

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashington U.D.C.

Contributors

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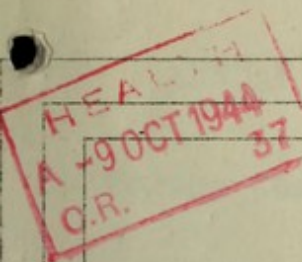
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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1943.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1943.

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

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District in 1943.

Owing to the tragic and unexpected death of Dr. Angus it has fallen to my lot to prepare and produce this report of work for which he was responsible and which was carried out under his inspiration and guidance. His passing is a great loss to the Public Health services in this district and is deeply regretted by all who worked with him and were thus in a position to appreciate his profound knowledge and wide experience of Public Health work and medical practice generally.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health I have followed closely the plan of previous reports as regards brevity, the limitation of references and the suppression of certain figures of population, etc.

There is no outstanding departure from the routine of the previous year to report.

Scabies and other verminous conditions continued to occupy much attention and their treatment involved the expenditure of much time and energy both on the part of your Medical Officers and of the staffs at the various cleansing stations.

The campaign for diphtheria immunisation was maintained. The figure of 96% for school children is very satisfactory, but the figure of 57% for children under five years leaves considerable room for improvement, more especially as the younger children are those most susceptible to this serious disease. The benefits of inoculation against diphtheria are now making themselves felt, especially in modifying the severity of the attack and vastly improving the prospects of complete recovery where an inoculated child does become infected by diphtheria.

On the instructions of the Ministry of Health special mention is made of the water supplies in the district as it is the aim of the Government to have water laid on in every house as soon as is practicable after the war.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

C.B. MCGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

August, 1944.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR 1943.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	)	
Medical Officer M. & C.W.	)	James Angus,
Authority.....	)	M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H.
Medical Officer Infectious	)	
Diseases Hospital.....	)	
Assistant Medical Officer	)	
of Health	)	Catherine B. McGregor
Assistant Medical Officer,	)	M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Infectious Diseases	)	
Hospital.	)	
Dental Officer.....		G.E. Wilson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., L.D.S., part-time. (locum tenens).
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)		
Housing)	Inspector	G.W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San.I.
Meat)		
Sanitary)	Inspector	
Meat)	(additional)	E.W. Strachan, M.S.I.A., A.R., San.I.
Health and Child	(	Miss I. Taylor, S.C.M.,
Protection Visitors	(	Mrs. N.P. Buxton (nee McKenna)
		S.R.N. S.C.M.
Offices of the M.O.H.		146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone		Ashington. 287.
Offices of the Sanitary		Council Chambers, Ashington.
Inspector		
Telephone		Ashington 210.
Hospital for Infectious		North Seaton Station, Ashington.
Diseases (leased to S.E.N.J.H.B.)		
Telephone		Ashington 20.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1943.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of
 Resident population mid 1943 ... Temporarily suppressed. Min.
 of H. Circular 2604.

Rateable value - £109,782

One penny rate produces - £422. 18s. 5d.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) - Temporarily
 suppressed Min. of
 H. Circular 2604.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 19.21

Still birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 32.19

Death Rate per 1,000 of the average population - 11.02

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	Nil
No. 30 Other maternal causes	Nil

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	82.19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	82.14
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	83.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	44	(R.G. Return)
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	do
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1	do
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	2	do

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Causes of death.	Total									Total
	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	under 1 mth.	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	under 1 yr.
Prematurity	8	-	-	1	9	2	-	-	-	11
Birth Injury	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	-	8
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Debility & Marasmus	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital malformation	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Convulsions	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Overlaying	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Intussusception	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pink Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pemphigus & Dermatitis	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Status Lymphaticus	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Atalectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	13	2	3	2	20	9	5	6	2	42

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change. The following table shows to what extent these arrangements have been utilised.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Specimens sent in by.	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O. Medical Practitioners.	Sputa for tubercle. do.	2 10	57 119
M.O.H. Medical Practitioners.	Swabs for C.diphtheriae. do.	4 26	25 56
Medical Practitioner.	Virulence test for C.diphtheriae.	1	-
M.O.H. Medical Practitioners.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus. do.	- 5	3 12
Medical Practitioners.	Faeces for enteric fever.	-	6
M.O.H. Medical Practitioners.	Blood for enteric fever. do	- -	1 2
Medical Practitioners.	Miscellaneous.	1	7

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.
NURSING IN THE HOME.
TREATMENT CENTRES & CLINICS.
HOSPITALS.

)
)
)
)

No change.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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

Sessions - 101 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.....6,908
 Children between 1 and 5 years.....1,192

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.....455
- (b) between the ages of 1 and 5 years 82

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 age393
- (b) over 1 year of age.....658

Special attention continues to be directed to observing the dental and oral state of the mothers attending with their babies. Those in whom the oral-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.

	<u>Food Sold at</u> <u>Cost Price.</u>
Ostermilk, No.1.	1,340 lbs.
Ostermilk, No.2.	6,665 "
Cow and Gate	8,636 "
Virol	688 tins
Minadex	1,240 ozs.
Codliver Oil Emulsion	338 btls.
Marmite	472 cartons.
Maltoline.	264 tins.
Trufood	154 tins.

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

These clinics are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 2 - 4 p.m.

Number of sessions held..... 23
Number of children examined.....272

Defects in pre- school children during 1943. Numbers of children examined in whom were found:-

Caries of Teeth 69	Squints 17
Tonsils enlarged ... 17	Bronchitis 15

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

Dental Clinic.

Dental Officer - Dr. G.E. Wilson (locum tenens, part time).

Number of sessions held	51
" " expectant and nursing mothers who attended.....	97
" " pre-school children who attended.....	65
" " administrations of general anaesthesia.....	65
" " dentures supplied to expectant & nursing mothers.....	62

It has been the invariable practice to perform extractions in pre-school children whilst they are under a general anaesthetic and also on their recovery to transfer them by ambulance from the clinic to their homes.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Oculist - Mr. Alex MacRae.

Number of sessions held.....	6
" " children attending for the first time.....	21
" " subsequent attendances by children.....	73

The examinations were conducted by the oculist, the patients' eyes having for some days previously been treated by atropine drops and ointment, in order to facilitate the retinoscopy.

These pre-school children were referred via the toddlers' clinic by either your medical officer or on the request of the local medical practitioners who now are well aware of the existence of the scheme.

The conditions for which these children were seen were - squints or errors of refraction. There were 17 cases of squints. In 16 cases lenses were prescribed by the oculist and the spectacle fitting was carried out by an optician who always accompanies the ophthalmologist.

This type of service, completed by the delivery of the spectacles in a few days saves much time to parents by the elimination of several visits to central ophthalmic clinics in Newcastle, which would otherwise be necessary.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

Diphtheria immunisation of pre-school children is carried out at 4 clinics in each month, viz. second and fourth Tuesdays and second and fourth Thursdays. Older children may also attend for this purpose if the mother wishes it, or if the child has been absent from school and so has missed the opportunity of being treated there.

MATERNITY SERVICES IN ASHLINGTON.

Ante-natal Clinic.

Two afternoon sessions are held per month throughout the year.

Number of sessions held - 23.

Total number of new cases under above auspices106

Total number of re-visits under above auspices289

In May the local Nursing Association transferred its Ante-natal clinic from Ashington Hospital to the Child Welfare Centre. It was agreed that this Clinic was to come under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health and that as soon as practicable a Medical Officer should be provided to take this clinic and to see all the mothers attending. This would constitute a satisfactory advance in the services provided for expectant mothers. Unfortunately up to the end of the year it had not proved possible to provide this medical attention.

The clinic has been held once per week, on a Wednesday afternoon, but the numbers attending are so great that if all cases are to be seen by a Medical Officer extra sessions will be required.

References of 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.

The demand for home helps greatly exceeded the supply and it was possible to provide this service on only three occasions during the year..

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 arrangement for the treatment of emergency maternity cases approved by the Medical Officer of Health at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital continued in operation during the year. There were 36 cases admitted under this scheme and they are classified as follows:-

Toxaemia of Pregnancy	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Abortions.. . . .	2
Haemorrhage, ante partum	4
Deliveries (a) normal	1
(b) breach	4
(c) instrumental	2
Prolonged labour	3
Caesarean Section	3
Heart disease	2
Anaemia	1

Sunray Clinic.

This clinic is conducted twice weekly - Monday and Thursday forenoons.

No. of children who attended for the first time 141
 No. of revisits of the said children 3,294.

During the year it was open on 101 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.

Under the agreement entered into between the Ashington U.D.C. and the Northumberland County Council Education Committee, school children continued to receive the benefit of U.V.L. treatment on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer after consultation with the patient's family doctor or on the direct recommendation of the general practitioner after the School Authorities had been notified of his recommendation.

A grant of £5 per annum is given by the Local Authority for Education to the Council for this purpose.

Summary of Child Welfare Activities, etc.

Number of infants supervised - First Visits	524.
Number of infants supervised - Total Visits	2,252
Number of revisits to children from 1 - 5 years.....	3,029
First visits to babies wholly breast fed	428
First visits to babies wholly hand-fed	53
First visits to babies partly hand-fed	40
First visits to expectant mothers	192
Total visits to expectant mothers	276

Child Life Protection.

Childlife Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors.
 At the end of the year 1943 there were six children on the register.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

The water supply to the whole district is provided by the Tynemouth Corporation and has been chlorinated since 1942. Samples taken periodically from varying points in the district, show it to be of the highest quality of drinking water. It is ample in amount and the pressure is good. Appended are the results of the examinations carried out.

Source.	Date.	Coli Aerogenes Test organisms per 100 ml.
Town Supply	14.1.43.	Nil
-do-	10.2.43.	Nil
-do-	2.6.43.	Nil
-do-	2.6.43.	Nil
-do-	2.6.43.	Nil
-do-	2.6.43.	Nil
-do-	6.10.43.	Nil
-do-	4.11.43.	Nil
-do-	15.12.43.	Nil
-do-	15.12.43.	Nil
-do-	15.12.43.	Nil
Swimming Bath Water	1.9.43.	5

It is estimated that 85.97% of the houses in Ashington have water laid on; 2.93 are supplied by taps situated in the backyard, and 10.88 by taps in the wash-house. The remainder comprising only 0.22% of the total houses in the district are supplied from standpipes in the back streets. The actual figure for this is 5 standpipes supplying 17 houses.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensions in this connection took place during the year.

Remodelled drainage systems in connection with alterations and improvements to property have been discussed with Owners and Builders as in previous years, and on completion tested before filling in. These discussions have been to the profit of the Builder and the Owner.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken under this heading.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No conversions were carried out during the year, and the remaining few houses which have not yet the water carriage system will be given early consideration when necessary materials are released from control.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Shortage of materials for property repairs, plus the shortage of the necessary skilled labour has again been the cause for the reduction in the number of properties to be made wholly fit. Circular 2871, issued by the Ministry of Health, offered some promise, but it was not until the end of the year that any appreciable effort was noted. A workable scheme is now in operation, and while far from what is needed, is dealing with the worst cases, and does tend to ensure that the houses are at least made wind and weather-tight. It is unfortunate that the desire which is found amongst the majority of property owners to carry out extensive repairs and improvements to the property cannot be practically applied, because some of the work obviously falls within the luxury class in these days of austerity.

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.	169	169
To provide Ashbins.	4	4
To repair Eaves Gutters, and Downspouts.	13	13
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes.	-	-
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls etc.,	14	13
Defective Fireplaces.	14	14
Defective Outbuildings.	10	10
Defective Manhole Covers.	-	-
Defective Water Closets.	8	8
Defective Sash Cords	17	17
Defective Wallplaster.	8	8
Offensive Accumulations.	13	13
Defective Ceilings.	7	7
Defective Foodstores.	12	12
Defective Airgrates.	11	11

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

- (1) Institute Baths (baths, showers and pool) open to public - members and non-members.
- (2) Pit head baths (showers), Woodhorn Colliery.

The water of the swimming pool undergoes continuous clarification

and chlorination, while the water supply to the pit head baths is a chlorinated one.

SCHOOLS - All as before, as regards sanitary arrangements.

SHOPS AND OFFICES, including. Cinemas and Public Buildings.

The Ventilation, Sanitary Accommodation, and Cleanliness of all places of entertainment received close attention during the year, and no complaint was received during the year respecting any building.

RATS AND MICE(DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER 1943

The Ministry of Food was responsible for the issue of the Infestation Order, 1943, and is now the responsible body for the operation of that Order allied to the Rats and Mice (destruction) Act, 1919.

The Infestation Order tightens up weaknesses in the 1919 Act, and concerted efforts have been made to deal with the wastage of Foodstuffs accruing from Rats and/or Mice infestation.

The Council, in November 1943, confirmed the recommendation of the Health Committee that it was prepared to accept from the County Council the delegation of duties under the 1919 Act. At the end of the year the delegation from the County Council had not been received. (This actually came in February 1944)

As in previous years, regular attention was given to any complaint of infestation by Rats or Mice, and baiting and gassing of runs was operated, and in the case of food premises, proofing against future attack was carried out.

CAMPING SITES There are no camping sites within the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

One prosecution against a householder for permitting the chimney of his dwelling house to be accidentally on fire was taken by your Sanitary Inspector on the report of the Police. The offender for having grossly polluted the atmosphere was fined five shillings. It is interesting to note that at the same Court another Chimney firer who accidentally set fire to his chimney during the hours of black-out was mulct of two-shillings and sixpence. The reduction of atmospheric pollution cannot hope to make much headway because of the apparent lack of appreciation of the value of clean fresh air.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

I. (a) No. of Council premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs - 6
No. disinfested - 6.

- (b) No. of Other premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs -19
No. disinfested - 19.

For this work Zaldecide was used.

Disinfestation is carried out by employees of the Local Authority. A charge is made on the Owner or the Tenant to cover the cost of time and material, and advice given on the avoidance of reinfestation.

BETLES

Infestation by Beetles is not an infrequent cause for complaint, 8 Council Houses and 6 other premises were treated for this.

Year ending December 31st, 1943.

	No. of Inspec- tions during year	No. of Defects or Contra- ventions of Bye- Laws	No. out- standing from previous year.	No. remedied after letter or inter- view.	No. of inform- al Notices served.	Defects re- mended there after.	In pro- gress or being dealt with.
<u>HOUSING.</u>							
Structural Defects.	217	67	11	12	66	66	-
Defective Foodstore.	29	12	-	10	2	2	-
Dampness.	67	21	-	1	20	19	1
Overcrowding.	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuisances.	17	4	-	-	4	4	-
<u>WATER.</u>							
Insufficient) Unsatisfactory)	12	4	-	-	4	4	-
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>							
Insufficient) Defective)	356	127	-	126	1	1	-
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>							
Insufficient) Defective)	87	42	-	36	6	6	-
Shops, Foodstores etc.	249	5	-	5	-	-	-
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	165	7	-	7	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses.	411	Government Abattoir.	-	-	-	-	-
Tents Vans etc.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops and Workplaces.	123	11	-	11	-	-	-
Keeping Animals.	6	2	-	2	-	-	-
Ashpits Improperly Used.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	31	13	-	11	2	2	-
Total.	1876	315	11	221	105	104	1

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):	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	408
(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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

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".

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK SUPPLY

75 samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination as set out below.

10 of these samples were pasteurised Milks, the Plate counts for which ranged from 6,560 to 100,000 Bacteria per ml.

5 Pasteurised samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test with the appended results:-

1.7 Blue Units; 5.3 Blue Units; 1.2 Blue Units; 1.7 Blue Units;
1.8 Blue Units.

1 sample, it will be noted, was insufficiently heat-treated.

Of 65 samples Raw and T.T. Milks submitted to the County Laboratory Newburn:-

38	Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.
1	Decolourised under 5½ hours.
4	" " 4½ hours.
3	" " 4 hours.
3	" " 3½ hours.
2	" " 3 hours.
4	" " 2½ hours.
1	" " 2 hours.
3	" " 1½ hours.
1	" " 1 hour.
5	" " ½ hour.

Of these 27 samples which failed to Satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 6 were produced within the Urban District and 3 decolourised in 1½ hours, 1 in 3½ hours, 1 in 4 hours, and 1 in 4½ hours, and in the remaining unsatisfactory samples, it is true to say that there were many taken from churns which had travelled considerably before arriving at Ashington, and in respect of which good results could therefore not be expected. In a special Report to the Council, drawing attention to this matter, I suggested that there should be a re-grouping of the sources of supply to eliminate wastage from the souring of milk, and while this may not have borne fruit at the time, re-grouping was ultimately carried out at the instigations of the Wholesalers concerned, with beneficial results.

In 54 samples submitted to the test for Tuberculosis, 52 were reported as shewing M. Tuberculosis NOT FOUND, and in 2M. Tuberculosis was PRESENT. These animals were immediately slaughtered and subsequent samples from these sources proved to be negative.

1 Empty bottle submitted for the plate count was returned as sterile.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot for Ashington and Newbiggin is still located in the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society.

The numbers of animals slaughtered shew an increase on last year's totals and for the year under review are as follows:-

Cattle (excluding Cows 1925; Cows 281; Calves 470; Sheep and Lambs 8522; Swine 385.

The amount of Meat condemned, surrendered and destroyed is set out in the accompanying table, with the reason for such action. This Meat of course is sent away for processing for the extraction of fats, etc.

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

For Tuberculosis

Bovine;

Swine

Lungs	192	Pluck	1	Beef weighing	126 Stones.
Head & Tongue	77	Head	9		
Livers	27	Lungs	1		
Mesenteries	13	Carcase	1		
Tripe	5				
Gut	5				
Back Skirt	11				
Udders	6				
Hearts	5				
Stomach	1				
Calf Pluck	2				
Calf Livers	2				
Carcases (inc. 4 T.B. Tests)	31				

Other Defined Diseases.

Bovine:

Lungs-	-Pleurisy 23; Actinomycosis 12; Emphysema 2;
	-Abscesses 1; Melanosis 1;
Livers	-Cirrhosis 65; Abscesses 29; Cavernous Angioma 22;
	Melanosis 1; Actinomycosis 5; Echinoccus 1;
	Bacterial Necrosis 6;
Head & Tongue	-Actinomycosis 18, Abscesses 1.
Udders	-Septic Mastitis 5; Mastitis 54.
Heart	-Pericarditis 7.
Tripe and Gut	-Traumatic Peritonitis 1.
Gut	-Johnes Disease 27; Peritonitis 2.
Tripe	-Peritonitis 3; Johnes Disease 1.
Back Skirt	-Abscesses 1.
Mesenteries	-Pentastomes 2; Actinomycosis 1.
Veal	-Oedematous 3½ st.
Beef	-Oedematous 31½ st; Traumatism 7½ st; Injury 20 st.
Carcases	-Pyrexia & Johnes Disease 1; Johnes Disease 2; Johnes Disease & Emaciation 2; Johnes Disease and Acute Emaciation 5; Emaciation 2; Fevered and ill-bled 1; Fevered and Acute Emaciation 1; Fevered and Emaciation 1. Acute Fever, Johnes Disease and Emaciation 1; Septic Pericarditis 1; Pyrexia 1; Acute Toxemia 1; Generalised Carinoma 1; Septicaemia 1.

Sheep:

- Lungs - Pleurisy 2; Parasitic 1.
- Livers - Cirrhosis 3; Hydatid Cysts 1; Friable 3; Abscesses 1.
- Plucks - Parasitic 3; Cirrhosis & Pericarditis 5; Pleurisy 2.
- Tripe & Gut - Carcinoma 1; Peritonitis 2.
- Tripe - Peritonitis 1.
- Carcases - Pyrexia & Emaciation 17; Pyrexia 9; dangrenous-Pneumonia 3; Oedematous 3; Septicaemia 2; Moribund 2; Emaciation 1; Suppurative Osteomyelitis 1; Fevered and Ill-bled 2; Leucocythemia 1.
- Mutton - Traumatism $\frac{1}{4}$ st; Injury $\frac{3}{4}$ st.

Air Raid Casualties - Mutton $1\frac{1}{2}$ st; Heads 2.

Swine:

- Lungs - Pneumonia 2.
- Belly - Mastitis 4.
- Stomach - Peritonitis 1.
- Gut - Peritonitis 1.
- Plucks - Pleurisy, Pericarditis, & Cirrhosis 3; Pleurisy 3.
- Heart - Vegetative Growth 1.
- Kidneys - Cystic 2.

OTHER FOODS.

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

Tinned Meats	1340 lbs.	Jam	44½ lbs;
-do-	68 tins	Cheese	37 lbs.
Fish	127 tins	Sugar	256 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	177 tins	Black Pudding	44 lbs.
Soup and Broth	29 tins	Butter	15¾ lbs.
Fruit	75 tins	Margarine	3 lbs.
Milk	301 tins	Semolina	50 lbs.
Bacon	122½ lbs.	Fish Cakes	156
Ham	14¾ lbs;	Pies	88
Sausage	247 lbs.	Pasties	110
Scotch Haggis	28 lbs.	Treacle	4 tins.
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	8 jars and 25 bottles.		

Carcases Inspected and Condemned 1943.

		Cattle exclu. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	}	1925	281	470	8522	385
Number Inspected						
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcases Condemned ...		4	17	-	41	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...		126	153	1	24	16
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than T.B...		6,753	60.498	.213	.763	4.156
Tuberculosis only -						
Whole Carcases condemned ...		2	27	2	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...		122	193	3	-	13
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...		6.441	78.291	1.064	-	3.636

SHELL-FISH.

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

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided throughout the year at the Ashington Unit of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Urban District Council is a constituent.

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	10	4	12	84	32	2	5	3	-	-	154
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	9	6	-	2	-	-	-	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
Pneumonia	1	-	1	2	2	3	-	5	8	3	5	2	32
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	20	41	57	49	76	181	5	3	3	-	-	-	435
Whooping Cough	6	7	5	18	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	54

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	154	52	-
Diphtheria	18	12	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Pneumonia	32	not known	11
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	-
Measles	435	1	1
Whooping Cough	54	-	1

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

No cases were reported during the year.

Diphtheria.

There were 18 cases notified and of these 11 were known to have been immunised by the prescribed method. There were two deaths, both of which occurred in non-immunised children.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 154 cases notified, which is an increase of 42 over the figure for the previous year. The cases were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Measles.

There was an epidemic of measles during the early months of the year and in all 435 cases were notified. Of these all except eleven occurred in children under ten years of age, the majority occurring in pre-school children. There was one death.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence of whooping cough also showed an increase over the figures for the previous year, there being 54 cases notified. There was one death.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

During the months of October and November visits were paid to all the schools in Ashington for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria.

Immunisation clinics also continued to be held at the Child Welfare Centre for the purpose of inoculating pre-school children

who form the most susceptible portion of the population.

At the end of the year the immunisation state of the pre-school and school population was estimated to be as follows:-

Under 5 years of age ...	57%
5 - 15 years	96%

During the year 36 complete immunisations were carried out by the general practitioners, who are paid by the Council at the rate of 2s. 6d. per injection, i.e. 5s. Od. for a complete immunisation including a return made in each case on the appropriate cards which are supplied by the Local Authority.

Anterior and posterior Schick testings are not practised.

Defence (General) Regulations 1939, Scabies Order, 1941, No.33A.

Scabies and other verminous conditions continued to be very prevalent during 1943 and their treatment continued to occupy a large part of the time of your Medical Officers of Health. All cases attending the Clinics were examined for the presence of scabies and head lice.

It will be seen from the table reproduced below that the total number of cases for the whole of the No.2 Area over the year showed a decrease in the categories "Scabies Only" and "Scabies and Lice", but a slight increase in that of "Lice Only", as compared with 1942.

In the Ashington Urban District there was a slight decrease in all categories as compared with 1942.

Aggregates for the No.2 Area during 1943:-

	<u>Scabies Only.</u>		<u>Scabies & Lice.</u>		<u>Lice Only.</u>		<u>Scabies not discovered.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	179	211	2	75	-	45	43	138
5 - 16 yrs.	248	145	52	138	27	46	70	56
Under 5 yrs.	89	58	14	23	8	3	18	24
	<u>516</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>218</u>

The above includes the figures for the Urban District which were as follows.

	<u>Scabies Only.</u>		<u>Scabies & Lice.</u>		<u>Lice Only.</u>		<u>Scabies not discovered.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 yrs.	83	83	1	39	-	18	30	64
5 - 16 yrs.	90	47	26	67	10	15	32	15
Under 5 yrs.	35	28	4	8	2	1	7	11
	<u>208</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>90</u>

During the first three months of 1943 the arrangements for treatment remained exactly as in 1942, except that in January a First Aid Post man who had rendered much arduous and willing service at the Ashington cleansing station was withdrawn owing to his transfer to the Rescue Party. His place was taken by the temporary porter - groundsman employed by the Hospital Board.

A marked drop in the number of notifications towards the end of March enables the Medical Officer of Health to close the Bedlington Hospital and concentrate the treatment at Ashington. This resulted in a more efficient use of the available staff and also in a saving of fuel.

Cases from Ashington, Bedlington, Newbiggin and parts of the Morpeth Rural District were treated at Ashington and when necessary were transported by Civil Defence ambulance.

Morpeth Borough cases and those from the rest of the Rural District were treated at the Cleansing Station at The Willows, Morpeth, where males were treated by the Lay Superintendent of the First Aid Post, and the females by a nurse who travelled from Ashington.

In July there were no cases treated at Morpeth and in November and December it was again possible to close this unit.

The Ashington Unit was used constantly throughout the year and the work was carried out by a whole-time Civil Defence nurse, the two female scabies orderlies trained in 1942 and the porter-groundsman with assistance, when required, from nurses of the Board's permanent staff.

Cases continued to be notified by the School Medical Officer, School Nurses and Attendance Officers and by the general practitioners.

There was a very sharp rise in the number of cases in September following the re-opening of the schools after the summer holidays, but it was found possible to deal with this without bringing the Bedlington unit into operation again.

Each cleansing station, while in use, was visited twice weekly by your Medical Officers of Health. Clinics were thus held throughout the year every Tuesday and Friday morning at Ashington.

The chief medicament used in the treatment of scabies was 25% Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with various auxiliary preparations, such as Streptocide Cream, Gentian Violet Cream and Dilute Ammoniated Mercury Ointment where the condition was complicated by the presence of sepsis.

The prevalence of verminous infestations of the head continued to cause much concern to the Medical Officers and staffs of the cleansing stations. In many cases this condition consumed more time before it was eradicated than did the scabetic infestation. This was largely due to lack of co-operation on the part of the sufferers or their parents or guardians.

Many parents appear to regard head lice as a natural consequence of attendance at school, many resented being told that they or their children were so infested and yet made no visible attempt to get rid of the condition. Others again, appeared quite indifferent and much time was spent in attempting to overcome this apathy.

Another factor which occasionally tends to cause continuation of this deplorable state of affairs is the persistence of the belief that infestation is inevitable where there is any co-existing debilitating condition and that is no use trying to do anything in such circumstances.

In cases of severe infestation the only practical method of dealing with the condition is by cropping the hair, but parents are often reluctant to give their consent to such a proceeding.

There is need for further education in personal hygiene both inside the schools and out of them.

I should like to endorse and to emphasise the remarks made by the Medical Officer of Health in the Annual Report for 1942 concerning the present styles of hair-dressing. It is unfortunate that the present fashion is to wear the hair long and this applies not only to girls but also to boys who frequently have hair much longer than it need be. I would also condemn the present practice, so common among school-girls and adolescent girls, of having the hair "Permanently" waved. Many of the worst cases of infestation are seen where hair has been treated in this way. This is due, I believe, to the fact that such hair is likely to be inadequately combed and brushed as the result of a desire to avoid disturbing the "waves".

Parents would do well to discourage this practice among the young people under their care and to realise that short hair and thorough brushing and combing are factors of supreme importance in the avoidance of infestation by head lice.

School children are not the only persons concerned in the state of affairs indicated by the figures given in the table. Many adults are also involved and it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that they are indifferent to personal cleanliness in that they permit the continued existence of head lice.

The insecticide used at the cleansing stations is medicated Lethane hair oil and it has been found very effective in killing the lice but there is difficulty in persuading people to carry out thoroughly the tedious process of removing the nits.

As I have said above there is need for further education in these matters in the schools, in clinics, by posters and film and for an altered style of hair-dressing.

No legal proceedings were instituted under the Defence Regulations, although in several cases action was threatened. This has so far been found sufficient to bring about compliance with the Regulations.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-	2	3	-	3	-	1	-	2
15-	3	6	-	1	1	-	-	-
25-	4	2	-	-	1	3	-	-
35-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
45-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	21	14	1	4	6	4	1	3

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis ... 4
 Notified deaths from Tuberculosis10
 Total deaths from Tuberculosis14

CANCER MORTALITY

	<u>Males.</u>								<u>Females.</u>						
	20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.		20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.
Tongue	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Stomach	-	-	-	1	2	6	9		-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	1	1	-	2		-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Rectum	-	-	-	-	3	1	4		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gall Bladder	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Bladder	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	2	-	1	3
Lung	-	-	1	1	1	1	4		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skin	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1	5	7	14	27		-	-	1	3	3	9	16

Sarcoma of Thigh - female 45 years.

