection relating to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and appropriate action taken where necessary to secure compliance with these regulations.

## 2. Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

### (a) Small Private Slaughterhouses.

12 slaughterhouses are now licensed for the slaughter of animals. There are two in regular use in the following parishes:—Bampton, Cullompton and Silverton. One is in use at Hemyock.

Regular notification of slaughtering is given and the meat inspected just after the time of slaughter. Apart from one or two minor complaints all the premises have been well conducted.

### (b) Slaughterhouses at Tiverton Junction (Lloyd Maunder Ltd. and C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.)

These premises have been in regular use throughout the year.

The meat inspection has been carried out by a full-time inspector for most of the year. Some difficulty arose over the inspection of the offal at the time of slaughter and the Council is endeavouring to obtain the appointment of a further full-time inspector.

Several complaints were received regarding smell from these premises due to ineffective methods of dealing with factory waste. The matter was still under investigation at the end of the year but the difficulty should be overcome by proper control and working of the plant involved.

The arrival of dead animals at the slaughterhouses have been dealt with as suspect-Anthrax cases and contact has been made with the Police and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The rejection of a very large number of bovine and sheep livers has again been due to Cirrhosis—mainly parasitic.

Use has been made of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter for the microscopic examination of specimens, etc.

The total weight of meat and offal rejected amounted to 134 tons, 19 cwts., 1 qr, 7 lbs.

(c) **Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.**

	Cattle (inc. Cows)	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1684	1883	49571	88635
Number inspected ...	1684	1883	49571	88635
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI—</b>				
Whole carcases condemned...	13	63	215	261
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	538	16	4691	13548
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	32.72	4.2	9.9	15.57
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—</b>				
Whole carcases condemned ...	6	1	—	56
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	131	1	—	5332
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.14	0.11	—	6.07
<b>CYSTICERCOSIS—</b>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	10	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—

**3. Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933—1954.**

36 licenses to slaughter animals were granted, or renewed, during the year.

The Electrolethaler is used for stunning sheep and pigs and the Cash Captive Bolt for bullocks and calves.

#### **4. Adulteration.**

No action was taken under the Food and Drugs Acts as this work is carried out by the Devon County Council.

#### **5. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

The County Medical Department and Public Health Laboratories continue to carry out this work.

#### **6. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, Food Bye-Laws and Clean Food Campaigns.**

Careful supervision and inspection of food premises has continued during the year with particular emphasis on the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

No formal action has been necessary to secure compliance with the appropriate Regulations.

No samples of Ice Cream have been taken during the year since most of the Ice Cream sold in the area is pre-packed and supplied by large firms from outside the area.

Number of food premises—14 bakehouses, 39 butchers' shops, 75 restaurants and cafes, 6 fried fish shops.

Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—14 bakeries, 39 butchers' shops, 6 fried fish shops, 6 egg packing stations.

Number of dairies (other than dairy farms) registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—14.

No new educational activity has been carried out during the year.

The method of disposal of tinned foods condemned is burning, and unsound meat by digester process at the slaughterhouses at Tiverton Junction.



## **7. Milk Supplies—Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Inspection of dairies (other than dairy farms), continued during the year and several improvements were effected.

During 1956 :

15 annual Dealers' Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

One annual Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited" ;

10 annual Dealers' Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ;

Two annual Supplementary Dealers' Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ;

Three annual Supplementary Dealers' Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

One annual Supplementary Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised,"

were granted.

Plans relating to cowsheds and dairies deposited with the Council under the building bye-laws continue to be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for observations from the milk production standpoint.

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## **THE RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.**

There were no premises to which the Act applies functioning in the district during 1956.

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### **RODENT CONTROL.**

The Council's Rodent Control Scheme is continuing to work well. During the year under review treatments numbered 95 and 1,001 inspections were carried out.

Four treatments were carried out at the Knacker Yard at Bampton and the Rodent Operator has made numerous visits to keep the rats under control, especially as whey milk is now being tipped into the quarry at the rear of the Knacker Yard when there is a surplus at the milk factories.

The Council's sewers are treated twice a year and several of the older systems are still heavily infested.

## **PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.**

The total number of premises licensed for the storage of petroleum or petroleum mixtures at the end of 1956 was 162.

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### **THE STORES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951, AND THE MAGAZINES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951.**

Nine stores (all at local quarries) were licensed by the Council during the year under review.

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Public Health Inspectors are fully qualified and, in addition, hold the Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

The principal duties of the officers are:—

- MR. W. P. ROBERTS—Building Bye-Laws and Town & Country Planning, Petroleum Storage Regulations, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Cafes, Bakehouses, Caravans, Explosive Stores, Improvement Grants, Small Lotteries & Gaming Act.
- MR. A. L. SANDERS—Housing Inspection, Council Housing Pointing System, Nuisances and Complaints, Refuse Collection, Rodent Control, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Public Conveniences, Infectious Diseases.
- MR. D. G. EVANS—Supervision of the Council's Regional Water Scheme.
- MR. G. F. PENBERTHY—Meat Inspection at the Tiverton Junction Abattoirs.

The Committee concerned with matters of Public Health is the General Purposes Committee, and this Committee meets monthly.

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

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

G. NICHOLSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The total number of magazines licensed for the storage of petroleum products at the end of 1952 was 102.

1951

THE STORES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951, AND THE MAGAZINES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951.

These stores (all at local quarters) were licensed by the Council during the year under review.

Public health inspectors are fully qualified and, in addition, hold the Heat and Fumour Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

The principal names of the officers are:-

- Mr. W. P. Roberts—Building Bye-Laws and Town & Country Planning, Petroleum Storage Regulations, and Explosives and Fumour Inspector, Calcutta.
- Mr. A. J. Roberts—Housing Inspection, Council Housing, Pointers System, Nuisances and Complaints, Heat and Fumour Inspector, Calcutta.
- Mr. D. G. Evans—Supervisor of the Council's Regional Water Scheme, Calcutta.
- Mr. G. F. Packer—Heat Inspector at the Tiverton Junction Station.

The Committee concerned with matters of Public Health (Health, Nuisances, and Complaints) and the Committee on Explosives and Fumour, will have to consider the proposed stores for the year 1953.

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

G. NICHOLSON

Secretary to the Council



