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**Contributors**

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The Manor House,  
Totnes.

16th October, 1953.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended  
31st December, 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population (mid-year 1952).....5,499  
Number of inhabited houses.....1,769

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births.....	45	42	87
Legitimate.....	44	41	
Illegitimate.....	1	1	
Still Births.....	4		4

England  
& Wales

Birth rate per 1,000 population.....15.8                      15.3

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	38	32	70

England & Wales.  
11.3

Death rate per 1,000 population.....12.7

Deaths from maternal causes                      Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year                      3

The causes of the deaths are as follows:-

Tuberculosis.....2  
Malignant Neoplasms.....15  
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....11  
Heart and coronary disease.....18  
Other circulatory disease.....7  
Pneumonia.....1  
Bronchitis.....2  
Gastritis & enteritis.....1  
Other defined and ill-defined diseases...10  
Accidents (not motor vehicle).....1  
Suicides.....2

The age group 65 and over accounted for 42 deaths out of  
the total of 70.

INFECTIOUS & OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The classification of the above is as follows:-

Tuberculosis.....	3	(Pulmonary.....2)
		(Non-pulmonary.....1)
Measles.....	30	
Scarlet Fever.....	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	
Pneumonia.....	1	(acute primary or influenzal)
Malaria.....	1	
Total	<u>41</u>	

## TUBERCULOSIS

I am glad to report a fall in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. This decline, coupled with the great advances made in the treatment of this disease, augurs well for the effective control of this infection in the future.

## INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

This year, again, I am glad to be able to report that no case of acute anterior polio-myelitis or infantile paralysis has been notified.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The work of immunisation goes on apace, being shared by the Child Welfare and School Medical Officers and the General Practitioners. The public have now become immunisation conscious and the course of injections is now accepted as part of the normal routine of the child's upbringing. And what a great achievement! There has been no case of diphtheria in this Borough for many years.

## VACCINATION.

I am glad to say that we in Totnes are still mindful of the need for vaccination. Comparative figures are not available but there is no doubt that we compare very favourably with the surrounding areas. The work of vaccination is undertaken by the General Practitioners and the arrangement is most satisfactory.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

We have, in the Borough, two hospitals, viz:

Totnes & District Hospital for acute cases -  
24 available beds (including five cots).

Broomborough Hospital for chronic cases - 178  
available beds.

Maternity Wing (Broomborough Hospital) - 13  
available beds and 12 cots.

The Hospitals named above supply the necessary hospital accommodation for the Borough and a large surrounding district. We have reason to be proud of these hospitals, which are up-to-date and efficiently run. The addition of a children's ward to the Totnes & District Hospital is a real asset. This beautifully appointed and delicately decorated little ward is a real joy.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity Wing of Broomborough Hospital is a well-equipped unit and accommodates the cases from this area, as well as those from the surrounding districts. It is a very efficient organisation, which copes with a large number of cases during the year. Domiciliary midwifery is undertaken by the District Midwives and is greatly encouraged where home conditions permit.

## NURSING.

One of our two District Nurses retired at the end of the year. I would like to take this opportunity of saying thank

you to her for her valuable service to the community during her long stay amongst us. Both our nurses are midwives and deal with all the general nursing and midwifery in the Borough.

#### AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance Service is supplied by the St. John Ambulance Association and two ambulances are available. As always, it is a round-the-clock service of great despatch and efficiency.

#### HOME HELPS.

This service, though small in scale, seems to meet the present needs. There are four part-time home-helps available and during the year they have been engaged in maternity cases, the care of children whose mothers have undergone treatment in hospital, the care of post-operative or accident cases, etc. Further development of this service does not appear to be necessary for the time being.

#### HOUSING.

During the past year 26 houses of the Cornish Unit type were commenced and the last four are now nearing completion. The Borough Engineer informs us that plans have been prepared for a further 22 Traditional houses on the Pathfields Site and these should go to tender within a month or so.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water has been quite fair during the whole of the year, although, owing to a continued drought, certain light restrictions were brought in on the watering of gardens, etc.

Quarterly bacteriological samples were taken and in every case the results were excellent.

#### CATERING AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

These have been periodically inspected and in no case was any nuisance found that required Statutory action.

#### SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The inspection of carcasses, etc. at the Bacon Factory is controlled, and I have no complaints to make in this direction.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been periodically inspected and no cases require particular or special attention drawn to them.

*L. Davis.*

Medical Officer of Health.

