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**Contributors**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1954

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1954, which is on the lines similar to those of previous years.

Dr. B. Trevor-Roper was Medical Officer of Health during the first part of the year and I accepted the appointment on a temporary basis, commencing September, 1954.

I am indebted to Dr. Trevor-Roper for information relating to his period of office.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The Area of the District is 92,964 acres.

The number of Inhabited Houses is 4094.

The Number of Inhabited Houses erected during 1954 is 135 of which 47 were erected by private enterprise and other housing authorities.

The Rateable Value is £54,050 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £230. 12. 10.

The estimated mid-year population is 12,240 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death Rates.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of births during the year corrected for inward and outward transfer - is 203 and of these 3 were still births and one was illegitimate.

Birth Rate for 1954	-	16.6	per thousand per annum
" " " 1953	-	14.9	" " " "
" " " 1952	-	13.3	" " " "
Birth Rate for 1954	-	15.2	" " " "
(England & Wales)			

Deaths

The number of deaths - corrected for inward and outward transfers - was 164, of which 93 were males and 71 females.

Death Rate for 1954	-	13.4	per thousand per annum
" " " 1953	-	11.5	" " " "
" " " 1952	-	13.3	" " " "
Death Rate for 1954	-	11.3	" " " "
(England & Wales)			

Infantile Deaths

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 5 - all legitimate - 3 males and 2 females

Infantile

Death Rate for 1954	-	24.6	per thousand live births
" " " 1953	-	11.5	" " " "
" " " 1952	-	19.1	" " " "

Infantile

Death Rate for 1954	-	25.0	" " " "
(England & Wales)			



## CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Tuberculosis (Respiratory) - 2	Other Heart Disease - 20
(Other)	Other circulatory
Syphilitic Disease -	disease - 8
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases - 1	Influenza - 4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus - 3	Pneumonia 1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach - 6	Bronchitis 3
Malignant neoplasm, breast - 3	Other diseases of respiratory system - 2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus - 1	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum - 3
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms. - 16	Nephritis and nephrosis - 1
Leukemia, aleukaemia - 2	Congenital malformations - 1
Diabetes - 1	Other defined and ill-defined diseases 16
Vascular lesions of nervous system - 37	Motor Vehicle accidents - 2
Coronary disease angina - 23	All other accidents - 5
Hypertension with heart disease - 3	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified to me during the years was 54.

Scarlet Fever - 9	Pneumonia - 4
Whooping Cough - 3	Dysentery - 1
Measles - 24	Tuberculosis - 13

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Water Supply

A continuous pumping test was carried out at Sturton Grange Borehole from 16th March to 14th May, 1954 and the results submitted to the Consulting Geologist, Dr. Hickling, who confirmed suitability of the source as a temporary supply, for a period of 5 years, and for a quantity not exceeding 20 galls per minute from a slowly falling water level likely to reach 125 ft. below the surface.

The National Coal Board have agreed to keep the workings at least 150 yds. away from the Borehole.

The supply to Togston Village still continues to be augmented from a cross connection off the new Broomhill main by kind permission of Morpeth R.D.C. and Amble U.D.C.

The supply to Acklington Village is now being pumped by the Amble Urban District's new Auto-pneumatic plant at Morwick. This plant replaces your Cavil Head Pump.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The construction of an intercepting sewer at Craster Southside to clear off the foreshore several objectionable outfall sewers was completed during the year.

There have been 14 recorded instances where new small sewage disposal works have been installed by private persons.



### Water Closet Accommodation

In existing properties, 61 new water closets have been provided during the year. Of these, 12 were grant aided directly from Council resources to the extent of £10. 0. 0. per closet and 49 were grant aided under the Housing Act, 1949. These conversions resulted in the abolition of 47 privies, 4 ash closets, and 10 pail closets, which is an improvement of 16 conversions above the figure for last year.

### Housing

The number of new houses built in the District, totalled 135 of which 88 were completed by Contractors on behalf of the Council, 13 by private enterprise and 34 by Contractors on behalf of the Air Ministry.

In the same period, 5 houses were permanently discontinued as dwellings.

Under the Housing Act, 1949, the Council has received 31 formal applications for improvement grants involving 64 houses. Approval was given to 25 applications concerning 45 houses and these were confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Council refused 4 applications, and 2 others, are still under consideration.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Purchase of a third collecting vehicle which commenced operation on the 1st April, 1953 enabled a collection service to be extended to every parish in the District, though still excluding certain farming community properties, and the village of Radcliffe, which is now to be serviced in the coming year.

In the older collecting vehicles the amount of wet refuse, nightsoil and bucket contents, has taken severe toll of the steel bodies and a certain amount of plating, with new steel sheet, has had to be resorted to in order to keep the bodies in one piece. More extensive plating is likely to be required.

Written complaints about the collection service have been remarkably few in number, though several verbal or telephone messages have been readily dealt with, generally to the satisfaction of the complainant.

### Food Inspection

The following foods were examined, and Condemnation Certificates issued, to enable claims to be made by the retailers concerned:-

Canned Goods.....111 Tins

Meat.....74 Tins

Milk.....87 Tins

No legal proceedings were involved.

### ICE CREAM

There is still no ice cream actually manufactured in registered premises within the District. 3 New Registrations were approved under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, all of which were concerned with retailers of pre-packed wrapped ice cream.



Sanitary Inspection

The following is a list of visits made under the separate headings in connection with the supervision of meat inspection, drainage, and inspection of properties where there were alleged nuisances or structural defects:-

Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouses	- 64
Drainage	-121
Nuisances & Structural Defects	-225
Cleansing	- 95
Disinfestation	- 3

Factories

The total number of factories on the register is 58 and of these 51 had mechanical powered machinery.

One formal notice was served and complied with during the year.

Naming of Streets and Numbering of Houses

This was carried out in the Parish of Hauxley after the requisite notices had been served.

Rodent Control

The following is a summary of the Annual Report on the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, which has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:-

	<u>Local Authority.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agric- ultural</u>	<u>Business and Industrial</u>	<u>Tot- al</u>
1. Properties in District	27	3489	841	315	4672
2 Properties Inspected	27	178	102	47	356
3. Properties Rat Infested.	22	78	54	11	165
4. Properties Mouse Infested	-	4	-	-	4
5. Notices served requiring treatment or structural works.	-	-	1	1	2
6. Block control.	27	Treatments involving land and properties.			

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

R. KEENLYSIDE.

Medical Officer of Health