[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Totnes R.D.C.

Contributors

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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



"Rushbrook", TOINES, Devon.

February, 1959

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1958.

GENERAL HEALTH

The Rural District has continued its record of good health with very few notifications of infectious disease and no major outbreaks.

WATER

The South Devon Water Board has completed the main extension to Harberton and Dartington and are proceeding with further extension across The Dart to Berry Pomeroy, Littlehempeton and Stoke Gabriel.

The Avon reservoir is being filled and should shortly make available much larger supplies.

The Village of Holne still urgently needs a pure water supply and negotiations towards obtaining this appear to be extremely slow and protracted. After several years of effort and frequent representation and inspite of the fact that the main from a reservoir to another local authority lies adjacent to the village no final arrangement has yet been made.

SEWACE

Some progress has been made with village schemes. Progress is very slow owing to pressure of work on existing staff in the Engineer and Surveyor's department. The Stoke Gabriel plant is nearly complete; the Halwell scheme is ready to go to tender; Morleigh and Diptford Schemes are in course of preparation. The Hamlets of Week and Brooking in Dartington urgently require sewage schemes.

RIVER POLLUTION

Work has continued in tracing sources of pollution. The major source within the District would appear to be in the Bidwell Brook (Dartington) - The River Dart as a whole, however, shows a considerable amount of pollution throughout it lower reaches.

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PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

Protection against Smallpox, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough and Policmyelitis continues. The Mass Radiography Unit has made several valuable visits to the district which have met with good response from the public.

HOUSING SURVEY

The Housing Survey is now complete and credit should be given to those who have carried it out under great difficulty at odd times between other duties.

There is still a great need for Old People's houses and bungalows and progress towards the provision of these is much too slow.

H ALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

For the second year in succession I consider it desirable to comment on the shortage of Hospital and Welfare accommodation and in particular to draw attention to the inadequate provision for the aged who are frail and/or sick.

REFUSE

The need for a weekly collection throughout the area becomes increasingly obvious as a most necessary measure. A really hot summer might well precipitate an outbreak of a preventable fly born illness.

Owing to the increasing difficulty of finding and obtaining the use of land to continue the disposal of refuse by uncontrolled tipping, I feel it may be expedient for Authorities, at least in the Torbay and immediate adjacent area to meet and discuss the possibilities of one large depot for handling refuse.

STATISTICS

Returns are not, as yet available. They will be published later as an addendum to this report which I consider should be presented before the termination of my appointment on the 31st March.

I wish to thank Mr, Waine, The Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their holp and advice which have always been so readily given at all times.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Dr. Jellard and his staff at the Plymouth Public Health Laboratory for their help in examining and reporting on water samples.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servent,

Medical Officer of Health.

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I lowe the honour to be,

Your obedient a result.

Well and Officer of Health.

1. Statistics

Details to follow later.

2. Vital Statistics

Details to follow later.

3. Infectious Diseases

Disease	Total Number of cases notified	Deaths	
Scarlet Fever	9	-	
Mensles	45	-	
Whooping Cough	1	proceeded to the	
Food Poisoning	2	and make the	

Food Poisoning

One suspected outbreak was investigated at Cornworthy. The illnesses were considered to be partly due to an unsatisfactory water supply and partly due to very poor kitchen hygiene.

4. Tuberculosis

5 new cases were notified, all of which were respiratory.

5. Health Services

The district is well served by General Practitioners, Hospitals, the Ambulance and Car Service, District Nurses, Health Visitors etc. A mobile X Ray Unit visits the District from time to time. There are Public Health Laboratories at Plymouth and Exeter and a pathological laboratory at the Torbay Hospital.

6. Water Supplies

The South Devon Water Board has rapidly continued to extend its mains to villages, notably Harberton and Dartington and to extend towards the Bastern Parishes.

The village of Holne still relies on a local supply which varies in quality in direct relation to weather conditions, the supply coming by open leat across part of Dartmoor. Negotiations are in progress by the Council to obtain a supply of piped water rom Paignton Urban District's mains which pass through the village.

Two extra pipes have been laid across the Dart to Kingswear.

7. Sewerage

Field work on river pollution continues with special attention to the catchment area of the Bidwell Brook and a detailed survey is being prepared of this area.

The following amendments are to be made to my survey of the means of disposal of sewage in my 1957 report:-

CHURSTON FERRERS -

Galmpton The rapid increase in the amount of sewage which now has to be disposed of makes it necessary to very carefully consider what further works are required in this disposal plant. It is evident that, at the moment, work is required in the storm water overflow and the sludge beds.

CORNWORTHY

A disposal scheme for this village is extremely urgently required.

DARTINGTON

Schemes for Week and Brooking are, in my opinion, of first priority and should be proceeded with at once. I do not think that the existing Dertington disposal plant is adequate to deal with further extensions of the sewer. In my opinion either the plant will have to be enlarged or serious consideration should be given to the desirability and possibility of linking up with Totnes Borough Sewers.

DIPTFORD

A disposal scheme is urgently required. Plans are with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HALWELL

A disposal plant has been planned and approved and is now ready to go to tender.

KINGSWEAR

Disposal is by outfalls into the tidal estuary of the river Dart. The outflow is continuous irrespective of tides. A more sanitary and aesthetically acceptable solution to the problem is required.

MORLEIGH

A disposal works is required and a scheme is being prepared.

STAVERTON

The new sewage works have been a great improvement.

STOKE GABRIEL

The new sewage disposal works are now completed.

UGBOROUGH

Bittaford
The/disposal plant needs modernising to a considerable degree. Sewage disposal at Wrangaton Cross Roads is still urgently required.

GENERAL

The disposal of sewage works sludge is a constant problem - no satisfactory solution has been found so far. Spreading on the land would appear to increase the risk of tape worm infestation. Burial by bulldozer may be the only practical solution for small plants unless some method of composting can be utilised.

In particular there is need to deal with the problem at Bitterora in the Parish of Ugborough

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8. National Assistance Acts, 1948 - 1951 Section 47

During the year no action was necessary under the above Acts.

9. Rodent and Pest Control

This still continues under an operator who is part time employed as stated in the 1957 report. I consider this to be unsatisfactory and am of the opinion that the rodent control can only be carried out efficiently if, after the new combined Medical Officer of Health appointment on 1st Aprin 1959 the rodent control can be similarly amalgamated under his direction.

10. Camping and Caravan Sites

Four licensed sites continue to operate viz:-

Bittaford Wood, (Ugborough) 15 Caravans. Webland Farm, (South Brent) 20 Caravans. Cheston Farm, (Ugborough) 15 Caravans. Smokey House, (Marldon) 6 Caravans.

11. Food.

(a) Meat During the year the following animals have been slaughtered and inspected:-

	STEERS	HEIFERS	cows	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	TOTAL
January	5	15	1	5	63	29	118
February	8	9	-	2	57	31	107
March	10	9	1	7	59	34	120
April	8	7	-	5	56	12	58
May	8	10	-	1	73	24	116
June	4	12	_	3	81	22	122
July	8	13	-	_	96	23	140
August	10	9	1	1	68	27	116
September	4	7	-	3	51	18	83
October	7	9	1	5	85	26	133
November	8	7	-	_	68	21	104
December	5	9	-	100	48	28	90
GRAND TOTAL	85	116	4	32	805	295	1337

10 cwt.2 qtrs. meat condemned owing principally to parasitic infections.

112 lb. tinned meat condemned - blown tins.

3 cwt. 2 qtrs. 2 lbs. of tinned fruit and vegetables condemned owing to blown or leaking tins.

Martines Assistance Acts, 1948 - 1951 Section A?

During the year no notion was necessary under the shove Acts.

9. Redent and Post Central

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II. Food.

(a) Most Daring the year the Following animals have been elsewhered and inspected:-

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3 cmt. 2 ofre. 2 lbs. of timed fruit and vegetables

Knackers Yards and Slaughter Houses.

There are five slaughter houses and one knackers yard licensed, but in practice only four of the slaughter houses and the knackers yard operate.

(b) Milk

There are now only nine dairies retailing pre-bottled T.T., T.T. (Pasteurised) ot pasteurised milk.

(c) Ice Cream

There are 30 registered premises in the district retailing pre-packed heat treated ice cream.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations

Individual approach to food handlers and to owners of food premises has brought forth continued improvement.

(e) Unsound Food

Unsound meat is stained green and is collected by fellmongers operating in the district. Unsound tinned food is disposed of in the Council's tips after first mutilating the tins.

12. Housing

The Housing Survey has been completed (priority being given to this so far as other circumstances would allow) but an up to date summary has yet to be complied.

Total number of dwellings in the district	4592
No. of dwellings surveyed in 1958	161
No. of houses fit in all respects	49
No. of houses with minor defects	32
No. of houses with major defects or	
lack of amenities	50
No. of houses fit for reconditioning	18
No. of houses unfit for occupation	12

During the year two Clearance Orders at Dittisham were confirmed. Number 1 Clearance Order contained 6 dwellings and 6 persons whilst Number 2 Clearance Order contained 7 dwellings and 8 persons.

The following premises were dealt with as indicated.

Houses in Clearance areas demolished:-

12 (2 Marldon; 5 South Brent and 5 Harbertonford).

House not in Clearance Area demolished:-

1 (55, Church Street, South Brent).

Two bungalows to re-house displaced persons from houses in a Clearance Area at Harbertonford were completed and occupied early in the year.

Manchers Tards and Slaughter Houses.

There are five alaughter bounce and one knockers yard licensed, but in practice only four of the elaughter bounce and the knockers yard operate.

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House not in Chargeney Area donolished:-

1 (85. Charrely Street, South Breet).

Two bungalows to re-bouse displaced persons from houses in a Clearence Area at Harbertoni and were completed and countries of the year.

Numbers 1 - 4 inclusive, Church Row, Ugborough :- bought by Council, three families re-housed, pair of houses to be erected on site.

Church House Cottage, North Huish - Closing order made.

26, Galmpton, Churston Ferrers - Closing order made.

Moline Cottage, Ugborough - Closing order made.

Box Cottage, Dittishom - Closing order made.

Parsonage Cottage, Ugborough (Eastleigh) - Undertaking

not to re-let accepted.

Venn Cottage, Ugborough - Undertaking not to re-let accepted.

13. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

Inspections.

Premises	Number on	Number	of
	Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(1) Factories in which Ss.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authoriti -es.	4	2	_
(11) Factories not included in (i) in which S 7 is enforced by the local authority		20	3
(111) Other premises in which S 7 is enforced by local authority (i.e. building operations)	6	6	2
Total	53	28	5

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.2)	3	3
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) - (A) unsuitable or defective.	3	3
Total	6	6

Numbers t - A includes, Canon Now, Upbor ough :-

Charab House Cottego, Verth Hedsh - Chestag erder made. Zé, Colort n, Charates Perreir - Chestag erder endo. Moline Cottego, Ugbereugh - Chestag erder made. Bex Cottego, Idutionen - Chestag erder made. Farecasses Cottego, Ugbereugh (Zentleigh) - Undertelding not to re-let scrapted.

Venn Cottago, ligherough - Undertaking not to re-let accepted.

13. Macteries Acts 1937 and 1948

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(11) Exctoring not included in (1) in which S 7 in andersoid by the least authority		
111) Other presidents of the which S 7 is enforced by local authority (1.e. brilling operations)		

Cases in wideh defects were found.

	Senitary conventances (8.7) - (4) manifelia or Asisotive.

14. Public Health Administration

Inspections, 1958

	Number of visits
Meat Inspection Knackers Yards	345 3
Unsound food Food Hygiene	10
Housing Survey	144
Housing Inspection	66
Housing Re-inspection	88
Nuisances	38
Public Health General	20
Water Supplies	149
Drainage	146
Refuse Collection	69
Rodent Control	30
Moveable Dwellings	20
Factories	28
Disinfestation	14
Petroleum	45

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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL ADDRNOUM TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958.

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1. Statistics

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Area	. 80.978 acres
River frontage of tidal waters	
Population (1951 Census)	. 13.923
Population (est. Mid year 1958)	. 14.130
Number of dwelling houses	
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959)	£157.785
Estimated product of a penny rate	£644

The district is essentially agricultural. Some parishes are becoming predominately residential in character. There are a few small industrial establishments.

2. Vital Statistics

(a) Births	$\underline{\mathbf{M}}$	F	TOTAL
Live Births	90	95	185
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population			13.09
Still Births	2	2	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			21.16
Total Live and Still Births			189
Area Comparability Factor for Births			1.20
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population			15.7
(a.) =			
(b) Deaths			
Infant Deaths	4	3	7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			37.8
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births and Legitimate			39•7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births and Illegitimate			Nil
Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			21.6
Illegitimate Live Births % of Total Live Births			4.8%
Maternal Deaths (Including Abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births			Nil
Deaths	108	121	229
Death Rate per 1,000 Population			16.2
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths			0.56

Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 Population

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		15.7
		37.8
		39.7
		21.6
Corrected Track Pate ver 1,000 Perchation		9.07

(c) Causes of Death - statistics provided by the Registrar General.

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Conquery Di see se	45	0	01
Coronary Disease	15	9	24
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	24	32
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2	4
Other Heart Disease	21	28	49
Other Circulatory Disease	6	7	13
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchitis	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	12	22
Pneumonia	6	8	14
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Diebetes	1	-	-1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	2	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
Other Illdefined Diseases	11	14	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and Operations of War	2	-	2
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