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**Contributors**

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# TRURO RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

for 1947

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TRURO      RURAL      DISTRICT      COUNCIL.

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PUBLIC    HEALTH    REPORT    YEAR    1947.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer (part time), Dr. A. R. Fuller, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., is also District Medical Officer (Perranzabuloe District) and Public Vaccinator for Perranzabuloe and part of St. Allen Parishes.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. R. C. Harvey, Associate Royal Sanitary Institute, whole time.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A.H. Bennett, M.S.I.A., whole time.

Temporary Housing Inspector, Mr. J. R. Eslick.

Meat Inspector, Mr. G. T. Carter, is employed whole time at the Government Slaughterhouse.

The salaries of the first three officers are contributed to by the Ministry, under the Public Health Acts, or by Exchequer grants.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Truro.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present a report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Truro Rural District in 1947. As my connection with this district began on the 1st November, 1948, I am unable to give little more than the bare figures. The sections dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area having been written by your senior Sanitary Inspector are, however, more detailed.

Area 106,504 acres. Rateable value £83,241 value of 1d. Rate £342.

Population. The estimated mid year population was 25,920, an increase of 440 on 1946.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Live Births.

Males	240	Females	216	Total	456.
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Birth rate per 1,000 population, Truro Rural	17.6
" " " " " " England & Wales	20.5

Of the 456 births 36 were illegitimate.

#### Still Births.

Males	6	Females	9	Total	15.
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Still birth rate per 1,000 births Truro Rural	32
" " " " " " England & Wales	24
" " " " " " Population Truro Rural	0.58
" " " " " " England & Wales	0.50

#### Deaths.

Males	191	Females	193	Total	384.
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Death rate per 1,000 population, Truro Rural	14.8
" " " " " " England & Wales	12.0

The comparatively high death rate and low birth rate are probably due to a disproportionately high number of old people in the population. No correction is possible until census figures giving the numbers in the various age groups become available.

#### Deaths of infants under one year.

Males	9	Females	5	Total	14.
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Rate per 1,000 live births 30.7



### Detailed Analysis of Cases.

Causes of Death		Males	Females
All Causes		191	193
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2	Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-
3	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4	Whooping Cough	1	-
5	Diphtheria	-	-
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	2
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	-
8	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
9	Influenza	6	1
10	Measles	-	-
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-
13	Cancer of Mouth and Throat (male) and Uterus (female)	3	2
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	6
15	Cancer of Breast	-	9
16	Cancer of all other sites	15	15
17	Diabetes	1	5
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	22	21
19	Heart Disease	43	46
20	Other Disease of Circulation	9	11
21	Bronchitis	11	7
22	Pneumonia	4	8
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	9	4
24	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	1	-
26	Appendicitis	-	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	5
28	Nephritis	8	4
29	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	-	1
30	Other Maternal Causes	-	1
31	Premature Birth	3	-
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc.	3	2
33	Suicide	4	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	-	1
35	Other Violent Causes	5	1
36	All other causes	23	39

### HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing Arrangements. The District and parish nurses helped by Red Cross workers who have had the requisite training in hospital carry out the work of tending the sick. Additional assistance is available from the County Councils Emergency staff for cases of ophthalmia neonatorum and puerperal sepsis.

No special facilities otherwise for nursing infectious disease except for those cases removed to hospital.

Laboratory work. The greater part is now sent to Dr. F. D. M. Hocking's Laboratory, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

Occasional use is made of the Clinical Research Association of Adelphi, London.



A free supply of diphtheria antitoxin is available for cases unable to afford it.

Alum precipitated toxoid provided by the Ministry of Health is issued to doctors for the immunisation of children up to 15 years of age as required.

#### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations relating to Public Health :-

Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1880, adopted 1899  
Public Health Amendment Act 1890, adopted 1893  
Public Health Amendment Act 1907, adopted 1913 as amended by the Public Health Act, 1936  
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

i. Fever. All cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, needing hospital treatment, are admitted to County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

ii. Tuberculosis. Tehidy Sanatorium near Camborne is available for the district; accommodation does not appear to be at all adequate.

Three beds are available at Didworthy Sanatorium for cases that live in Truro Rural District, however, little use is made of them as few will go so far from their homes.

A most serious defect is the absence of any special accommodation for advanced and highly infectious cases.

iii. Maternity. Wards are now available for special cases where home or other conditions necessitate hospital treatment, at the Women's Hospital Redruth.

There is now a Children's Ward with 10 beds in the Royal Cornwall Infirmary. This accommodation is inadequate.

Orthopædic cases are now treated at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

There are also 8 Ophthalmic beds in the Hospital.

The Royal Cornwall Infirmary is available for surgical and medical cases. Still more beds are needed.

Some patients from the western part of the district find their way to the Miner's and Women's Hospital, Redruth.

Chronic sick are taken into the Public Assistance Institution Redruth. This is outside the area and difficult for relatives to get at.

The same Institution also provides accommodation for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

The Rosemundy Home situated at St. Agnes and supported by voluntary effort is for unmarried mothers. There are 24 beds. Girls are kept there for 3 to 12 months and trained for domestic service with much success.

The Council does not support any of the hospitals.



The Bodmin Mental Hospital provides the accommodation for mental cases. Mentally deficient children are sent to the Elizabeth Barclay Home, Bodmin.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Where this is not due to an obvious infection connected with the actual birth, ordinary nursing facilities are made use of with additional help supplied from the Emergency Nursing Staff of the County Council.

There is limited accommodation available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary for the really septic case.

X-Ray, ophthalmic and massage departments exist at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary. The cost and difficulty of travelling to and from the outlying districts prevents many patients from having proper treatment. Radium treatment is provided at Miners and Women's Hospital, Redruth.

Ambulance Facilities. i. That belonging to the Home Ambulance Service of the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society, stationed at Truro, is available for non-infectious and accident cases. A limited part of the area make use of that at Redruth. St. Agnes now has its own ambulance.

ii. Infectious cases. Ambulances are now sent from the Isolation Hospital.

There are no treatment centres or clinics in the area run by the Council; this work is carried out by the County Council, whose clinics are either in Truro or Redruth and Camborne.

Further hospital accommodation for surgical and medical cases is badly needed, also for children's diseases.

Beds should be available for old chronic and cancer cases preferably at not too great a distance from their homes and relatives.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Water Supplies.

##### (1) Perranzabuloe.

A constant supply has been maintained during the year to the whole area with the exception of the twelve houses in St. Georges Terrace, where, during summer weekends, there has on occasion been a temporary shortage.

The emergency source and pumping plant at Mount Tunnel was brought into use for several months of the year.

The Air Ministry Pumping Plant at Blowing House was not brought into service. The Council are negotiating to acquire this Plant which will be useful for augmenting the supply in the summer months.

The Pumping Plant has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Samples of water are regularly submitted for Bacteriological Examination.



The following are typical Reports :-

(a) Report No. 47/404.

Water. Perranporth Standpipe.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C.in 24 hrs	3 per ml
" " " " " " " 48 hrs	9 per ml
" " " " " " 22 deg.C.in 72 hrs	52 per ml

I.A.C. Group: 0 per 100 ml.  
Typical B. coli: 0 per 100 ml.  
C. Welchii: Absent in 100 ml.

The results are satisfactory.

(b) Report No. 47/5781.

Water. Perranporth Standpipe.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C.in 24 hrs:	0 per ml
" " " " " " " 48 hrs:	45 per ml
" " " " " " 22 deg.C.in 72 hrs:	120 per ml

I.A.C. Group: 35 per 100 ml.  
Typical B.coli: 0 per 100 ml.  
C. Welchii absent in 100 ml.

Satisfactory.

(2) St. Agnes.

In this parish a constant supply was maintained during the year, although on some days - Mondays usually, owing to the weekly wash day - the amount of pressure in some domestic services was below that normally obtainable. This is mainly due to (a) the mains in Churchtown and those leading from the Reservoir were laid some 50 years ago and are badly encrusted, (b) the largely increased demand for water for modern conveniences as well as increased housing accommodation.

In this Parish there is a large demand for water for other than domestic purposes, principally for Dairying.

Samples of the supply are regularly taken and submitted for Bacteriological Reports. The following are typical Reports :-

(a) Report No. 47/1482.

Water. St. Agnes Standpipe.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C.in 24 hrs:	5 per ml
" " " " " " " 48 hrs:	13 per ml
" " " " " " 22 deg.C.in 72 hrs:	18 per ml

I.A.C. Group: 0 per 100 ml.  
Typical B.coli: 0 per 100 ml.  
C.welchii absent in 100 ml.

The results are satisfactory.



(b)

Report No. 47/6770.

Water. Vicarage Road, St. Agnes.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C. in 24 hrs: 0 per ml.  
" " " " " " " 48 hrs: 2 per ml.  
" " " " " " 22 deg.C. in 72 hrs: 8 per ml.

I.A.C. Group: 0 per 100 ml.  
Typical B.coli: 2 per 100 ml.  
C. welchii absent in 100 ml.

Satisfactory.

No trouble has been experienced with the Pumping Plant.

(3) St. Mawes.

The supply to St. Mawes has been satisfactorily maintained. This was only possible by utilizing the Tretham emergency source for many months in the year.

The source at Priory has only on a few occasions been brought into use. This source dries up in the summer months, when water is most needed.

Samples are regularly taken for Bacteriological Examination. The following are typical Reports :-

(a)

Report No. 47/729.

Water. "Lloyds Standpipe", St. Mawes.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C. in 24 hrs: 20 per ml.  
" " " " " " " 48 hrs: 25 per ml.  
" " " " " " 22 deg.C. in 72 hrs: 752 per ml.

I.A.C. Group: 2 per 100 ml.  
Typical B.coli: 2 per 100 ml.  
C. welchii: Present in 50 ml.

The results are satisfactory.

(b)

Report No. 47/4383.

Water. "Lloyds Standpipe", St. Mawes.

Total no. organisms growing at 37 deg.C. in 24 hrs: 12 per ml.  
" " " " " " " 48 hrs: 32 per ml.  
" " " " " " 22 deg.C. in 72 hrs: 210 per ml.

I.A.C. Group: 25 per 100 ml.  
Typical B. coli: 0 per 100 ml.  
C. welchii: 0 per 100 ml.

The results are satisfactory.

(4) Mylor.

The present sources being incapable of maintaining a constant supply in summertime, the supply to Flushing has again been intermittent.

The Council are now negotiating with Falmouth Town Council for the Rural District Council to extend a main to Flushing by taking a branch off the main which was laid by the War Department to Mylor during the war and which the Council are acquiring.



If these negotiations are successful it is anticipated that by next summer the village of Flushing will have a constant supply. It will also enable the householders in Mylor Bridge to connect their premises to the ex-War Department main.

#### (5) Kea - Playing Place.

This area consisting of approximately 60 houses and 1 school is supplied by the Council with water bought in bulk from the Truro Water Company. The supply has to be "boosted" from a point near Kea School.

The Booster is electrically controlled and at times owing to defects or breakdowns in the delicate electrical contrivances the supply to the householders has broken down. The repairs and/or renewals have been effected as speedily as possible, but owing to the difficulties encountered in obtaining spare parts, it has occasionally been necessary to convey water to the houses in a tank on a lorry.

#### (6) Devoran.

This privately owned undertaking has, as in previous years, given rise to numerous complaints as to its inadequacy in the summer months. At one period during the summer the proprietors were faced with empty Reservoirs and had to arrange with the National Fire Force to pump water from a stream  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile distant to the Reservoirs. This water was chlorinated before entry into the Reservoir under the supervision of the Council's staff.

#### Chlorination of Water Supplies.

The supplies at Perranzabuloe, St. Agnes and St. Mawes are chlorinated. The supply to Kea Playing Place, bought in bulk from Truro Water Company is also treated by that Company.

#### Schemes for Piped Water Supplies.

The Council are considering schemes prepared by their Consultant Engineer - Mr. Osmand - for the supply of water to various villages in the district still without a piped supply. These include (a) Newlyn East, where it is proposed to buy water in bulk from Newquay Water Company (b) Cubert, from a source at Treamble, Perranzabuloe (c) Ladock, Grampound Road, Tregoney, Probus, Veryan, Gerrans and Portscatho, from a source at Ladock. These schemes are in an advanced stage - on paper - and should be ready for actual work to start early next year.

In addition, schemes for the supply of a piped supply are envisaged for Gwennap, Perranarworthal and parts of Feock, Chacewater and Mylor.

#### Extension of Mains.

No major extensions of the Council's Water Mains have been made during the year.

#### Water Supplies for Schools.

No improvement in the supply of water to many of the Schools in the area has been effected. This shortage of pure and adequate water is holding up the Ministry of Education's scheme for School Canteens.



### Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

The Council Sewers and Disposal Works have been maintained in a satisfactory state during the years.

No major extension to Sewers has been carried out. The Council has, however, constructed Sewers and small Disposal Works on some of their Housing Estates to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health's Regional Officers who appear to have objections to the construction of individual Cesspits as provided for in the Council's Building Byelaws, and which would be permissible in the case of individual private buildings.

### Scavenging - Collection of House Refuse.

The collection of house refuse is regularly undertaken from all but the extremely isolated dwellings throughout the district. The villages and large hamlets have a weekly collection whilst the remote hamlets etc., have a fortnightly collection.

During the year the Council has purchased two new Motor Refuse Collecting Vehicles, thereby themselves undertaking the collection and disposal of refuse which had hitherto been mainly carried out by Contractors.

Three vehicles are employed in maintaining this service.

Semi-controlled tipping is the method of disposal.

### Conservancy.

The emptying of Closet Buckets, where the householders have insufficient land around the house to dispose of same, continues to be carried out by the Council at Flushing.

### Cesspool Emptying.

During the year the Council purchased a mechanical cesspool emptier of a capacity of 750 gallons, and it now undertakes the emptying of cesspools in connection with private dwellings, etc. The charge for this service being 25/- per cesspool.

Hitherto the householder etc. had to make his own arrangements for such emptying, and often had to engage an emptier from one or more of the neighbouring Local Authorities at an expense in excess of that now payable to this Council. This arrangement was unsatisfactory at various periods as an overflowing cesspool was allowed to become a nuisance owing to the emptier being employed within its own district.

### Salvage.

The collection of waste-paper, bones and textiles shows a decrease in the amounts collected in comparison with the previous year.

Sales for the year were :-

Waste-paper	30 tons 7 cwts.	£214: 9:6
Bones	4 cwts.	£ 1: 2:0
Textiles	1 ton 5 cwts.	£ 19:17:8



### Public Conveniences.

The Public Conveniences at St. Agnes (3) St. Mawes and Portscatho have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### Housing.

The Council has maintained its progress during the year of occupying a position in the forefront in the erection of Houses, comparable with Local Authorities in the South Western Region.

At the end of the year the Council had erected or had in course of erection 159 houses, 67 of which were occupied.

The acquisition of further sites and seeking tenders for houses for which sites and all necessary "clearances" have been completed is limited by the pace set by the various "interested" Ministries.

Private Enterprise, has completed 26 houses for individual occupation, whilst at the end of the year there were 2 under construction.

### Old Houses.

The condition in regard to old houses, and there is a preponderance of houses in the district whose age varies between 100 and 200 years, is rapidly deteriorating. Among the many causes for this are : - lack of essential repairs during the war years, the limited amount of money which can be spent without a Licence, high cost of labour and materials, the operation of the Rent and Mortgage Restrictions Acts, and the system of fixing "Ceilings" on Local Authorities regarding Licensable work.

The position will be more forcefully appreciated by reference to the figures given in the Housing Survey - which follows - from which it will be seen that nearly 72% of the properties surveyed are in Categories 4 and 5.

Houses inspected under Housing Act .....	67
" " " Public Health Act .....	74
" " " Requisition Notices ....	372

### Rural Housing Survey.

The following Table gives the result up to the end of the year, of the survey now being carried out in the district of houses of a Rateable Value of £16 and under.



PARISH	CATEGORIES					TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	
St. Agnes	16	26	35	221	68	366
St. Allen	1	14	19	60	11	105
Chacewater	9	4	104	196	145	458
St. Clement	-	5	8	33	13	59
Cubert	48	2	27	69	6	152
Cuby	-	7	7	7	1	22
St. Erme	2	20	7	52	15	96
Feock	1	30	70	258	48	407
Gwennap	1	8	23	173	56	261
St. Just-in-Roseland	-	-	-	-	2	2
Kea	-	2	28	143	85	258
Kenwyn	23	43	17	116	40	239
Ladock	3	26	49	99	35	212
St. Michael Penkivel	-	1	10	36	12	59
Newlyn East	21	55	96	163	15	350
Perranarworthal	1	1	5	21	2	30
Perranzabuloe	46	39	58	256	48	447
Probus	3	16	43	105	56	223
Tregonoy	5	-	17	93	39	154
Veryan	-	-	-	5	-	5
	180	299	623	2106	697	3905

#### Rodent Control.

The Council employs a whole-time rodent officer.

#### Food.

The Ministry of Food Slaughter-house situate at Chacewater deals with meat supplied to the Truro City area as well as the Rural District.

The Council employs a qualified Meat Inspector at the Slaughter-house. Hereunder is a Report on the Result of his inspections etc.,

Animals inspected: Cattle 1630, Sheep 4405, Calves 1748  
Pigs 8.

Carcases Condemned: Cows 103, Heifers 15, Steers 17,  
Bulls 7, 55,656 lbs; Calves 13, Lambs  
23, Sheep 54, Pigs 6 plus 2 'Illegal',  
7,882 lbs.

Principal reasons for condemnation, Bovine :-

Cows: Metritis, Prolapse, etc. 2, T.B. 36, Oedema etc. 27.  
Enteritis, Peritonitis, Metritis etc. 12.  
Generalised Actinomycosis 2, Pneumonia, Catarrh etc. 6,  
Septic Conditions Generally 13, Pyaemia 3, Hyperaemia 2.

Heifers:

Rupture, Gangrene, 1. T.B. 1, Oedema 4, Enteritis 3,  
Actinomycosis 1, Pneumonia 1, Septic Conditions 3,  
Pyaemia 1.

Steers:

T.B. 7, Oedema 1, Enteritis 3, Septic Conditions 3,  
Pyaemia 2, Hyperaemia 1.

Bulls: Oedema 2, Enteritis etc. 2, Actinomycosis 1,  
Septic Conditions Generally 1, Pyaemia 1.

Organs etc.,

Heads 247, Livers 670, Hearts and Lungs 278, Lungs 164,  
Skirts 197, Tripes 193, Part Livers 211, Kidneys 148,  
Sheep Plucks 136, Sheep Livers 694, Mesenteries 149,  
Guts 172, Melts 153, Pig Pluck 1. = 39,341 lbs.

Trimnings, Broken Legs, Returns, etc., 2,721 lbs.

Corned Beef, 1054 lbs.

Total Weight Condemned: 106,654 lbs. = 47.6 Tons.

The following foods, not dealt with at the Slaughter-house,  
were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

24 lb. Sugar, 3 Stone Fish, 8½ lbs. Butter and 16  
Tins of Fruit and Preserves.

#### Infectious Disease.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough.		Diphtheria		Measles		Polio- myelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 3	1	1	22	10	-	-	1	3	-	-
3 - 5	3	-	16	31	-	-	6	2	-	-
5 - 10	1	-	35	34	-	-	11	4	-	1
10 - 15	1	1	7	3	-	-	4	2	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 +	-	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Age unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	3	86	84	1	-	23	12	-	1
Totals	11		170		1		35		1	

Age Group	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	6	3	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	2	1	-	-	1
15 - 45	8	7	-	-	-	1
45 - 65	6	2	-	-	-	-
65 +	4	9	-	-	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-	1	-	1
	25	23	1	1	-	4
Totals	48		2		4	



Puerperal Pyrexia      3 cases      1 death.

There were no cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever.

There was a minor epidemic of Whooping Cough. The total number of cases was 170 with one death.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria.

672 immunisations were done in 1947 by private practitioners and 30 booster doses were given. The number of children between one year and five years was probably about 1560. Of these it is estimated that 924 were protected giving a protection rate of nearly 60%.

		Completed during 1947			Completed prior to 1947			
Year of Birth	Age	Completed	Booster	Total	Completed	Booster	Total	Grand Total
<hr/>								
1947	(Under 1)	13	-	13	-	-	-	13
1946	1	221	-	221	-	-	-	221
1945	2	70	-	70	161	-	161	231
1944	3	19	2	21	258	-	258	279
1943	4	9	2	11	173	-	173	184
		332	4	336	592	-	592	928
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1942 to 1938	5-9	163	16	179	820	30	850	1029
1937 to 1933	10-14	177	10	187	1255	29	1284	1471
		672	30	702	2667	59	2726	3428
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#### Tuberculosis.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
<hr/>								
Totals	3	4	1	1	5	4	2	-
<hr/>								
Totals	7		2		9		2	

The figures given are too small for analysis.

V. E. WHITMAN.

Medical Officer of Health.