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Borough of Appleby

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947

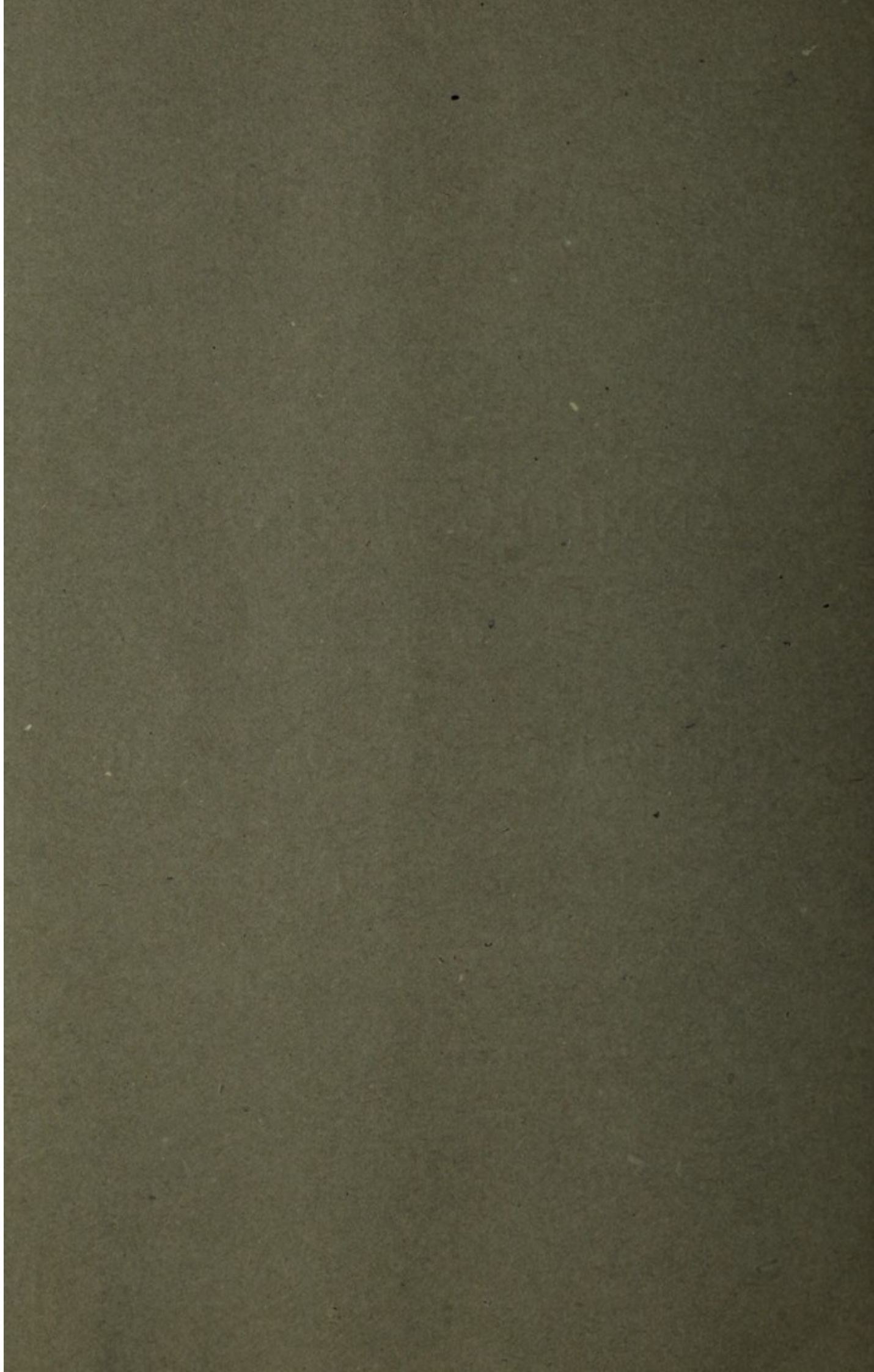
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KENDAL

TITUS WILSON AND SON LTD., PRINTERS

—  
1948





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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Appleby.*

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Borough during the year 1947.

During my first year as Medical Officer of Health I have concentrated upon a review of the general conditions of your Borough. Study of past practice has enabled me to work out the lines upon which progress may continue. I propose during the coming year to ask you to define your policy for the future.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, will not affect the functions of your Health Department to any appreciable extent. It will, however, relieve me of the burden of the personal services and enable me to devote more time to the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine. I believe that great opportunities for progress lie ahead.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my Department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

If you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to furnish them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	1,877
Population (mid 1947)	...	...	...	...	1,656
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	506
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£10,197

Full National Grid References are given in the numbered footnotes.

The ancient Borough of Appleby<sup>1</sup> is the County Town of Westmorland, and lies on a beautiful winding reach on the River Eden beneath the long escarpment of the Pennine Range. The town clusters compactly on the rising ground of the river banks and is dominated by the historic Castle. It is a small market town which mainly serves the surrounding farming countryside, but on one side the main trunk highway follows the old Roman road which passes over into north-east England. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of the Borough is mainly Penrith sandstone in the Permian System, but in the northern portion there are some purple sandstones and shales in the Millstone Grit series of the Carboniferous System, with alluvial deposits and terraces along the river, and some glacial drift. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, and sewerage, as well as affecting the economics of the Borough.

The climate is equable and the town is well sheltered from the prevailing winds. The air is generally very clear and there is little mist or fog. The rainfall varies between 30 and 40 inches a year, and snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The Borough is primarily a market town in character, and many of the small industries and crafts are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries and occupations which provide local employment and bring a measure of prosperity to the Borough:—

Egg Packing Station.

Milk Depôt.

Railway Work.

In addition to these local industries the Borough receives seasonal tourist and business traffic from the Trunk Road. The variety of these local opportunities for employment has kept Appleby happily free from unemployment, and has provided that economic security

<sup>1</sup> 35/685205.

which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

The rateable value of the Borough is £10,197 and the product of a penny rate is £41. The rate for 1947/48 is 17/10d. in the Pound, of which 13/6d. represents the County Rate.

#### STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part-time.	Other Offices.
F. T. Madge	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
W. Binney.	A.R.I.BA.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Surveyor.
F. T. Balmer.	—	Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	—
B. M. Machell.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health.	Part.	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

#### STAFF CHANGES.

There have been no changes in the staff during the year, but the Council is contemplating the part-time or whole-time employment of a qualified sanitary inspector to deal entirely with the duties of the Health Department, thus freeing the Surveyor to give more attention to the duties of his office. Mr. F. T. Balmer continued to act in an honorary capacity, and it is contemplated that he will retire completely under the proposed new arrangements.

I welcome these proposals which should ensure that progress is maintained in the future, and that the Council will be able to carry out efficiently all the public health duties and responsibilities which are laid upon the Borough by Act of Parliament.



	1946	1947
<b>Neonatal Deaths. (under 1 month)</b>		
Total neonatal deaths .. .. .	1	—
Rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	29.4	—
<b>Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)</b>		
Deaths .. .. .	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	—	—
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	4.4	5.8
<b>Maternal Mortality</b>		
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Total deaths .. .. .	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	1.43	1.17

Deaths from certain causes:—

	1946.	1947.
Cancer .. .. .	3	5
Measles .. .. .	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough .. .. .	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Cancer .. .. .	5
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .. .. .	4

The statistics reveal no marked changes from the previous year, and I regard them as very satisfactory.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

*Public Health Act 1936 Sections 148-170.*

The Borough had a very fortunate year in the low prevalence of infectious diseases. It escaped the nationwide attack of infantile

paralysis during the summer, although the surrounding district was affected. In the last two months of the year the sharp epidemic of measles which swept up the Eden Valley completely by-passed Appleby. Considering that the Borough is an important market centre for the surrounding countryside, as well as on one of the main lines of communication between the west and the east of England, it is surprising that it escaped so much infection.

It is particularly gratifying to record that there were no cases of Diphtheria. The steady decline of this disease has undoubtedly been due to the effect of immunisation in early childhood. This free service is available to all, and comprises two small injections into the arm, between the ages of eight months and one year, with a reinforcing dose at five years old on starting school, giving protection against this deadly disease. I wish to thank the local doctors and district nurses for their efforts to secure the immunisation of every baby before the first birthday, and the school medical officers for their part in helping to wipe out Diphtheria in Appleby.

The only infectious diseases notified during the year were two patients suffering from Erysipelas, and one from Undulant Fever, all adults, and none of whom were sufficiently affected to require treatment in hospital. Undulant Fever is the human form of contagious abortion in cattle and is liable to be conveyed by milk. As abortion is fairly common in the herds of this County it is likely that more cases occur of Undulant Fever in human beings but remain unrecognised unless the attack is severe.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.				
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-			
		Erysipelas .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	1	-	-
Undulant Fever ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total .. ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-

### Hospital arrangements for infectious diseases.

*Public Health Act 1936 Sections 185 and 197.*

Ormside Isolation Hospital<sup>2</sup> and Penrith Infectious Diseases Hospital<sup>3</sup> continued to be available for Appleby patients, and a motor ambulance remained stationed at the former place. Next year both these institutions will be transferred to the Regional Hospital Board, Newcastle, and the ambulance service will be passed to the control of the Westmorland County Council. These changes will be made under the National Health Service Act, 1946, and it is to be hoped that the financial benefits will compensate for the loss of local interest and management.

#### TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—

<sup>2</sup> 35/697165.

<sup>3</sup> 35/513314.

## HOUSING.

**Present Housing Position.**

There are 506 inhabited houses in the Borough. With an estimated population of 1,656 the average number of persons per house is 3.3. This figure is purely hypothetical since many of the better houses have only one or two occupants and therefore it is probable that the working class houses have an average of about four persons per house. This is rather a high figure for the many two-, three- and four-roomed houses, and it is known that certain overcrowding exists.

Owing to the lack of staff it has not been possible to keep up to date the overcrowding survey of 1936. Cases of overcrowding have been found even in Council property built as late as 1939, these being due to the sons and daughters of tenants returning from the Services bringing their additional families. With the present shortage of new houses this position is unavoidable, but four cases of overcrowding in property in Howgate Foot, Bridge End, Rock Cottages and Boroughgate were rehoused by the Council during the year.

The 506 inhabited houses comprise:—

One-roomed houses	...	...	...	...	1
Two-roomed houses	...	...	...	...	40
Three-roomed houses	...	...	...	...	67
Four-roomed houses	...	...	...	...	66
Five-roomed houses	...	...	...	...	56
Six and over	...	...	...	...	276
					—
			Total	...	506
					—

Since the bulk of the property is very old the structural state is not good; many of the houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses and dry rot and worm are fairly prevalent. The rising dampness cannot be remedied without extensive work in under-pinning and timber cannot be replaced on account of present shortages. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable to the landlords. The provision of amenities to the old houses of the working class type is below acceptable modern standards; baths are installed in few houses and a number have no internal water supply.

### **Housing Act Action.**

No action has been taken under the Housing Acts for many years and there are no outstanding closing orders, undertakings, demolition orders or clearance areas. No condemned houses have been occupied by licence under Defence Regulation 68AA nor by requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

Much work will be required in the near future to correct the Housing Survey records, and a number of the houses in the Borough are suitable for condemnation. Although rehousing of the occupants may delay the execution of the Housing Act action, it is essential that all condemnable property should be immediately ascertained and the necessary preliminary action commenced. In this way subsequent delay will be avoided, the operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, will be facilitated, and your future new housing requirements can be more accurately assessed.

### **Future Housing Requirements.**

In conjunction with your Borough Surveyor I estimate that the following figures will provide an approximate guide for your future long-term planning of housing requirements:—

Replacement of condemnable houses ... ..	30
Relief of legal overcrowding, and provision of a house for each family ... ..	80
	—
Total estimated requirement ... ..	110
	—

This figure does not take into consideration the many sub-standard houses which are tentatively regarded as capable of being reconditioned at reasonable expense. It is hoped that landlords will be encouraged to recondition their properties because in this way the architectural charm and character of the Borough will be preserved.

### **Proposed New Housing Schemes.**

The Council are in possession of a site<sup>4</sup> which will finally provide for between 70 and 80 houses. The first part of the scheme for 30 houses on this site was reduced by the Quota for 1947 to 16, and work was commenced at the end of August, 1947 on Scattergate.

<sup>4</sup> 35/684197.

Progress to the end of the year was that two pairs had roof timbers in position, a third pair up to the first floor level, and the foundations excavated for the fourth pair. The main sewer and 50 per cent. of the road works were completed. No application was made for a further quota.

By private enterprise one house was completed and occupied, and a further two were 90 per cent. completed at the end of the year.

### **Housing Conversions.**

The Council have requisitioned two properties during the year and converted or reconditioned them to provide habitable accommodation for four families. These properties were Castle Bank which was converted for three separate families, and one house in Low Wiend which was reconditioned by the tenant.

By private enterprise three sub-standard dwellings were converted or reconditioned. This procedure is encouraged by the Council and licences are granted whenever a reasonable scheme is proposed.

### **Tenants Selection.**

The method adopted for the selection of tenants of Council houses is one which combines the "points" scheme and personal selection. Each applicant completes a form and is awarded points from which a short list is compiled, and from this the personal selection is made.

### **Municipal Housing Management.**

The property owned by the Council includes 32 dwellinghouses exclusive of those in course of erection. Maintenance work is normally performed by local contractors. The proposed increase in the number of houses owned by the Local Authority will eventually raise questions of maintenance policy which should be formulated at an early stage.

Typical pre-war Council houses have a rateable value of £12 and the limits of the rent scales are 5/6d. to 10/- per week, with an average of 8/- exclusive of rates. Post-war building costs will probably cause the rents of your new property to be considerably higher.

The very natural desire for improved standards of living accommodation must inevitably lead to increased rents, and there is always a risk that some other essential household expenditure will have to be correspondingly reduced and may have repercussions upon the public health.

**Verminous Houses.**

*Public Health Act 1936 S.83-85.*

None were discovered during the year.

**Nuisance re Dwellings.**

*Public Health Act S.91-100.*

No nuisances were reported or discovered regarding dwellinghouses and no notices were issued during the year.

**Dangerous Buildings.**

*Public Health Act 1936 S.58.*

Two instances of dangerous buildings were reported. One was reconditioned and the other was receiving the attention of the owner at the end of the year.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.**

*Public Health Act 1936 Sections 268-269.*

There is only one mobile van used as a dwelling and this is situated in the Agricultural Executive Committee's implement park on the outskirts of the town. It has been inspected twice during the year.

There are no licenced camping sites in the Borough. Unlicensed camping sites are limited to occasional use only; intermittent camping takes place along the bank of the River Eden during the fishing season and is generally not objectionable.

Camping for periods of not more than four days each occurs twice a year by the staff of travelling fairgrounds and shows which park and operate in the Butts where public conveniences for both sexes serve the sanitary requirements.

A more serious nuisance occurs during the June Fair which lasts approximately five days. Camping on the Roman Road adjacent to Gallows Hill and on the Longmarton Road is done on a very large scale. Tents, motor trailers, and horse-drawn caravans assemble in hundreds along the road sides, and the occupants use the fields and hedgerows for all sanitary purposes which leaves, after their departure, a foul and polluted area. A committee has been formed to examine the possibility of moving the campers off the roads on to the Gallows Hill,<sup>5</sup> and a provisional scheme has been made to provide an access roadway and temporary latrines with chemical closets, and a proper water supply.

<sup>5</sup> 35/683216.

## WATER.

The public water supply is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. The result of laboratory examination of water is set out in Appendix A from samples taken soon after the end of the year.

The source of the supply is at the foot of the Pennines from two natural springs at Bank Wood<sup>6</sup> in the Parish of Hilton. These springs arise near the junction of the St. Bees sandstone and the red shale strata, and apparently have a deep source. Their yield is remarkably constant throughout the year, and, as they are very well protected there is no danger from surface contamination. The water is quite soft, having only seven degrees of hardness, and is suitable for all domestic purposes. The storage capacity of the covered and ventilated reservoir is approximately 60,000 gallons, with top and bottom levels of 642.51 feet and 637.00 feet above Ordnance Datum. The site is enclosed and protected by a stone perimeter wall. The water is untreated.

The supply is by gravitation through six-inch cast iron mains, which supply 26 outlying farms in the Parishes of Hilton and Murton *en route*. A service reservoir used only as a reserve supply, is situated at Crotty within the Borough with a capacity of 98,000 gallons, with top and bottom levels of 595 feet and 587 feet above Ordnance Datum, and is controlled with by-pass and reflux valves. The district mains are five-, four- and three-inch cast iron pipes with ball valve hydrants and sluice valve controls.

The distribution system is laid on to the majority of the 506 houses in the Borough. 477 have water laid on; 10 houses in Holme Street are served by two standpipes; six cottages at Low Wiend are served by a standpipe; three houses in Factory Lane are served by a standpipe; three houses in Chapel Street have an external standpipe each; and four other houses in this street are served by one standpipe. Two farms and one dwellinghouse have private supplies.

The average daily consumption of water from the public mains is 98,000 gallons, which is equivalent to 54 gallons per head per day. This relatively high figure is due in part to waste.

Although the supply is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality, the level of the head works makes the pressure in the higher parts of the Borough rather poor. If development of this high land is contemplated in the future it will be necessary to consider boosting the supply.

<sup>6</sup> 35/733195.

**SEWERAGE.**

*Public Health Act 1936, Sections 14, 15, 47 and 87.*

The Borough is well equipped with water closets, 497 out of a total 506 houses have either one or more, although a number of houses share a common convenience with neighbours. There are nine privies on outlying farms which are not near the sewerage system. The majority of the closets are connected to the main sewer. Only nine being served by cesspits or septic tanks. There were no conversions of privies to water closets during the year.

Public conveniences are situated at two separate points in the town, one in the centre and the other in Bridge Street, with an additional men's urinal on the Sands adjacent to the Shire Hall. The convenience in the town serves males only, with two water closets and four urinal stalls. The Bridge Street conveniences serve both sexes, having two water closets for females, and one water closet and three urinal stalls for males. The urinal on the Sands is in a very poor state of repair and it is proposed that it shall be replaced by a new convenience for both sexes.

The sewerage mains are mostly dual purpose, taking both surface water and foul drainage. Many of the old drains are of bastard size and very often laid with open joints. Many of these defects have been remedied during excavations for other purposes, but the work has been hampered by the record plans being out of date and in many cases inaccurate. A survey is in progress and gradual replacement will be effected. The main sewer crosses the river near the Butts by an inverted siphon and thence flows through a brick-lined tunnel for 440 yards under Holme Wood to the riverbank at St. Nicholas' Wood whence it is piped for the remaining 320 yards to the disposal plant.<sup>7</sup>

The sewage disposal plant consists of two alternately operating precipitation tanks from which the overflow passes in a main earthenware feeder for broad irrigation over about four acres of land alongside the riverbank. The run-off is piped into the main outfall for discharge into the Eden.

The plant is obsolete and unsatisfactory in operation. The absence of storm water tanks is probably not very important as the volume

<sup>7</sup> 35/675212.

of the main river at those times provides great dilution. There are no sludge drying beds and the hand-scooped sludge has to be deposited around the precipitation tanks. The area of the land used for irrigation is too small for the population served, and the soil has become sewage sick. Many of the earthenware pipes have been broken and the land is so clogged that many of the beds have merely a superficial flow into the outfall main. The beds are unfenced and cattle are permitted to graze and wade through the irrigation area causing further damage to your plant. The outfall into the Eden shows a cloudy trail but the dilution by the main river is very considerable.

I recommend that your Council should consider the early replacement of the sewage disposal plant. It is my opinion that, after preliminary detritus and settling tanks the effluent should be treated on rotary arm filter beds and a humus tank, in preference to land irrigation if sufficient pressure head can be obtained. If, however, land irrigation is preferred a much greater area will have to be acquired and more constantly maintained. Proper sludge drying lagoons are required.

In the meantime certain immediate measures should be taken to improve the situation. Improvised sludge drying lagoons should be cheaply constructed. The efficiency of the irrigation beds should be improved by heavy liming and breaking up of the top crust. The broken earthenware pipes should be repaired, and most important the beds should be protected from stock. These recommended temporary measures do not effect the main issue of replacement of an obsolete plant.

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

*Public Health Act 1936, Sections 72, 76 and 77.*

*Salvage Recovery Order 1940.*

Refuse is collected from the whole of the area of the Borough of Appleby by Council employees with the use of a hired vehicle. The Council has approved the purchase of a refuse vehicle and delivery is awaited.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Gallows Hill. The tip is fenced in and treated against vermin by contract with the Agricultural Executive Committee. The amount of refuse is insufficient to warrant the cost of collection of salvage.

Street cleansing is carried out systematically twice weekly in the town centre and as often as necessary on the district and county roads. The public conveniences are cleansed and disinfected by a part-time caretaker.

The average annual volume of refuse is estimated as 1,500 cubic yards.

### FOOD AND DRUGS.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, the Borough has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk and dairies, and in the wide field of protection of its citizens from foodborne diseases. The County Council are responsible for the licensing of designated milk producers, the adulteration of foodstuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the last war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, its full operation has not yet been locally achieved. The Ministry of Health is sponsoring a vigorous campaign against foodborne diseases, and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all food handlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wide powers provided by the Act.

#### **Precautions against contamination of Food.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1938. Section 13.*

Periodical inspection of food premises has been carried out under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and proposals have been made for raising the standard of cleanliness and general hygiene in these places. I regard thorough cleanliness in the kitchens as far more important than superficial polish in the dining-rooms, and no caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes. I intend to give food traders my full support in enabling them to have the necessary work done to achieve satisfactory hygienic standards. Traders are likely to offer their full co-operation in these aims which will enhance the value of a business and avoid any unwelcome publicity for uncleanliness.

### **Registration of Ice-cream Premises.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1938 Section 14.*

*Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947.*

Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there are four registrations for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and one registration for sale only. The attention of all ice-cream traders in the Borough was drawn by public notice in the Press to the legal requirement of registration by the Council.

During the year the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, came into force requiring that all ice-cream manufactured for sale by the hot mix method shall be heat treated in a prescribed manner, and that all ice-cream for sale shall be cooled and stored within certain defined temperatures. It also gave traders warning that at a date in the near future all hot mix heat treatment plants will have to be fitted with recording and indicating thermometers. These Regulations apply even to premises which are exempt from registration.

At the year end a code of requirements for ice-cream traders was being formulated for their guidance in preparing for the 1948 season. Bacteriological laboratory examinations will be carried out in the future on samples of ice-cream retailed in the Borough.

### **Registration of Prepared Meat Premises.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1978, Section 14.*

Registration of sausage manufactories and potted, preserved, pressed meat and pickled food preparing premises, under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is in the course of completion.

### **Registration of Dairies and Dairywomen.**

*Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926-43.*

There were 16 registrations in the Borough under the Milk and Dairies Regulations at the end of the year. No action was necessary under Section 22 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

### **Supervision of Cowsheds and Dairies.**

*Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926-43.*

Cowsheds and dairies have been inspected periodically and found to be well ventilated and maintained in a clean condition. Many of the buildings are aged and certain repairs are required, but the carrying out of these works is delayed by the present national shortage of materials. No notices have been issued in view of this situation.

When renovations and reconstructions again become practicable it is important that a high standard should be demanded, as, unless the premises conform to the standard of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, the granting of Tuberculin Tested Licences may be prejudiced at a later date.

When the Food and Drugs Act, 1944, becomes operative the supervision of the cowsheds and dairies will become the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but there is no sign of this transfer of functions taking place yet. In the meantime close co-operation is maintained with the Agricultural Executive Committee and the National Agricultural Advisory Service officers.

### **Cleanliness of Retail Milk Supplies.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1938, Section 68.*

Three samples of milk retailed in the Borough were submitted for examination for cleanliness by the Bacterium Coli and Methylene Blue Tests. One sample was found to be unsatisfactory.

### **Tuberculous Milk.**

Three samples of milk retailed in the Borough were submitted for the biological test for the presence of Tuberculosis organisms. The results were all negative.

### **Milkborne Diseases.**

No epidemics of milkborne disease occurred during the year, and therefore no action was required to stop any milk supplies or restrict the activities of milk handlers under Articles 18 and 19 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

### **Milk Supplies.**

The retail suppliers of milk within the Borough are six in number, comprising five producer-retailers most of whose milk is produced within the Area, and one retailer who sells Tuberculin Tested milk produced outside the Borough. The balance from producer-retailers, together with the bulk of milk from seven other producers in the area is dealt with by the Express Dairy Company's Milk Depôt for distribution. The arrangements governing milk handled by the Depôt do much to improve the standard and cleanliness of milk produced in the district. Four cowkeepers produce only for their own use.

The number of producers within the area who were currently licensed at the year end by the Westmorland County Council as producers of Tuberculin Tested milk was nil, and as producers of accredited milk was one.

Out of the total herds in the Area two were within the Attested Herds Scheme. The Westmorland Agricultural Executive Committee is fostering the national policy of eradication of bovine tuberculosis by this method. Westmorland holds a steadily improving creditable record in this respect, and in 1947 had the highest percentage of cattle in attested herds of all the English Counties, although still a long way behind the leading Scottish Counties and some foreign countries. From the public health standpoint I welcome this progressive policy as it will materially assist in wiping out the crippling and deaths from milkborne bovine tuberculosis in man.

#### **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-1946.**

The number of licences to use the descriptions of designated milks, issued by the Borough Council and in force at the year end was one Form B as dealers. There were no Forms D as supplementary licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936/1946.

#### **Pasteurisation and Heat Treatment.**

*Defence Regulation 55G.*

There are no pasteurisation plants nor heat treatment plants licensed within the Borough.

#### **Adulteration of Milk.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sections 1-7.*

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council.

#### **Slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yards.**

*Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sections 57-61.*

Four slaughterhouses are licensed by the Borough Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but no slaughtering has been done as all meat is dealt with at the central killing station in Penrith. The local premises are retained on the register to maintain the licences until the Government policy on the continuance of central slaughtering is made known.

**Condemnation of Foodstuffs.***Food and Drugs Act, Sections 10-18.*

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption:—

Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	4 tins
Canned Meat	...	...	...	2 „
Fresh Fish	...	...	...	6 stones

**Adulteration of Foodstuffs.***Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 1-7.*

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council.

**GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.**

The difficult staffing position during the year necessitated inspection of property more by requests from tenants than by a routine system, but towards the latter end of the year a system was being drawn up to cover the inspection of all property within the Borough by sections. It is hoped that the staffing problem will be remedied by next year.

24 general property inspections were made during the year exclusive of visits made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Shops Acts, 1912/36, and the Factories Act 1937. 26 other sanitary inspections were also carried out.

**Offensive Trades.***Public Health Act 1936, Section 107.*

There are no offensive trades within the meaning of the Act carried on in the Borough.

**Factories.***Factories Act 1937.*

There were 18 factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937, are the responsibility of the Borough Council for enforcement. 13 inspections were made and in one case it was necessary to issue a written notice. No prosecutions were required. Two factories were removed from the register during the year. There were no basement bakehouses.

Ten defects were found, one relating to lack of cleanliness was referred from H.M. Inspector of Factories and was remedied. The

remaining nine defects related to unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences. Three of these were premises where the conveniences were not separate for both sexes, and temporary arrangements were made for the use of a water closet in adjacent property until such time as proper sanitary arrangements can be installed. No references to H.M. Inspector were made and only two were received from him.

Discussions with H.M. Inspector took place with regard to the means of escape in case of fire in certain premises and the issue of certificates to cover this. The question of endorsing licences to include the storage of cellulose was also discussed.

No lists of outworkers was sent to the Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect. Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service, giving the details of the Borough Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

**Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities.	4	10	1	Nil.
Other Factories	14	3	—	Nil.
Total	18	13	1	Nil.

## Cases in which defects were Found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred.		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	5	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	3	-	-	-	-
Other offences not including offences relating to Homework)	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	10	1	-	1	-

**Common Lodging Houses.**

*Public Health Act 1936 Part IX.*

There were no common lodging houses within the Borough.

**Rent Restriction Act.**

One application was made and a certificate was issued under the 1920 Act in respect of a house at Battlebarrow. No action was required in respect of rent book entries.

**Smoke Abatement.***Public Health Act 1936 Sections 101-106.*

There was no cause for action during the year.

**Laboratory Services.***Public Health Act 1936, Section 196.*

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available both at Carlisle and Kendal for all public health purposes. During the year a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature, free of charge, to the Local Authority and the patient. This should do much to encourage the freer use of modern technical diagnostic methods by general practitioners and by your Health Department.

**Shops Acts 1912-1936.**

These duties have been periodically carried out and certain developments were in hand at the end of the year to improve the position for the routine supervision of sanitary and washing facilities and the temperature maintained in shops.

**Byelaws.**

The byelaws in force on matters relating to public health were:—  
Building Byelaws.

**New Legislation.**

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etv.) Regulations, 1947.  
Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

**APPENDIX A.****WATER ANALYSIS.**

I hereby certify that I have analysed the undermentioned sample of water marked "Head Works, Bank Wood—1500 hours, 12/2/48," which I received from W. Binney, Esq., Borough Surveyor, Appleby, of the 13th day of February, 1948, and that I find as follows:—

	Parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrites ... ..	None
Chlorine as Chlorides ... ..	1.3000

<i>Water Analysis—contd.</i>	Parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.2312
Ammonia ... ..	.0011
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0042
Oxygen Absorption ... ..	.0292
Injurious Metals ... ..	None
Total Solid Matter dried at 100° C. ... ..	9.0000
pH. value of sample ... ..	6.8
Temporary hardness ... ..	3.6 degrees
Permanent ,, ... ..	3.4 ,,
Lead erroded or dissolved after 24 hours contact ...	None
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale ... ..	2
Appearance of sample in 2 ft. tube ... ..	Not quite bright
Odour when heated to 50° C. ... ..	None

*Microscopical Examination.*

Satisfactory.

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	1 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at at 20/22° C. after 72 hours ... ..	126 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test at 45° C. ...	Negative

*Observations.*

The sample affords no evidence of pollution by sewage, or contamination by any other kind of undesirable drainage.

It is of a high order of bacterial purity, consequently it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

(Signed) C. J. H. STOCK.

Sample taken after moderate rainfall in the preceding 48 hours. Catchment area apparently uncontaminated.

I here certify that I have analysed the undermentioned sample of water marked "From Reservoir Supply — Crotty Reservoir — 1530 hours, 12/2/48," which I received from W. Binney, Esq., Borough

Engineer, Appleby, on the 13th day of February, 1948, and that I find as follows:—

	Parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrites ... ..	None
Chlorine as Chlorides ... ..	1.4500
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.2008
Ammonia ... ..	.0063
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0057
Oxygen Absorption ... ..	.0284
Injurious Metals ... ..	None
Total Solid Matter dried at 100° C. ... ..	8.0000
pH. value of sample ... ..	6.8
Temporary hardness ... ..	2.2 degrees
Permanent ,, ... ..	5.3 ,,
Lead eroded or dissolved after 24 hours contact ...	None
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale ... ..	2
Appearance of sample in 2 ft. tube ... ..	Not quite clear
Odour when heated to 50° C. ... ..	Very faint earthy

*Microscopical Examination.*

Satisfactory.

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	4 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 20/22° C. after 72 hours ... ..	122 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test at 45° C. ...	Negative

*Observations.*

The sample affords no evidence of pollution by any undesirable drainage, and it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

(Signed) C. J. H. Stock.

Sample taken after moderate rainfall in the preceding 48 hours. Catchment area apparently uncontaminated.

I hereby certify that I have analysed the undermentioned sample of water marked "From Town's Main—Tap in Moothall—1700 hours, 12/2/48," which I received from W. Binney, Esq., Borough Surveyor, Appleby, on the 13th day of February, 1948, and that I find as follows:—

	Parts per 100,000
Nitrogen as Nitrites ... ..	None
Chlorine as Chlorides ... ..	1.2000
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.3292
Ammonia ... ..	.0061
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0040
Oxygen Absorption ... ..	.0484
Injurious Metals ... ..	None
Total Solid Matter dried at 100° C. ... ..	13.0000
pH. value of sample ... ..	6.8
Temporary hardness ... ..	0.4 degrees
Permanent     ,,     ... ..	7.0     ,,
Lead eroded or dissolved after 24 hours contact ... ..	None
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale ... ..	3
Appearance of sample in 2 ft. tube ... ..	Not quite bright
Odour when heated to 50° C. ... ..	None

*Microscopical Examination.*

Satisfactory.

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	1 in 2 ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 20/22° C. after 72 hours ... ..	7 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37° C. after 72 hours ... ..	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test at 45° C. ... ..	Negative in 40 ml.

*Observations.*

This sample affords no indication of the presence of nitrogenous constituents such as are associated with sewage, or sewage contaminated drainage, and as it is of a very high order of bacterial purity, it is of good and wholesome quality for all domestic purposes.

(Signed) C. J. H. STOCK.

Sample taken after moderate rainfall in the preceding 48 hours. Catchment area apparently uncontaminated.



