

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashington U.D.C.

Contributors

Ashington (Northumberland, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1941.

Incorporating
the
Report of the Sanitary Inspector
(Mr. G. W. Tate)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Ashington.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941, bearing upon the state of health and the sanitary conditions of the Urban District.

The design of the Report is in strict conformity with the circular as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

For the year under review further instructions have been given by the Ministry of Health which, as the War drags on, tend to a progressive abbreviation in the amount of statistical information to be made available, mainly on grounds of national security.

Hence are omitted complete tables of local populations or quotations from figures supplied by the R-G. which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

The Report is therefore confined to the quotation of rates only and total figures are omitted.

For similar reasons no mention is made to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military and other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works or other public utility undertakings.

Of major importance was the endeavour to secure a large proportion of protection against diphtheria among pre-school children and school children, and for a first attempt I felt reasonably satisfied with the attainment of 63% of the school children immunised.

Another item of much importance giving a great amount of scope to Medical Officers of Health is the advent of the Scabies Order in late November, though its full effects cannot be discerned until well into next year.

I have again pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by the members of the Council and for the assistance of the staffs in the Sanitary and Child Welfare Departments, and also for the very valuable co-operation exhibited by the hospital staff up to the time of its transference to the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1942.

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the assistance of the staff in the Laboratory and Child Welfare
Departments, and also for the very valuable co-operation exhibited
by the hospital staff up to the time of its transferance to the
South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES ALGER,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1942.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR 1941.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	}	James Angus, M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H.
Medical Officer M. & C.W. Authority.....		
Medical Officer Infectious Diseases Hospital.....		
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	}	Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer, Infectious Diseases Hospital.		
Dental Officer.....		G.E. Wilson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., L.D.S., part-time.
Ophthalmic Surgeon.....		Alex MacRae, M.D., D.O.M.S. part-time.
Obstetrical Consultants...	{	E. Farquhar Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng)
	{	H. Evers, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng).
	{	F.E. Stabler, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng).
Sanitary)	}	G.W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San.I.
Housing)		
Meat)		
Sanitary)	}	E.W. Strachan, M.S.I.A., A.R., San. I.
Meat)		
Health and Child Protection Visitors	{	Miss I. Taylor, S.C.M.,
	{	Miss N.P. McKenna, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital		Miss E.A. Chisholm, S.R.N.
Staff Nurse		Miss E. Ormston.
Offices of the M.O.H.		146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone		Ashington. 287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector		Council Chambers, Ashington.
Telephone		Ashington 210.
Hospital for Infectious Diseases		North Seaton Station, Ashington.
Telephone		Ashington 20

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1941.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident population mid 1941 ... Temporarily suppressed. Min.
of H. Circular 2604.

Rateable value- £109,011.

One penny rate produces - £422.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941)- Temporarily suppressed.
Min. of H. Circular 2604.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 14.4

Still birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 15.0

Death Rate per 1,000 of the average population - 11.2

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar
General's short list):-

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	-
No. 30 Other maternal causes...	4.96
Total.....	4.96

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	74.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	74.36
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	76.9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	4
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1941.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1941 is 74.4 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for 1940 was 65.31 per 1,000 children born.

NEONATAL DEATHS:- Included in above figures - number 15, and of those 13 died within the first week of life.

Comparative mortality table during the past years is as follows:-

Year.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Number of Infant deaths from										
(a) Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs	6	12	3	5	4	3	4	1	1	1
(b) Infantile deaths under 1 year.	48	51	43	57	41	37	33	27	29	30

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. - No change.

The following table shows to what extent these arrangements are utilised and the information may be conveniently set out at this point, though it can be correlated to the context of Section F.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

DURING THE YEAR 1941.

<u>Specimens sent in by.</u>	<u>Specimen.</u>	<u>Neg.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>
Medical Practitioners.	Tubercle Sputa	55	5
C.C.T.O.	Tubercle Sputa	34	6
M.O.H.	Swabs for C.	23	1
	Diphtheriae		
Medical Practitioners.	do	25	4
M.O.H.	Swabs for		
	Haem. Strept.	2	1
Medical Practitioners.	do	16	4
M.O.H.	Blood for	24	-
	Enteric Fever		
Medical Practitioners	do	11	1

M.O.H.	Faeces for	-	-
Medical Practitioners	Enteric Fever	7	-
	do		
Medical Practitioners	Miscellaneous	Total - 6	

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR THE HOSPITAL FOR
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1st January to 30th September, 1941.

Sent in by M.O.H. as Physician in charge of the Hospital.

	<u>Neg.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blood for Enteric Fever.	2	2	4
Faeces for Enteric Fever & Dysentery	21	4	25
Urine for Enteric Fever.	19	-	19
Swabs for C. diphtheriae.	218	90	308
Swabs for Haemolytic Strept.	145	83	228
Virulence Test for B. diphtheriae	4	11	15
Swabs for Vincent's Angina	2	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fluid for Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	1	1
Sputum for Tuberculosis	2	-	2
Miscellaneous	2	2	4

On the 1st October, 1941 the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board came into operation taking over the Hospitals for Infectious Diseases at Ashington, Bedlington and Morpeth.

<u>Ambulance Facilities</u>	}	No change
<u>Nursing in the Home</u>		
<u>Treatment Centres & Clinics</u>		
<u>Hospitals.</u>		

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics were held in the M.C.W. building at South View.

Sessions - 98 from 2 - 4 p.m. Monday and Thursday afternoons throughout the year.

The following is a record of the attendances during the twelvemonth.

Total attendances during the year:-

Children under 1 year 5,807
Children between 1 and 5 years 1,451

Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time during the year and who at the date of their first attendance were -

(a) under 1 year of age 397
(b) between the ages of 1 and 5 years 188

Total number of children who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were -

(a) under 1 year of age 329
(b) over 1 year of age 578

Special attention continues to be directed to observing the dental and oral state of the mothers attending with their babies. Those in whom the oro-dental state is found to be unsatisfactory are referred to the Dental Officer for treatment.

Milk Foods etc.

During the year milk foods and other specialities were supplied in accordance with the undermentioned data.

	Food Sold at Cost Price.	Food Supplied free to necess- itous cases.
Ostermilk, No.1	825 lbs.	-
Ostermilk, No.2	4073 lbs	19 lbs.
Cow and Gate	7760 lbs.	85 lbs.
Virol	1760 tins	-
Virolax	155 tins	-
Codliver oil Emulsion	307 btls.	-
Marmite	874 cartons	-
Maltoline	165 tins	-
Trufood	635 tins	-

In so far as the supply of food free of cost is concerned, all such was supplied to necessitous cases coming within the scale of income approved by the Ministry of Health, and amounted in value to £8.13.0.

Clinics for the Pre-School Child (2 - 5 years).

Every second Tuesday afternoon from 2 - 4 p.m.

Number of Sessions held 24
Number of children examined 250

Defects in pre-school children during 1941. Numbers of children examined in whom were found:-

Caries of Teeth	106	Squints.....	29
Tonsils enlarged ...	19	Bronchitis	11

Those children in whom dental caries is disclosed at these examinations are referred to the Dental Officer.

MATERNITY SERVICES IN ASHINGTON.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Two afternoon sessions are held per month throughout the year.

Number of sessions held - 24

Total number of new cases under above auspices 59
Total number of re-visits under above auspices 99

References to Specialists. - There were referred to obstetric specialists in Newcastle during the year from the Ante-Natal Clinics under the scheme, 9 cases for opinion and report at a cost of £9.9.0.

Home Helps - Home Helps have been available during the year and their services have been engaged on 28 occasions.

Maternity Outfits may be had on requisition and payment of a small fee.

Maternal Morbidity (cases of puerperal pyrexia) - Facilities contained in Ministry of Health Memo 156/M. C. W. 1930 continued to be available to practitioners.

Maternity Hospital - The agreement still obtains with the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle to admit from this Area emergency maternity cases approved by the Medical Officer of Health, and during 1941 there were 27 such. The types of these cases are described as follows:- Blood transfusion 2; Heart Disease 3; retained placenta 3; pelvic deformity 1; laparotomy 2; Ovarian Cyst 1; A.P. Haemorrhage 2; Toxaemia of Pregnancy 3; Incomplete abortion 3; Puerperal Pyrexia 2; Instrumental delivery 1; normal deliveries 4.

CHILDLIFE PROTECTION - Childlife Protection Visitors are the two

Health Visitors. At the end of the year 1940 there were three children on the register, one of whom was legally adopted in February 1941.

Clinic for Ultra Violet Light Therapy.

This clinic commenced in mid May 1941, and is conducted twice weekly - Monday and Thursday forenoons.

No. of children who attended for the first time..... 78
No. of re-visits of the said children.....1,335

During the year it was open on 64 occasions and the conduct of the clinic was supervised by one or other of the Medical Officers of Health at least once weekly, twice if possible, assisted by both Health Visitors.

SUMMARY OF CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES, etc.

Number of infants supervised - First Visits	390
" " " " - Total Visits	1484
Number of re-visits to children from 1 - 5 years	2796
First Visits to Babies wholly breast fed.....	321
" " " " " hand-fed	20
" " " " " partly hand-fed	22
First visits to expectant mothers.....	121
Total visits to expectant mothers.....	268

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Periodic water sampling is carried out, and the following table shows the results of the Bacteriological examinations carried out during 1941.

Source.	Date.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 37°C after 48 hrs per ml.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 22°C after 48 hrs per ml.	Coli Aerogenes Test organisms per 100ml.
Town Supply	23.1.41.	Nil	38	3
do	23.1.41.	2	48	7
do	12.2.41.	3	271	8
do	12.2.41.	5	178	5
do	12.3.41.	Uncountable.	54	3
do	3.4.41.	7	68	Nil
do	30.4.41.	Nil	32	Nil
do	3.7.41.	Nil	60	Nil
do	20.8.41.	3	10	Nil
do	9.10.41.	11	17	3
do	23.10.41.	Nil	Nil	8
do	12.11.41.	4	64	17
do	17.12.41.	7	84	1

Woodhorn Colliery Supply	23. 1.41	3	57	1
do	3. 4.41	Uncountable.	Uncountable.	2
do (Marked "Unfit")	3. 4.41	Uncountable.	Uncountable.	13
New Moor Colliery Supply.	26.11.41	Nil	29	Nil
Bothak Village (Sand Quarry)	23. 1.41	9	310	1
do	17. 9.41	1	4440	Nil

There remain five standpipes in back streets, supplying 17 houses with water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension in sewerage took place during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. - No action was taken.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. - No conversions took place during the year under review.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. - No change.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The shortage of materials for repairs is a progressive factor in the diminution of property repairs, and essentials, only, receive attention from the Builders.

Many hundreds of burst water services were dealt with during the year without any more than verbal contact between Owner and Builder. The severe frosts were, of course, responsible for the abnormal number requiring attention.

The following table summarises the Notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or written Notice.	Complied with.
To clear choked drain or Water-closets.	133	133
To provide ashbins.	51	51
To repair eaves, gutters, and downspouts.	16	15
To repair sink or waste pipes.	12	12
Defective or leaky roofs, damp walls, etc.	20	17
Defective fireplaces.	4	4
Defective outbuildings.	3	3
Defective manhole covers.	3	3
Defective water closets.	8	8
Defective sash cords.	-	-
Defective wallplaster.	5	4
Offensive accumulations.	6	6
Defective ceilings.	5	3
Defective foodstores.	3	3
	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>

SHOPS AND OFFICES, including Cinemas and Public Buildings.

The ventilation, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness of places of public entertainment received attention during the year, and no complaint was received affecting any of these places.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no civilian camping sites in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT and ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

One householder who had permitted the chimney of his dwelling house to be accidentally on fire, was summonsed by the Sanitary Inspector on a report from the Police, and was mulct of two shillings and sixpence for this offence. It should be pointed out, however, that a number of householders, in addition to the one specified, were guilty of this offence, but they having committed the offence during the hours of black-out, were summonsed, under the Defence Regulations for contravening the Black-out Regulations.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Institute Swimming Baths are open to the public, both members and non-members alike. The shower baths have been very widely used by the Services in the district, who have also utilised the swimming pool.

Appended are the results of the bacterioscopic examination of specimens of water taken from the baths.-

SWIMMING BATHS.

Source	Date	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 37°C after 48 hrs.per ml.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 37°C after 48 hrs.per ml.	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Institute Swimming Baths.	15.5.41	Nil	2	Nil
do.	28.5.41	Nil	8	Nil
do.	25.6.41	Nil	Nil	Nil

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No. of council houses found to be infested by bed bugs - 6
No. disinfested - 6
- (b) No. of other houses found to be infested by bed bugs - 10
includes N.F.S. Station and A.R.P. Post.
No. disinfested - 10.

2. Insecticides Solution B. and Zaldecide were used.

Work of disinfection is carried out by trained employees of the Local Authority.

After primary and secondary disinfections re-inspection is carried out for recurrences and occupiers are encouraged to report any reappearance to the Department.

No. of council houses found to be infested by beetles - 80
No. disinfested - 80.

No. of other houses found to be infested by beetles - 8.
No. disinfested - 8, and N.F.S. Station and Isolation Hospital.

SCHOOLS. - All as before, as regards sanitary arrangements.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Complaints regarding the infestation of premises by Rats or Mice were rather more numerous than last year. Advice was given in all cases where infestation was found, and in addition to the laying of Poison Baits, the "Smoking" of Runs was adopted. No difficulty was experienced in securing the co-operation of the occupiers of premises in Pest Extermination.

A greater number of complaints of rats were received from householders, perhaps, because of the growing practice of storing garden produce in improper receptacles in washhouses and other unsuitable storage places.

RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

The premises to which these Acts apply have been visited and no contravention of the Acts was found.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT - Summary of

Year ending December 31st, 1941.

No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Eye-laws.	No. outstanding from previous year.	No. remedied after letter or interview.	No. of informal Notices served	Defects remedied there-after	In progress or being dealt with.
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HOUSING.

Structural Defects.	513	269	25	47	253	206	41
Defective Food-store	31	3	-	3	-	-	-
Dampness	49	20	3	20	20	17	3
Overcrowding	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

WATER.

Insufficient Unsatisfactory }	76	-	-	76	-	-	-
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DRAINAGE.

Insufficient Defective	28	2	4	2	2	2	1
	151	133	-	117	16	16	-

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Insufficient Defective }	164	43	-	36	7	7	-
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	185	3	-	-	3	3	-
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	117	4	-	4	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	510	Government Abattoir.	-	2	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	12	2	-	2	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	21	2	-	2	-	-	-
Workshops and Workplaces	137	11	-	8	3	3	-
Keeping Animals	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits improperly used	12	3	-	3	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations	18	9	-	3	3	3	-

Totals

2061	504	32	336	307	257	45
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SECTION D.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

A. Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
B. As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	513
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

For the sub-sections A, B, C, D, "Nil" returns have been supplied.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. - Overcrowding:-

Here again the returns for sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) are "Nil" ones.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) AMENDMENT ACT 1938, extending the provisions of the Acts of 1926 and 1931.

Two Farm Cottages at Ashington Farm were reconditioned during the year. The maximum grant was applied for by the Owners, and after approval to the work from the Ministry of Health, the reconstruction was duly carried out satisfactorily.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Eighty-two samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological and biological examination, i.e., for cleanliness and contamination with M.tuberculosis respectively, to the County Laboratory at Newburn.

Seven of these samples were pasteurised milk, the plate counts for which ranged from less than 100 to 42,800 Bacteria per ml.

Eight samples of milk were found biologically to be contaminated with M.tuberculosis. Subsequent reports shewed that four cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938, were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis. In the remaining four cases, no final result was communicated, no doubt because the animal or animals were removed from the herd and sent to a grading station, or were subjects of emergency slaughter. It should be possible under centralised slaughter, for cows, found to be suffering from generalised Tuberculosis to be traced back to the farm on which they last produced milk for general consumption, and by that means the certainty of their removal from the milk herd would be definitely established.

The Milk Producers with the Urban district are regularly visited, and the byres and dairies found generally to be in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

The number of cowsheds is 9, and approximately 180 cows are kept.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Central Slaughtering Depot under the Ministry of Food still remains to be in the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society, back Wansbeck Terrace, Ashington, and no change to the structure of the building was made during the year, which is working to capacity.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year, excluding cows which numbered 213 was:-

Bovine 1,567; Calves 119; Sheep & Lambs 8,870; Swine 591.

The amount of Meat condemned and destroyed, all of which was voluntarily surrendered, is set out in the accompanying table, with the reason for such action:

Meat, Organs, etc. Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed.

For Tuberculosis.

Bovine:

Whole Carcases 21
Lungs 194
Heads & Tongues 69
Livers 39
Hearts 2
Udders 7

Swine:

Heads 25
Plucks 13

Beef:

Weighing 60½ stone.

Pork:

Weighing 3 stone.

Other Defined Diseases.

Bovine:

Heads and Tongues: Actinomycosis.
Lungs: Pleurisy 9; Abscesses 12; Flukes 5; Emphysema 1; E.cysts 1.
Livers: Cirrhosis 45; melanosis 19; abscesses 8; cav.angioma 7;
bact. necrosis 2; E.cysts 1; Actinomycosis 1.
Udders: Mastitis 19.
Tripe and Gut: Johnes Disease 14.
Stomachs: Peritonitis 4.
Kidneys: Hydronephrosis 4.
Heart: Pericarditis 3.
Carcases: Chronic Enteritis 1; Johnes Disease 2.
Calves: Immaturity 1; Pyaemia 1.
Beef: Bruising 3½ stones; Bone Taint 3½ cwts.
Veal: Bruising 6 lb.

Swine:

Carcases: Johnes Disease 1; Asphyxiation 1; Gangrenous Pneumonia 1;
Plucks: Cirrhosis 8; Pleurisy 3; White Spot 1;
Stomach; Inflammation 1; Johnes Disease 1.
Pork: Mastitis 5 lb; Bruised 4¾ stones.

Ovines:

Carcases: Decomposition 1; Toxaemia 3; Pyrexia 2;
Asphyxiation 1; Uraemia 1; G. Pneumonia 1;
Emaciation 3; Septicaemia 4; Moribund 4.
Plucks: Abscesses 1.
Frozen Mutton: Decomposition 21 lb.

Other Foods.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:-

Beef Sausage	1cwt.2 lbs.	Pork Sausage Meat	4 lbs.
Spiced Meat	1cwt.8 lbs.	Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Meat Roll	5st.1 lb.	Chopped Ham	6 lbs.
Tinned Brisket Beef	4 lbs.	Beans. (tinned)	25 tins.
Bacon (Gammon)	2¼ lbs.	Soup (tinned)	3 tins.
Bacon	2cwt.3 st.	Potatoes	2 cwts.

Margarine	6½ lbs.	Pineapple Slices	6½ sts.
Butter	5 lbs.	Tomatoes (tinned)	2 tins.
Evaporated Milk	54 tins.	Sultanas	2 sts.
Pork Luncheon Meat	2 st.2 lb.	Cox Orange Pippins	6½ cwt.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned 1941.

	Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1567	213	119	8870	591
Number inspected					
All diseases except Tuberculosis-					
Whole carcase condemned	1	2	3	20	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	92	61	1	7	8
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than T.B.	5.934	29.577	3.361	.304	1.522
Tuberculosis only -					
Whole carcase condemned	7	12	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	158	97	-	-	31
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.53	51.126	-	-	5.245

SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish layings within the Urban District.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

There was no change in the I.D. Hospital in staff, accommodation (36 beds) or transport during the period 1st January to 30th September, 1941, the hospital after that date becoming leased to the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, which became operative on the 1st October 1941.

There were 9 patients in the hospital on the 1st January 1941. Number admitted during the three quarters was 74 and discharged during the same period 72.

The following is a statement of the types of infections admitted during that period:-

Diphtheria 34; Scarlet Fever 21; Paratyphoid B. Fever 5; Pneumonia 3; Cerebro Spinal Fever 2; Whooping Cough 2; and one each Dysentery, typhoid, erysipelas, ophthalmia neonatorum (accompanied by mother of patient), croup, observation.

Five patients succumbed to their illnesses as under -

Diphtheria 2 (one Bedlingtonshire, one Morpeth Rural District); Scarlet Fever 1 (Newbiggin); Cerebro Spinal Fever 1 (Newbiggin); Pneumonia 1 (Ashington).

The above admissions took place from the Borough of Morpeth, Urban Districts of Ashington, Bedlingtonshire, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Rural District of Morpeth.

Disinfection of premises.

The following premises were disinfected after the occurrence of infectious disease: houses - 67; room - one (Ashington Hospital); hall - one (Co-operative).

Disinfestation - see Section C, Eradication of bed bugs and beetles.

The steam disinfector at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases has been in constant use during the first three quarters of the year.

Table Showing Analysis of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases Under Age Groups.

Disease.	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	3	7	18	3	-	3	1	-	-	38
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Enteric Fever (inc. paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	4	2	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	3	10	9	9	9	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	48
Whooping Cough	5	14	16	12	17	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	38	22	-
Diphtheria	5	5	1
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)	2	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	14	1	8
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Dysentery	2	2	-
Measles	48	-	1
Whooping Cough	99	2	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	1

Typhoid Fever.

At the beginning of April one case of typhoid was reported to this office from the Royal Victoria Infirmary whither the patient had been sent on being suspected of suffering from some disease of the central nervous system. After operative treatment had been carried out at the Infirmary he was removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases suffering from typhoid fever, from which infection he ultimately died.

Hence no opportunity occurred for investigating the source of this youth's fatal malady. But nevertheless the Medical Officer of Health had a very strong suspicion of where the probable source was likely to be, but was unable to prove this to his satisfaction.

In connection with the occurrence of enteric fevers (typhoid, paratyphoids A. and B. and dysentery) I consider that the Public Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 1927, dated October 1927, should be extended in so far as part III, Section (2)i is concerned, and should apply not only to any person employed in any trade or business concerned with the preparation or handling of food or drink, but to any one, e.g. domestic assistants, cook-generals in private employment, housewives, and further that for the purpose of obtaining material for bacteriological or protozoological examination such suspected persons should be compelled to attend at a specified hospital in order to ensure that the specimens submitted to the Bacteriologist are genuine and that no substitution could possibly take place.

Paratyphoid B. Fever.

Two cases of paratyphoid fever occurred in the last quarter, the sufferers being young persons, in one of whom this disease simulated pneumonia during its early stages.

Despite careful enquiry the origin of these infections in these particular sufferers could not be traced.

Diphtheria.

There were five cases notified during the year. None of these children had been immunised. A pre-school child aged four died. As it so happened she was the only one in the family who had not been protected although facilities for immunisation have existed at the M.C.W. Centre for many years now. It is worth mentioning that amongst the other children in the family, all of whom had been immunised at school, a carrier of virulent B.diphtheriae was found and removed to the isolation hospital.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The incidence of diphtheria in Ashington had shown a very abrupt decline in numbers since 1939 as is shown by the following:-
1939 - 179 cases; 1940 - 8, and during the present year (1941) - 5.

No general immunisation had been carried out except what had been offered gratuitously at the Child Welfare Centre for years past to children below five years of age.

Ministry of Health Circular 2230 on Diphtheria Prophylaxis reached the Department about mid December 1940, advocating that all Authorities secure immunisation of as many children as possible. The circular recommended that the Local Authorities should consult with the local Education Authority or Welfare Authority as to the best means for persuading parents and guardians to have their children immunised. At the same time it was advised that the work of immunisation could be most expeditiously and conveniently carried out at selected places where children can be assembled, and the Education Authority of the Northumberland County Council most generously placed the school premises at the disposal of your Medical Officers for the carrying out of immunisation during school hours.

Further so far as Ashington was concerned, where the estimated school population was, during 1941, approximately 4,500, the Education Authority detailed the late Dr. O'Sullivan and a school nurse to collaborate with your Medical Officers in the completion of this considerable task.

Accordingly the campaign commenced on the 29th January and ended in mid March, by which time the large majority of the acceptors had been completely protected.

Theoretically only two visits, corresponding to the number of injections should be necessary to each school, but for various reasons this number was extended to third and fourth visits to each of the schools in order to give first and second inoculations to those scholars who were absent at the time of your Medical Officer's original visits. There were various influences which acted adversely on the campaign and increased the amount of work for the

Medical Officers and nurses, and these might be enumerated as follows: (1) the severe weather of the early part of 1941 when the campaign was launched, (2) absenteeism, especially amongst the children in the infant departments from (a) measles, (b) chickenpox, (c) whooping cough and (d) respiratory and other affections, and (3) the interposition of school holidays.

The most up-to-date method recently advocated by the Ministry of Health, that is October 1942, urges immunisation for every child about the age one year old to be followed at the time of its entry to school by a further single reinforcing dose of reagent which would maintain its immunity.

During 1941 the following are the numbers of children who were completely protected by the prescribed course with the reagent supplied by the Ministry of Health (Alum Precipitated Toxoid):-

Under five years of age -	426 - 20%
5 - 15 years	- 2,864 - 63%

So far as the pre-school child is concerned in regard to diphtheria immunisation, intensive dissemination of advice and instruction by the Health Visitors has been constantly carried out throughout the year for every child is visited on the occasion of its first birthday by the Health Visitor who leaves at the time of her visit a leaflet bearing on the benefits to be had from early immunisation.

The minimum target aimed at is to have three out of every four children immunised against diphtheria.

It will be appreciated that concurrent with the immunisation in Ashington, similar work was being carried out in the other four districts for which your Medical Officer also acts as Medical Officer of Health.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

Two cases of the Flexner variety were reported during the year.

Scabies.

Scabies or itch is strictly an infestation of the skin by the itch mite. Another variety or member of the family of itch mites (Sarcoptidae) is responsible for mange in domestic and wild animals of various kinds.

The disorder amongst humans is one of great antiquity and has been well known in the past and has swept over large armies and populations in epidemic form. It was formerly supposed to be caused by "bad blood" or other constitutional disturbances, which give rise to spots and pimples, and even at the present day the uninformed ascribe it to poorness of diet and it has frequently masqueraded under such euphemistic appellations as "dermatitis" and "impetigo".

The infestation is, of course, a very persistent one and it is doubtful if it ever spontaneously dies out and it is certain that only vigorous and intensive treatment with the appropriate ablutions and remedies along with strict regard to sterilisation of articles of toilet and clothing can achieve freedom from this malady.

Its inroads into a household are insidious and the condition may be well advanced before its real nature is recognised.

With the occurrence of the "septic complications" much time may be lost to industry as well as much absenteeism from schools, for scholars are excluded when found to be suffering from this verminous infestation. Such excluded scholars undergoing home treatment very often play about the "doors" and so it comes about that those in exclusion infest their pre-school brothers and sisters as well as the pre-school children in other families.

It was well enough known that there was at least a prevalence of scabies in the district and so soon as the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board came into operation the Medical Officer had at his disposal a greater number of beds available in one or other of the units for the inpatient treatment of severe scabies. And so it came about that during the last quarter cases of scabies with dermal sepsis were admitted from all the five districts, including Ashington.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bedlington was chosen for this purpose and immediately cases began to be admitted and the hospital to fill up. The following persons were admitted from Ashington:-

	<u>Scabies Only.</u>		<u>Scabies & Head Lice.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5 yrs.	-	2	-	-
5 - 16 "	4	2	-	1
Over 16 "	2	1	-	-
	6	5	-	1

Of the above six were from one family, and four were from another.

This endeavour had anticipated the Scabies Order by about six weeks, which Order - an Order in Council - was a Regulation added to the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, and it was anticipated that by the beginning of the year ascertainment of scabies through the school medical service and local medical practitioners was likely to occur, and arrangements were made accordingly to deal with the sufferers to begin in the new year.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
5-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
15-	3	3	-	-	1	3	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	6	2	1	2	9	-	-

There were 6 non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis as follows:-

	Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	1	1
1-	-	-	-	1
5-	-	-	1	-
15-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	1	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	3	2

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis 6

Notified deaths from Tuberculosis 11

Total deaths from Tuberculosis 17

CANCER MORTALITY

	Males							Females						
	20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.	20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mamma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Lungs	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaw	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tongue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	1	3	3	9	16	-	-	-	4	3	11	18

Sarcoma of Eye -- Male 56 yrs.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1941. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births	14.2 †	14.7	16.4	8.9
Still "	0.51 †	0.58	0.60	0.33
Deaths:-				
All Causes	12.9 †	14.9	13.0	16.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of Age	59	71	56	68
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of Age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8

cont.	England and Wales	126 C.Bs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County
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* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths

† These rates are those published in the
Quarterly Return.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
<u>Notifications:-</u>				
Typhoid fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
Paratyphoid fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05
Cerebro Spinal fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30
Scarlet fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

<u>Maternal Mortality:-</u> (Excluding Abortion)				
Puerperal				
Infection (No.147)	0.48	- NOT AVAILABLE -		
Others	1.75			
Total	2.23			
<u>Notifications:-</u>				
Puerperal Fever	11.91	15.64	9.43	(2.29
" Pyrexia				(19.33 ≠

≠ Including puerperal fever

London	1931 Census	50,000 as	25,000 -	1931 Census	1931 Census
Adm.	1931 Census	50,000 as	25,000 -	1931 Census	1931 Census
Adm.	1931 Census	50,000 as	25,000 -	1931 Census	1931 Census
Adm.	1931 Census	50,000 as	25,000 -	1931 Census	1931 Census

* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths

† These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifiable:-				
Typhoid fever	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.12	0.02	0.02
Cerebro spinal fever	0.22	0.21	0.22	0.22
Borliet fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.51
Whooping Cough	4.37	4.37	4.37	4.37
Diarrhoea	4.57	1.57	1.19	0.98
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.30
Scarlet fever	10.37	10.37	10.37	10.37
Measles	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Presumptive				

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

Maternal Mortality:- (Including abortion)				
Pharyngeal				
Infection (No. 147)	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
Others	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Total	2.33	2.33	2.33	2.33
Notifiable:-				
Paratyphoid fever	11.31	15.64	9.43	10.25
Scarlet fever				

A Including pharyngeal fever

