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183 Euston Road  
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**ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**1972**



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ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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IAN G.P. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Area Health Office,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

T.G. MORALEE, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspector,  
The Council House,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2355

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IAN G.P. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Area Health Office,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2353

F.G. MORRIS, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspector,  
The Council House,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2352



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1972

## To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Urban District Council

As this will be the final report to you, and in 1974 medical officers of health will end a long association with local government, it seems appropriate and of interest to recollect the changes which have taken place over the years. When one does look back one is left with an impression of how fast time passes and change takes place and yet also how slowly.

The oldest available report by a medical officer of health in this area is that for Alnwick in 1902. No doubt it was representative of the circumstances existing in North Northumberland at that time and it is largely reprinted in the following pages. All those who are seventy-years-old, and there are many, were born into the conditions depicted in the report and they either experienced them or, as was the habit then, were protected from them in what is now referred to as the "golden" Edwardian era. Public health was very much involved with drains and infectious disease. There were lodging houses for tramps and overcrowding - how often does one see a tramp let alone a female tramp in Northumberland in 1972. There was the belief that infectious diseases were largely spread from blocked drains as much as by personal contact. Scavenging had just been undertaken by the local authority and there was a recent Act to control people's conditions of work.

In the centre of the town there were stables, byres and middens with liquid manure seeping into houses. The open offal cart wended its way through unpaved streets. Drinking water was often coloured and had to be turned off on many nights. Water-borne sewage had only settling tanks for treatment while in the rural areas especially earth closets were the rule and not the exception.

There was an infectious disease hospital with uncovered access to toilets, inadequate hot water supply and no means of disinfection. Presumably the female tramp with smallpox was admitted there.

There is an unconscious humour in the report. The opening address of "Gentlemen" could not possibly envisage women members serving on the Council. There is the suggestion that the Councillors would be more relieved to be spared the cost of a smallpox outbreak than they would be to escape an epidemic. There was the assumption, as was commonly believed, that small boys would suffer psychological damage as a result of seeing unpleasant sights in the slaughterhouse and, also, that the town's morals would deteriorate if the water supply was cut off.

Both the birth and infant mortality rates were high and 21 infants out of 174 live births died before they were one year old. Only two out of every five people lived until they were sixty. There were 18 deaths from tuberculosis and these occurred in people aged as young as 25 years. The incidence in 1902 of other killing infectious diseases such as smallpox and diphtheria was probably low compared with other years.

A public mortuary was needed both because dead bodies presumably unclaimed were found lying in the streets and because there was no alternative but to keep decomposing deceased relatives in overcrowded bedrooms.

Many houses had standpipes for water and gullies for slops. Yards and streets were largely unpaved. The milk supply, a common source of infection, was untreated and badly stored.



In the midst of these conditions it was only possible to find one house which was unfit for habitation. One wonders what it was like.

It is of interest to compare events and conditions in Alnwick in 1902 with a population of about 6,000 with those in rural North Northumberland in 1972 which had a population of 85,000 (the ten authorities from Morpeth west to Rothbury and north to Berwick).

In these ten authorities in 1972 there were two deaths from tuberculosis; one person aged 71 years and the other a recent immigrant from abroad. There were only nine new cases mainly in older people.

Only nineteen deaths of infants under one year occurred in nearly one thousand births and half of these were the result of congenital abnormalities incompatible with life. There was one death each from food poisoning and meningitis but these were unusual occurrences. Diphtheria, typhoid, smallpox and poliomyelitis were mainly risks through importation from abroad.

Most of the area had mains water supply apart from outlying farms and small villages. Sewage treatment had only been provided in many areas in recent years but the remaining centres of population had schemes under construction or consideration.

In the ten years 1962/71 the population fell by 4,000. Nine hundred and twenty unfit houses were demolished but 4,280 new houses were built which meant that fewer people were living in more and better housing.

Of the deaths in 1972 only one quarter occurred in persons who were under sixty five years of age.

In 1972 lodging houses and infectious diseases hospitals were no longer local necessities; housing had improved almost beyond recognition; there was a mortuary in Alnwick; slaughterhouses, food hygiene and milk production were controlled by legislation; there was good refuse collection and disposal; there was control of conditions of work; in general currently acceptable standards for living conditions were no longer comparable with 1902.

If those involved with environmental conditions in 1902 were to have returned seventy years later they could have been excused for thinking that, in the lifetime of the babies born in their year, most of what they had set out to do had been achieved.

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Extracts from the Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in Alnwick for 1902 are printed in the following pages.



To the Chairman and other Members of the  
Alnwick Urban District Council

1902

GENTLEMEN,

The weather during the year 1902 has been throughout cold and wet, and favourable to the development of pulmonary disease and rheumatism. The absence of warm weather has lessened the prevalence of diarrhoea so common in the summer time... It is a matter of congratulation that the town has not had to cope with an epidemic of Smallpox, and its accompanying expenses.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The small rainfall has caused the water supply to be short on several occasions, and it was found necessary to shut it off for 98 nights. Pumping has had to be again resorted to on 62 days.

I cannot do better than preface my remarks about water supply than by quoting an extract from a standard work on Public Health. "Of all vital requisites water is the most essential. It has decided in large measure the distribution of man over the globe, and at the present day in sanitary matters its consideration takes precedence over all other questions. A wholesome and liberal supply of water is essential to every community, not only for alimental use, but for purposes of personal and general cleanliness, trade and manufacture, and safety against fire. Deficiency of water is invariably followed by ill-health, and a lowering of the moral standard".

Danger of Intermittent Supply. - Should any escape of foul gas occur near the hydrants there is the danger of its being sucked into the mains and so polluting the supply. There is another and greater danger to be contended against, viz., the street hydrants become full of filth which is washed into them from time to time... thus finding its way into the pipes, and finally into domestic supplies. If this happened at only one point it is quite enough to render useless the care that is taken in collecting and purifying water. How much more must this apply when nearly all the hydrants are affected... After wet weather the supply is coloured... This colouration evidently comes from the shallower springs; as it is from two to three days after a heavy rain that we begin to feel the benefit of an increased supply, combined with the turbid condition which leads many people to think that they are drinking Rugley Burn.

#### SEWAGE

The Canongate Sewage system is at present occupying the attention of the Council, and also the treatment of the combined sewage at the Main Sewage Works. It is at present proposed to slightly modify these, to make them into open septic tanks, and then treat the combined effluent by Aerobic Filters.

#### SCAVENGING

Since the Council has taken the scavenging into its own hands there has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the town. This must have a beneficial effect upon the Public Health. It is, however, very difficult to deal with some districts, as places that are cleaned in the morning become as bad as ever before night owing to the careless and filthy habits of certain portions of the community.

#### DISPOSAL OF SLOPS

The careless method of disposal of slops in some of the crowded parts of the town has given rise to many nuisances in the past, due to the absorption of putrescible matter into the soil surrounding the sinks, and its subsequent decomposition in warm weather. In view of this, I reported to the Council in May as to the benefit that would accrue from cementing the surface round the sinks for a distance of two or three feet. I find from the Inspector's report that many have been done.

/cont.....



## PAVING OF YARDS

A great number of the yards and lanes are at present either unpaved or at best only paved with cobble stones. In some of these there are dwelling houses mixed up with stables, cowsheds and their attendant middens; the consequence being that the rain and liquid manure penetrate into the soil and foundations of the houses, and render them damp and unhealthy.

## HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

The house accommodation for the Working Classes still leaves much to be desired. The erection of workmen's dwellings behind Clayport is slowly progressing, and it is to be hoped will be finished during the coming season. Many more houses are required in the town before overcrowding can be thoroughly dealt with.

## LODGING HOUSES

The erection of two Lodging Houses, one of which is registered, and the other I expect, will be by the time this report is read, will relieve the town of a good deal of responsibility, and enable the authorities to do away with the unlicensed Lodging Houses, and to deal with the worst cases of overcrowding that may occur.

## HOUSES CLOSED

A house in the Angel Inn Yard has been condemned as unfit for habitation, and also a room in the Crown Inn Yard. Both have been closed.

## HOUSES BUILT

Only about seven new houses have been built during the past year, or are in course of erection... The widening of the footpath on Bondgate Hill, and the making of a cart track hardly come under the heading of sanitary improvements, though undoubtedly of great benefit to the town.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The Slaughter Houses have been inspected from time to time, and certain improvements would be beneficial. The necessity of cleanliness has been impressed upon the tenants, and I am glad to say that a great step has been made in this direction although there is still room for improvement. The number of boys who hang about the slaughter houses are a great annoyance to the tenants, to say nothing of the bad effect such sights must have upon them.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

The attention of the Council is specially directed to the Dairies and Cowsheds. In many cases cows are kept in unsuitable places, the air-space required being in nearly every case insufficient, and the provision for the storage of milk are of a most meagre description.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT

This Act which came into force at the beginning of the year, enables the Council to deal with workshops and work places which have not sufficient air-space, nor necessary accommodation for employees; and which are not kept in such a state of cleanliness as may be necessary.

/contd.....



## BAKEHOUSES

The bakehouses have received special attention, and were found clean; and with the exception of one, in accordance with the Act, which provides that on and after Jan. 1st, 1904, no underground bakehouse is to be permitted unless special provision for ventilation and lighting be made.

## INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL

The Infectious Hospital requires certain alterations and improvements in view of the climate in which we live. The present open way from the wards to the Nurses' room and w.c.'s should be closed in, provision made for an adequate supply of hot water, and an efficient disinfecting apparatus provided.

## PHTHISIS

In November I reported to the Council as to the infectious nature of Phthisis, and the Council gave their consent for the Inspector of Nuisances to disinfect any room where a death from that disease had occurred. My medical colleagues in the town have promised to give all assistance in their power in the voluntary notification of such cases.

## MORTUARY

Perhaps I might here mention the need there is in Alnwick of a properly constructed Public Mortuary, not only for the disposal of any dead body that may be found and await a Coroner's Inquest, but also for the reception of the dead before interment. There are many families living in one or two rooms among whom the practice of keeping a dead body in the house for a considerable time before burial is the rule and not the exception. I may point out that there is a certain danger to Public Health in retaining a corpse in a crowded house until putrefaction commences. This danger becomes more apparent when the death happens to have taken place from an infectious disease. I am quite aware of the prejudices, and opposition, there would be to the removal of the dead from the home to the mortuary on the part of the very class of people who would benefit most by such an establishment, but still I consider it my duty in the interest of public health to mention the need there is for some provision of this kind.

## DEATHS

During the year there have been 113 deaths, 19 of which occurred in the public institutions in the town. Of these, 44 were over the age of 60 and 21 under 1 year of age.

## DEATH RATE

The annual death-rate is 16.82 per 1000. Although the death rate is higher than last year it is 3.3 below the average of the last ten years.

The causes of death as tabulated are as follows:-

Diarrhoea	.. 1	Diseases and Accidents)	
Phthisis	.. 10	of Parturition )	.. 1
Tubercular Diseases	.. 8	Heart Disease	.. 13
Cancer	.. 9	Accidents	.. 5
Bronchitis	.. 9	Brain Diseases	.. 6
Pneumonia	.. 9	Urinary System	.. 8
Alcoholism	.. 2	Digestive System	.. 11
Premature Birth	.. 1	All other causes	.. 20
		Total	113

/contd.....



All the deaths from Phthisis occurred in persons between the ages of 25 and 60. The Phthisis death-rate compares favourably with that of last year... The number of deaths of children under the age of 1 year (21) is higher than last year, but still 3.7 below the average of the last ten years.

#### BIRTHS

registered during the year numbered 174 - 81 males and 93 females, giving a birth-rate of 25.9 per 1000. The birth-rate is below the average of the last 10 years, the average rate being 27.6.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There have been during the year 22 cases of Infectious Disease notified, as follows:-

Smallpox	1	Erysipelas	3
Diphtheria	1	Scarlet Fever	17

none of these fortunately ended fatally.

The case of Smallpox was of a modified type, and occurred in a tramp admitted to the Workhouse. It fortunately did not spread, although we had reason to believe that the woman had been into the town before admission to the House. No cause could be assigned for the case of Diphtheria, but as one or two other cases had previously occurred in the immediate neighbourhood, attention was directed to the gully traps in the street... In most cases of Scarlatina not traceable to outside infection the drains have been examined, and in several cases have been found to be at fault.

The Inspector of Nuisances in 1902 reports under the following headings:-

Total number of nuisances abated  
 Number of water closets repaired  
 Number limewashed, cleansed  
 New syphonic cisterns in place of old ones  
 Pan closets taken out and replaced by pedestals  
 Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction  
 Drains relaid, repaired or otherwise improved  
 Drains trapped by gully traps  
 Drains flushed with hosepipe  
 Drains smoke tested  
 Rooms disinfected after cases of infectious disease  
 Miscellaneous nuisances arising from various causes

.. 175	Heart Disease	8	Diarrhoea
.. 5	Accidents	9	Phthisis
.. 6	Brain Diseases	9	Tubercular Diseases
.. 8	Urinary System	9	Cancer
.. 17	Digestive System	9	Bronchitis
.. 20	All other causes	1	Pneumonia
175	Total	1	Alcoholism
			Premature Birth



## ANNUAL REPORT - 1972

Vital Statistics The mid-year estimated population of the town was 7,230 persons which was an increase of ten over the population enumerated at the Census in 1971. As there were eighteen more births than deaths during the year this presumes a virtually static population.

The number of births registered was 102 and this was nineteen more than in 1971. The crude birth rate was 14.1 per thousand population, the comparability factor was 0.98, and the adjusted birth rate 13.8 per thousand. Fifty seven of the births were males and 45 females.

During the year there were 84 deaths. Proportionately, when compared with the country as a whole, there were somewhat fewer deaths than would have been expected due to cancer and slightly more than would have been expected from vascular disorders. Two deaths occurred of infants under one year of age, two from motor vehicle accidents, and one other accidental death. The infant mortality rate was the highest for six years, 20 per thousand live births. Of all the deaths forty per cent occurred in persons aged seventy five years or older and seventy per cent in persons aged sixty five years or older.

Immunisation This was maintained at a high level during the year and the table shows the number of infants in the four districts who have received primary immunisations. Acceptance of rubella vaccination for adolescent girls was again higher than in the previous year. Measles vaccination of one-year-old children also continues to gain in acceptability but has not yet reached the level of other primary vaccination.

Infectious Diseases There was a large number of cases of measles during the year with the onset in May and the outbreak ending in December. A proportion of cases occurred amongst pre-school children but the majority were amongst primary school children. Primary vaccination in infancy started too late for this age-group to be protected but probably outbreaks of this size will not arise in the future. Measles is now a preventable disease and primary vaccination is gaining in acceptance although not yet as much as other forms of immunisation.



There was one death during the year due to influenza in an elderly person but this is not a notifiable infection.

Two unassociated cases of tuberculosis were notified both in men of pensionable age. Only one of these was a pulmonary infection and there were no cases among contacts.

One case of food poisoning occurred in a person on holiday in the town. There were no other cases where she was staying and it is probable that she was infected before arrival in the town. There was one incident of salmonella infections among livestock but there were no associated human cases.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 4,778 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,565  
and the number of new houses completed  
during the year was 74.

The estimated mid-year population was  
7,230, this figure was taken when  
calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	54	41	95
Illegitimate	3	4	7
Totals	<u>57</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>102</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	14.1
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (0.98)	13.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7

Stillbirths

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	10
Total Live and Still Births	103

Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)

Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	20
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	21
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	20
---	----

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	20
---	----



Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined  
per 1,000 total live and still births

29

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths

-

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births

-

DeathsMalesFemalesTotal

43

41

84

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population

11.6

Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.03)

11.9

CAUSES OF DEATHMalesFemalesTotal

Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach

1

1

2

Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine

1

1

2

Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus

2

-

2

Leukaemia

-

1

1

Other Malignant Neoplasms

4

2

6

Anaemias

-

1

1

Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease

1

-

1

Hypertensive Disease

-

1

1

Ischaemic Heart Disease

12

9

21

Other Forms of Heart Disease

3

2

5

Cerebrovascular Disease

6

10

16

Other Diseases of Circulatory System

1

4

5

Influenza

1

-

1

Pneumonia

1

4

5

Bronchitis and Emphysema

1

1

2

Asthma

2

-

2

Other Diseases of Respiratory System

1

-

1

Peptic Ulcer

-

1

1

Other Diseases of Digestive System

2

-

2

Hyperplasia of Prostate

1

-

1

Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality

-

2

2

Motor Vehicle Accidents

2

-

2

All Other Accidents

-

1

1

Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries

1

-

1

Totals

43

41

84

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	110
Infective Hepatitis	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Tuberculosis	2
Food Poisoning	1

INFANT MORTALITY1931 - 1972

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England and Wales
1931	7	68.3	66
1940	7	72.9	57
1941)	Records Incomplete	100.0	60
1942)		44.6	51
1943)		46.7	49
1944	4	35.7	45
1945	9	74.6	46
1946	8	59.4	43
1947	11	62.5	41
1948	10	55.2	34
1949	4	30.6	32
1950	1	7.7	30
1951	1	8.8	30
1952	2	15.1	28
1953	4	24.3	27
1954	5	24.6	25
1955	3	20.8	25
1956	3	21.9	24
1957	4	29.0	23
1958	2	16.0	22
1959	1	7.7	22
1960	3	21.6	21
1961	1	8.1	21
1962	9	64.3	21
1963	-	-	21
1964	2	15.7	21
1965	-	-	19
1966	3	26.4	19
1967	1	11.1	18
1968	1	10.3	18
1969	1	9.0	18
1970	1	11.0	18
1971	1	12.0	18
1972	2	20.0	17



IMMUNISATIONAlnwick U.D., Alnwick R.D., Amble U.D., Rothbury R.D.

(Population 27,840)

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	308	1	309	16	306	322
Whooping Cough	308	1	309	-	-	-
Tetanus	308	6	314	18	370	388
Polio	316	2	318	16	327	343
Measles	238	19	257	-	-	-
Rubella	-	206	206	-	-	-

There were 368 live births in the area during 1972 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	- 84%
Whooping Cough	- 84%
Tetanus	- 85%
Polio	- 86%
Measles	- 69%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	184
Alnwick R.D.	-
Amble U.D.	56
Rothbury R.D.	-
Total	240

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

## HOUSING

## (a) STATISTICS

New houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	28	-	28
(b) By Other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By Private Persons	-	46	46
Total number of inhabited houses in district		2565	
Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority		1162	

Closing and DemolitionsNumber of Houses

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	22
(Number of dwellings included above previously reported as "closed" - Nil)	
3. Houses closed, not demolished	4
4. Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in the above	-

Repairs - Houses made fit

5. By informal action	2
6. By owners, following statutory notice	-
7. By local authority in default of owners	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-

A. Information supplied to Department of Environment as requested in Annex A to Circular 50/72.

Number of Dwellings

<u>Estimates of Condition of Housing</u>	<u>Owned by Local Authority</u>	<u>Other Ownership</u>
<u>Stock in Mid - 1972</u>		

Unfit dwellings (a)

1. In areas already declared under Part III Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil
2. In other areas to be declared under Part III Housing Act 1957	Nil	19
3. Not in Part III Areas	Nil	15
4. Total of unfit dwellings (Items 1 plus 2 plus 3)	Nil	34

Dwellings not unfit (a)

5. Up to 12 point standard	894	1074
6. Capable of improvement to 12 point standard	266	230
7. Not capable of improvement to 12 point standard	Nil	42

Total dwellings in the area

1160 1380

(Items 4 plus 5 plus 6 plus 7)

(a) Dwellings which are temporarily unfit but to be made fit should be counted in either item 6 or item 7.



House Improvements - Housing Acts 1969-71

A. <u>General Improvement Areas</u>		<u>No. of areas</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>
Areas declared during year		3	228
B. <u>Privately-owned House Improvement</u>		<u>No. of separate houses</u>	
1. <u>Discretionary Grants</u>		<u>In G.I.A.'s</u>	<u>Others</u>
a) Applications submitted during year		-	42
b) Improvements completed by end of year		-	15
c) Approximate average grant per house of (b)		£936	
d) Total number of houses improved with grant aid since 1949		179	
2. <u>Standard Grants</u>		<u>During the year</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
a) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made		Nil	82
b) Number of houses so provided with			
i.	Bath or shower	-	63
ii.	Wash hand basin	-	65
iii.	Hot water supply	-	56
iv.	Water closet	-	72
v.	Sink	-	10
C. <u>Council House Improvements</u>		<u>During the year</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Number of council-owned properties improved with exchequer assistance		30	134

The 30 houses improved are included in No. 1 General Improvement Area.

(All of the 228 houses in the three G.I. Areas are local authority houses)

b) General

Cornhill Estate - 28 houses were completed by the end of the year and 45

houses were under various stages of construction.

Seventeen pre-fabricated dwellings were demolished.

Meadow Riggs - 42 of the 43 houses to be erected were completed.

General Improvement Areas

- (1) St. Thomas' Crescent - Of the 70 houses in the area works were completed to 30 houses.
- (2) St. George's Crescent - This area comprises 58 houses and work commenced in October. No houses were completed by the end of the year.
- (3) Oak, Ash, Elm, Beech Street and Howling Lane - There are 100 houses in this area and final approval was obtained from the Department of the Environment for works to be carried out. Work will commence early in the new year. In all three areas houses are vacated before work of improvement commences.



It is gratifying to find a large increase in the number of applications for discretionary grants. There were no applications for standard grants, this possibly being attributed to the increased discretionary grants given from one half to 75 per cent of the approved cost of the works and the desirability of people for obtaining a better standard of living.

Fifty six house inspections were made under the Housing Acts, 20 visits in relation to Closing and Demolition Orders and 195 inspections as regards improvement work, building regulations and drainage.

(c) Registered Common Lodging Houses

There are none in the district.

(d) HOUSES ERECTED

HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED

Year	By Private Persons	By Local Authority	By Other Housing Authorities	Total	Demolished	Houses or Parts Closed	Total	
1957	7	64	-	71	5	3	8	
1958	4	-	-	4	12	2	14	
1959	6	-	1	7	10	-	10	
1960	21	-	-	21	22	2	24	
1961	23	11	-	34	5	2	7	
1962	25	21	-	46	31	6	37	
1963	4	19	-	23	24	9	33	
1964	1	33	3	37	15	2	17	
1965	1	31	-	32	3	7	10	
1966	-	2	-	2	7	6	13	
1967	12	-	1	13	10	1	11	
1968	22	37	1	60	5	-	5	
1969	24	7	-	31	6	1	7	
1970	6	-	-	6	14	6	20	
1971	4	34	-	38	30	4	34	
1972	46	28	-	74	22	4	26	
Total	206	287	6	499	221	55	276	N.B. 15 dwellings reported as "closed" have since been demolished and are included in both figures. 2 Closing Orders revoked.



### WATER SUPPLY

The area is served by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, who maintained a plentiful and wholesome supply throughout the year.

The service is adequate and satisfactory.

Water is obtained from the Coquet Water Board, and the Half Moon Springs. Both supplies are filtered and chlorinated.

The Company readily investigate any complaints, and where necessary effect a remedy.

Cottages on Alnwick Moor are supplied by the Freemans Council and this water, whilst untreated, has remained wholesome over the year.

The swimming pool water is filtered and chlorinated and check samples of the water are taken daily. Three samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the results of all samples were satisfactory.

### RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES (BACTERIOLOGICAL)

Source of Supply	Whether water treated or untreated	Satisfactory		Suspicious Class 111	Unsatisfactory Class 1V
		Class 1	Class 11		
Alnwick Low Supply (C.W.B.)	Treated	11	-	-	-
Alnwick High Supply	Treated	9	-	-	-
Freemen's Supply	Untreated	1	-	-	-
Swimming Bath	Treated	3	-	-	-

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were no major works carried out to the existing sewers or to the Sewage Disposal Plant and the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are reasonably adequate.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955(a) MILK

Dealers licences are granted by the Northumberland County Council as the food and drugs authority and regular sampling was carried out by the County Public Health Inspector.

There is no untreated milk bottled in the district, and there are no producers in the area selling raw milk, consequently there were no samples of raw milk examined for *Brucella Abortus*. Two samples were taken of ultra heat treated milk. All samples taken satisfied the various tests.

RESULTS OF SAMPLES (BACTERIOLOGICAL)

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Untreated	2	-
Treated	33	-
U.H.T.	2	-

(b) FOOD PREMISES SUBJECT TO FOOD HYGIENE (GEN) REGULATIONS 1970CATEGORIES OF TRADE PREMISES

	Number of Premises	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 18	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 21
Grocers, Self Service Stores, General Dealers and Confectioners	28	28	9
Cafes, Snack Bars, School Kitchens, Boarding Houses	22	22	22
Public Houses, Hotels and Social Clubs	22	22	22
Butchers	7	7	7
Fruiterers	4	4	-
Chemists	4	4	-
Fried Fish and Chips	4	4	4
Bakeries	3	3	3
Off Licence Premises	2	2	-
Totals	96	96	67



Sixty two visits were made to the 96 food premises and any contraventions or deficiencies found were brought to the notice of those concerned.

There were no prosecutions during the year under the Regulations. One case of foreign matter in food was reported and this was dealt with satisfactorily without resorting to legal action.

(d) POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

(e) FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

Meat		cwts	lbs	Tons	Cwts	lbs
(a) Slaughterhouses	i carcass meat	12	42			
	ii offal	4	47		16	89
(b) Retail Shops	i carcass meat	-	85			
	ii offal	-	-			85
Canned Meats						14
Other canned foods					1	21
Ice cream					1	64
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown					1	78
TOTAL				1	2	15

Eighteen visits were made to shop premises for the primary purpose of food inspection.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two private slaughterhouses in the district. Both are fully equipped and maintained in accordance with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1968, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958.

Eighteen slaughtering licences were issued to slaughtermen.

A total sum of £171-23 was paid by the butchers for meat inspection as against a total sum of £132-58 for the previous year. 100% inspection of all carcasses was made and I am again indebted to Mr. J.A. Rodgett, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Amble U.D.C., and Mr. J.A. Staig, Public Health Inspector, Alnwick R.D.C., for meat inspection duties carried out during my absence.



No cysticercosis or tuberculosis was found.

209 visits were made to the slaughterhouses for meat inspection.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	493	3	3	1740	244
Number inspected	493	3	3	1740	244
<u>All diseases</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	-	2	1
Part " "	3	-	-	6	1
Offal condemned	53	1	-	56	24
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	11.4	100.0	-	3.7	10.7

CARCASES INSPECTED - 1967 - 72

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
1967	470	5	21	1495	219	2210
1968	508	14	6	1655	230	2413
1969	511	13	5	1458	282	2269
1970	556	1	5	1888	267	2717
1971	529	1	1	1728	243	2502
1972	493	3	3	1740	244	2483

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping its district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a part time rodent operator is employed for approximately 20/22 hours per week.

All treatments are given free of charge.

There was a decrease in the number of treatments carried out this year (61) in comparison to last year (80). Practically all infestations were minor in character.



One sewer treatment was carried out when 45 manholes were baited. A part take was recorded at 3 of these manholes and further baiting was carried out.

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	3189	23
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	139	5
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	41	3
(11) Mice	12	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	23	9
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	2	3
(11) Mice	-	-

#### FERAL PIGEONS

Two traps were in operation for most of the year and 186 pigeons were destroyed. Sixty two eggs were also destroyed. A sum total of 2832 pigeons have been destroyed in the past six years.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT 1963

#### REGISTRATION, GENERAL INSPECTIONS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total Number of Registered premises at end of year	General Inspections carried out	Persons Employed
Offices	3	47	11	322
Retail Shops	5	98	24	305
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	4	1	14
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	15	3	105
Totals	9	164	39	746
		TOTAL MALES	305	
		TOTAL FEMALES	441	

Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises - 89

Contraventions of the Act are brought to the notice of the employers, either by interview or written notice, after which follow up visits are made.

There were no applications received and no exemptions granted in relation to (1) space (2) temperature (3) sanitary conveniences (4) washing facilities.

There were no prosecutions instituted. Two accidents were reported and investigated.

### FACTORIES ACT 1961

#### 1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	16	1	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	18	-	-
Totals	49	34	1	-



2. Defects Found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp-ector	By H.M. Insp-ector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	-	-

3. Outwork

There were no out workers notified.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

NOTICES SERVED

	Informal	Complied with	Statutory	Complied with	Executed in default by Local Authority
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>					
Sec. 39 - drainage	1	1	-	-	-
45 - W.C.'s	2	2	-	-	-
75 - dustbins	1	1	-	-	-
92 - nuisances	3	3	-	-	-
<u>Housing Act, 1957</u>					
Sec. 9 - Repairs	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	8	8	-	-	-

Public Health Acts

Blocked drains cleared 5  
Houses disinfested re vermin 7 (silver fish 2, fleas 2, cockroaches 2)  
Wasps nests destroyed 15





