

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashington U.D.C.

Contributors

Ashington (Northumberland, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ft279tst>

License and attribution

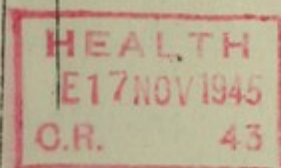
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



URBAN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1944.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944.

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 1944.

This report is in rather more detail than those of recent years as the ban, imposed for security reasons, on the publication of figures of population etc. has now been removed. Apart from this, it follows the lines of previous reports and there are no exceptional circumstances or events of outstanding importance to record.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the Infantile Mortality Rate of 44.52 per 1,000 live births is, by a considerable margin, the lowest ever recorded in the district. The previous lowest figure was 55.4 per 1,000 live births, recorded in 1942.

The birth rate shows a further slight increase from 19.21 to 20.02 per 1,000 of the population and the death rate a further slight decrease from 11.02 to 10.54 per 1,000.

It is satisfactory also to note that the incidence of Scabies has diminished and that this reduction is likely to be maintained and even improved on in 1945.

I must express my gratitude for the consideration which has been extended to me by members of the Council and for the support and assistance I have received from the staffs of the Sanitary Department and other Departments of the Council, without which, the difficult task of carrying on single-handed after the death of your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Angus, in February 1944 might well have proved impossible.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. MCGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

September, 1945.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28811902>

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR 1944.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	)	
Medical Officer M. & C.W.	)	
Authority.....	)	Catherine B. McGregor,
Medical Officer Infectious	)	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
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.

-----oOo-----

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident population mid 1944 - 26,920.

Rateable value - £114,050.

One penny rate produces - £450.62

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) - 7,450.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	514	254	260
Illegitimate	25	13	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 20.02.			

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	23	13	10
Illegitimate	2	2	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 44.32.			

Deaths:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	284	150	134
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population - 10.54.			

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

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis	2	3.54
No.30 Other maternal causes.	-	-

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	44.52
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	80.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1944.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Typhoid & paratyphoid fevers.	-	-
2. Cerebro spinal fever.	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of resp: sys:	11	4
7. Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	3
8. Syphilitic diseases.	-	-
9. Influenza.	-	-
10. Measles.	1	-
11. Ac: Polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-
12. Ac: inf. enceph:	2	-
13. Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph:(M) uterus (F)	4	1
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	3	3
15. Cancer of breast.	-	3
16. Cancer of all other sites.	16	11
17. Diabetes.	-	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	13	22
19. Heart diseases.	48	39
20. Other dis: of circ: system.	8	4
21. Bronchitis.	5	5
22. Pneumonia.	1	5
23. Other resp: dis:	-	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	2	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.	2	3
26. Appendicitis.	-	-
27. Other digve. dis:	4	5
28. Nephritis.	1	6
29. Puer: and post-abortion: sepsis.	-	2
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-
31. Premature birth.	2	1
32. Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis.	3	3
33. Suicide.	1	-
34. Road traffic acc:	-	-
35. Other violent causes.	8	-
36. All other causes.	14	10
Total causes ...	150	134
Deaths of infants (Legitimate	Male 11	Female 11
under 1 year (Illegitimate	1	1
Totals	12	12

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1944.

The total number of deaths of children under one year was 24 as compared with 42 in 1943. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 44.52 per 1,000 live births, which is a considerable reduction on previous years. The corresponding figure for 1943 was 53.8 per 1,000 live births.

The Registrar General's table SD.55 gives the infantile mortality rates as follows:-

For England and Wales 46 deaths per 1,000 live births.
For 126 Great Towns 52 deaths per 1,000 live births.
For 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000 - 50,000) 44 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The infantile mortality rate for Ashington is thus only very slightly in excess of the average rate for similar areas throughout the country.

The following table shows the comparative mortality during the past seven years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years.	4	1	1	1	1	2	5
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	33	27	29	30	23	42	24
Infantile Mortality Rate	75.34	57.08	65.31	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups under one year:-

Copy

Original on - /10.000

Department of the Medical Officer
of Health.
146 Station Road,
Ashington,
Northumberland

17th November, 1945.

Dear Sir,

I yesterday forwarded to you five copies of the Annual Report for 1944 for the Urban District of Ashington, and I now beg to correct a mistake which appears on page 4 of that report. The sentence beginning "The corresponding figure for 1943 ---" should read "The corresponding figure for 1943 was 82.19 per 1,000 live births".

I regret that the report was forwarded to you before this mistake was noticed.

Yours faithfully,
(sd-) C.B.McGregor
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London.

Copy Original on - 40-000

Department of the Medical Officer
of Health,
145 Station Road,
Aston,
Northumberland

17th November, 1943.

Dear Sir,

I yesterday forwarded to you
five copies of the Annual Report for
1944 for the Urban District of
Aston, and I now beg to correct
a mistake which appears on page 4 of
that report. The sentence beginning
"The corresponding figure for
1943 ---" should read "The
corresponding figure for 1943 was
82.19 per 1,000 live births".

I regret that the report was
forwarded to you before this mistake
was noticed.

Yours faithfully,
(sd) G. B. McGregor
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Aston.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1944.

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.
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Septicaemia	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	2	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	5
Congenital - malformation	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	-	6
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Gastro enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Congenital debility	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Birth injury	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	3	2	3	-	8	8	4	3	1	24

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below:-

Specimen sent in by,	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa for tubercle.	10	43
Medical Practitioners.	do.	9	125
Medical Practitioners.	Pus for tubercle.	-	1
Medical Practitioners.	Faeces for organisms (T.B.)	1	-
M.O.H.	Swabs for C.diphtheriae.	5	84
Medical Practitioners.	do.	37	54
Medical Practitioners.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus.	11	23
Medical Practitioners.	Faeces for organisms (dysentery)	2	11
M.O.H.	Faeces for B.typhosus	-	1
Medical Practitioners.	Mucus for organisms (dysentary)	1	-
Medical Practitioners.	Pleural Fluid for organisms.	-	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.
NURSING IN THE HOME.
TREATMENT CENTRES AND 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 7,190
 Children between 1 and 5 years 1,485

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

(a) under 1 year of age 528
 (b) between the ages of 1 and 5 yrs ... 46

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 432
 (b) Over 1 year of age 613

Special attention continued to be directed to observing the dental and oral state of the mothers attending with their babies. Those in whom the oral-dental state was found to be unsatisfactory were 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 Cost Price.</u>
Virolax	756 cartons
Ostermilk, No.1.	889 lbs.
Ostermilk, No.2.	4,698 "
Cow and Gate	11,258 "
Virol	756 tins
Minadox	564 ozs.
Codliver Oil Emulsion	442 btls.
Marmite	482 cartons.
Maltoline	317 tins.
Hemolac	103 tins.

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

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

Number of sessions held 25
Number of children examined 170

Defects in pre-school children during 1944. Numbers of children examined in whom were found:-

Caries of teeth	69	Squints	22
Tonsils enlarged.....	12	Bronchitis	18

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

Dental Clinic.

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

Number of sessions held	50
" " expectant and nursing mothers who attended	100
" " pre-school children who attended.....	69
" " administrations of general anaesthesia	56
" " dentures supplied to expectant & nursing mothers	64

It was the invariable practice to perform extractions in pre-school children whilst they were 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 attended for the first time.....	22
" " subsequent attendances by children	81

This clinic was carried on on the same lines as in previous years. The optician accompanied the oculist as in the past in order to facilitate the fitting and delivery of spectacles.

The conditions for which the toddlers were seen were - squints and errors of refraction. There were 18 cases of squints and in 17 cases spectacles were prescribed by the oculist.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

Diphtheria immunisation of pre-school children was carried out at 4 clinics in each month, viz. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, and 2nd. and 4th Thursdays. Figures giving the immunisation state of the child population are included in section F. of this report.

MATERNITY SERVICES IN ASHINGTON.

Ante-natal Clinic.

Following upon the death of Dr. Angus it was impossible for me to undertake as many clinics as in previous years, and it was resolved to ask the County Council for assistance. This was readily granted and from the middle of February, the Medical Officers supplied by the County Council attended the Ante-natal Clinic.

This was carried on as previously, two afternoon sessions being held per month, until the end of May. But from the 31st May the number of sessions was increased to two per week, one in the morning and one in the afternoon of each Wednesday, and at all of these a Medical Officer was in attendance. This was a great advance in the services provided for expectant mothers, but the numbers attending became so great that a further increase in the number of sessions became necessary. From the 11th August an additional session was held each Friday morning except on the last Friday of each month. From this date all expectant mothers attending the clinic were seen by a Medical Officer. The Health Visitors and the nurses of the local nursing association co-operated in assisting at these clinics.

Number of sessions held	94
Total number of new cases under above auspices ..	570
Total number of re-visits under above auspices ..	2,859

References to Specialists.

There were referred to obstetric specialists in Newcastle during the year from the Ante-natal Clinics under the scheme six cases for opinion and report at a cost of £6. 6. 0d.

Home Helps.

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

Maternity Outfits were hired on payment of a small fee. More use was made of this service than for some years past.

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 38 cases admitted under this scheme and they were classified as follows:-

Toxaemia of Pregnancy	6
Haemorrhage, Ante -partum	1
Deliveries (a) Normal	15
(b) Breech	5
(c) Instrumental	2
Investigation	1
Abortion	1
Placenta Praevia	1
Version	2
Hysterectomy	1
Pyelitis	1
Prolapsed cord	1
Disproportion	1

Sunray Clinic.

This clinic was conducted twice weekly - Monday and Thursday forenoons. From February a Medical Officer supplied by the County Council attended this clinic once weekly.

No. of children who attended for the first time . . .	85
No. of revisits of the said children	2,786

During the year it was open on 103 occasions.

Under the agreement entered into between the Ashington U.D.C. and the Northumberland County Council Education Committee, school children continual 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	543
Number of infants supervised - total visits	1,953
Number of revisits to children from 1 - 5 years	2,576
First visits to babies wholly breast fed	456
First visits to babies wholly hand-fed	38
First visits to babies partly hand-fed	49
First visits to expectant mothers	204
Total visits to expectant mothers	332

Child Life Protection.

Childlife Protection Visitors were the two Health Visitors. At the end of the year 1944 there were 5 children on the register.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Tynemouth Corporation. This has been chlorinated since 1942, and samples taken periodically from varying points in the district, show it to be of the highest quality of drinking water. Appended are the results of the examination carried out:-

Source.	Date.	Coli Aerogenes Test organisms per 100 ml.
Town Supply	13-1-44	Nil.
-do-	13-1-44	8
-do-	19-4-44	Nil
-do-	19-4-44	Nil
-do-	19-4-44	Nil
-do-	19-4-44	Nil
-do-	19-4-44	Nil
-do-	15-6-44	Nil
-do-	20-6-44	Nil
-do-	20-6-44	Nil
-do-	17-10-44	Nil
-do-	21-11-44	Nil
-do-	21-11-44	Nil
Swimming Bath Water	28-6-44	Nil.

Five stand-pipes in back streets supplying 17 houses still remain for attention in the post-war period. These houses, however, represent only 0.22% of the total houses in the district.

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.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been extensions in this during the year. Where alterations to property have been carried out the remodelled drainage systems have been discussed with Owners and Builders with advantage to both Owner and Builder.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken under this heading.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No conversions were carried out during the period under review,

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A further reduction in the skilled labour available to carry out necessary repairs to dwelling house property was experienced during 1944 with the result that a slowing up in the execution of housing repairs was again noted. Under the provision of Circular 2871, a scheme for the issue of Essentiality Certificates was operated and was of some assistance in that the absolutely essential works of repair were enabled to be carried out.

In addition to the figures given in the accompanying table, informal action was responsible for a not inconsiderable amount of work of repair.

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	137	137
To provide Ashbins.	6	6
To repair Eaves Gutters, and Downspouts.	17	14
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes.	6	6
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls etc.	13	12
Defective Fireplaces.	3	2
Defective Outbuildings.	5	5
Defective Manhole Covers	-	-
Defective Water Closets.	7	7
Defective Sash Cords	7	7
Defective Wallplaster.	7	7
Offensive Accumulations.	-	-
Defective Ceilings.	4	4
Defective Foodstores.	4	3
Defective Airgrates.	-	-

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.

CINEMAS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The Ventilation, Sanitary Accommodation, and Cleanliness of all places of Public Entertainment remained satisfactory during the year and no complaint was received respecting any building. But for the need for conservation of materials the entire sanitary accommodation at one place of public resort would have been entirely remodelled on up-to-date lines. The Licensing Officer of the Ministry had, of necessity, to curtail the project.

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

In February 1944 the Council received the delegation of powers under the above Act and Order from the County Council.

In addition to the ordinary work of rat extermination, a sewer campaign for the destruction of rats therein was carried out with satisfactory results and the portions found to be affected were given a subsequent treatment.

In addition, the known areas of infestation have received regular attention to prevent reinfestation on any scale.

This Department undertakes the work in all cases with the result that the action taken fits into the general scheme of rodent destruction. In general the public co-operate in all deratisation work and this materially helped the work. The main methods of dealing with the Rodents was baiting, gassing, and proofing.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites within the area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There were no reports received from the Police that any householder had permitted the chimney of his dwelling house to be accidentally on fire. There were, however, instances where dwelling house chimneys did emit smoke and soot to the discomfort of the neighbourhood and thereby polluted the atmosphere to an unreasonable extent.

Enabling powers should be given to all Local Authorities, who so desire, to set up a Municipal Chimney Sweeping Service, the sole purpose of which would be to reduce the number of dwelling house chimneys accidentally "firing", and thus to benefit the community.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- 1 (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 - 30.
No. disinfested - 30.

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, and advice is given on the avoiding of reinfestation.

BEETLES.

Infestation by Beetles is not an infrequent cause for complaint. 4 Council houses and 6 other premises were treated for this.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT - Summary of

Year Ending December 31st, 1944.

	No. of Inspec- tions during year.	No. of Defects or Contra- ventions of Bye- Laws.	No. out- standing from previous year.	No. re- mediated after letter or inter- view.	No. of inform- al Notices served	Defects re- med- ied there after	In pro- gress or being dealt with.
<u>HOUSING.</u>							
Structural Defects.	489	60	-	20	36	56	4
Defective Foodstore.	32	4	-	-	4	4	-
Dampness.	18	8	1	-	8	9	-
Overcrowding.	65	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuisances.	78	29	-	18	11	11	-
<u>WATER.</u>							
Insufficient)	251	251	-	209	42	30	12
Unsatisfactory)							
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>							
Insufficient)	402	146	-	145	1	1	-
Defective)							
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>							
Insufficient)	108	36	-	33	3	3	-
Defective)	410	12	-	12	-	-	-
Shops, Foodstores etc.	164	4	-	4	-	-	-
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	431	Government Abattoir.		3	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses.	45	3	-	2	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	118	10	-	10	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	125	12	-	12	-	-	-
Workshops and Workplaces.	26	2	-	2	-	-	-
Keeping Animals.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits improperly used.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	25	11	-	11	-	-	-
Total.	2787	588	1	479	105	114	16

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)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	589
(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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

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..

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

8 of these samples were Pasteurised Milks, the Plate Counts for which ranged from 2,660 to 23,000 Bacteria per ml.

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

13.5 Blue Units; 2.1 Blue Units; 1.7 Blue Units; 1.4 Blue Units;
1.2 Blue Units; 1.3 Blue Units 1.1 Blue Units; 1.1 Blue Units;
1.5 Blue Units; 1.1 Blue Units; 1.2 Blue Units.

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

Of 47 samples Raw and T.T. Milks submitted to the County Laboratory Newburn:-

34	Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.
2	Decolourised under 5½ hours.
1	" " 4½ hours.
3	" " 4 hours.
1	" " 3½ hours.
2	" " 3 hours.
4	" " ½ hours.

Of the 13 samples which failed to Satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 6 were produced within the Urban District of these 1 decolourised in 3 hours, 1 in 3½ hours, 1 in 4 hours, 1 in 4½ hours, and 2 in 5 hours.

In 43 samples submitted to the test for Tuberculosis, 39 were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND, and in 4 Tuberculosis was PRESENT. The animals were slaughtered and subsequent samples from these sources proved to be negative.

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 show a small increase on last year's totals and for the year under review are as follows.

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1976; Cows 296; Calves 209; Sheep and Lambs 9629; Swine 421.

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:

Lungs	221
Head and Tongue	121
Livers	45
Mesenteries	20
Tripe	1
Back Skirts	9
Heart	1
Udders	1
Carcases (inc. 2 T.B. Tests)	33.
Beef Weighing	113 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones.

Swine:

Heads	3
Plucks	7
Mesenteries	3

Other Defined Diseases:-

Bovine:

Lungs	-	Pleurisy 22; Actinomycosis 2; Flukes 1; Abscesses 4.
Livers	-	Cirrhosis 184; Echinococcus 5; Cavernous Angioma 23; Abscesses 23; Carcinoma 1; Bacterial Necrosis 3; Friable 5; Actinomycosis 2.
Head & Tongue	-	Actinomycosis 13;
Udders	-	Mastitis 45; Septic Mastitis 11;
Tripe and Gut	-	Congestion 3.
Gut	-	Inflammation 2; Johnes Disease 24.
Back Skirt	-	Inflammation 2.
Spleen	-	Peritonitis 5.
Mesentery	-	Actinomycosis 1.
Heart	-	Pericarditis 4.
Pluck	-	Congestion 1.
Frozen Veal	-	Cladosporium Herbarum 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ st.
Beef	-	Traumatism 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ st; Congestion 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ st.
Carcases (of which 6 were Rejects & 11 Casualties)	-	Septicaemia 10; Johnes Disease 4; Septic Mastitis 4; Pyrexia 2; Septic Metritis 1; Toxaemia 1; Mechanical Emaciation 1; Septic Pericarditis 1. Total weight 823 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones
Calves	-	Immaturity 3; Gangrenous Pneumonia 1; Pyrexia and Dropsy 1; (total weight 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones).

Sheep:

Livers	-	Cirrhosis 3; (Imported) Decomposition 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ st.
Tripe & Gut	-	Congestion 2.
Plucks	-	Pneumonia 3; Cirrhosis & Parasites 7.
Carcases	-	Pyrexia 35; Pneumonia 3; Gangrenous Pneumonia 11; Emaciation 5; Emaciation & Pyrexia 17; Septic Metritis; Emaciation & Dropsy 7; Dropsy 1. Moribund 5; Immaturity 1; (Total weight 261 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones).
Mutton	-	Bruising 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ st; Traumatism 1 st.

Swine:

Livers	-	Cirrhosis 3;
Heart	-	Pericarditis 1.

Plucks	- Pleurisy and Cirrhosis 3.
Carcases	- Pyamia 1; Pyrexia 1; Emaciation 1; Emaciation & Dropsy 1; Dropsy 1; (Total weight 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ sts.)
Pork	- Abscesses 16 lbs.

OTHER FOODS

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

Tinned meats	424 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Pies	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.
-do-	27 tins	Butter	12 lbs.
Pork Sausage	157 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Margarine	1 lb.
Fish	162 tins	Sugar	2 cwt.
Codlings	12 st.	Tea	18 lbs.
Vegetables	119 tins	Biscuits	119 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
-do-	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	Flour.	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ st.
Peas	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ st.	Eggs	61
Fruit	10 tins	Cereals	51 lbs.
-do-	7 st.	Syrup	12 tins.
Milk	481 tins	Carlins	28 sts.
Ham	32 lbs.	Potatoes	52 sts.
Bacon	62 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	Bread	154 lbs.
Soup & Broth	16 tins	Onions	50 bags.
Jam	164 tins & jars.		
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	- 821 tins; 8 jars; 76 bottles; 392 packets.		

Carcases Inspected and Condemned 1944.

	Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	} 1976	296	209	9629	421
Number Inspected					
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	-	24	5	86	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	259	108	1	15	7
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than T.B.	12.905	44.594	2.870	1.048	2.850
Tuberculosis only -					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	8	25	-	-	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	123	191	0	-	14
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis..	6.629	72.972	-	-	4.275

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 Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	5	12	38	16	1	4	-	-	-	79
Diphtheria.	-	1	-	-	4	17	9	2	1	-	-	-	34
Pneumonia	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	4	7	-	18
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Measles	2	1	-	-	4	9	2	-	1	1	-	-	20
Whooping Cough	5	5	5	4	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	34

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	79	11	-
Diphtheria	34	30	2
Pneumonia	18	Not known	6
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	-
Dysentery	3	-	-
Typhoid Fever	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2
Measles	20	-	1
Whooping Cough	34	2	-

Enteric Fevers.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever notified during the year. This was an isolated case and the source of infection was not discovered and the patient made good recovery. No case of paratyphoid fever was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease was much less prevalent than in the previous year, there being only 79 cases notified as compared with 154 in 1943. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

The incidence of this disease increased from 18 to 34 cases as compared with the previous year. Of the 34 cases notified, 26 were known to have been inoculated against diphtheria. There were two deaths, both of which occurred in non-immunised persons.

Measles.

Following upon the epidemic of 1943 the incidence of measles in 1944 was greatly reduced, there being only 20 cases notified. There was one death.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the months of October and November visits were paid to all the schools in Ashington for the purpose of inoculating children against diphtheria. Immunisation clinics for pre-school children continued to be held at the Child Welfare Centre. In addition 36 children received treatment from local general practitioners.

At 31st December, 1944, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows:-

Under 5 years	38.26%
5 - 15 years	84.44%

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

The incidence of scabies showed a decrease during 1944, there being only 271 cases treated as compared with 366 in the previous year. Persons suffering from "Scabies & Lice" numbered 64 as compared with 145, and those suffering from "Lice Only" numbered 11 as compared with 46.

It is unquestionable that scabies was less prevalent, but in my opinion it is doubtful if the incidence of lice infestation has decreased to the extent suggested by the figures given in the table set out below.

The figures given would suggest that infestation is less frequent, but this may be due only to the fact that scabies, being less frequent, fewer people were examined, as most of the patients coming for treatment came only because they had scabies and the presence of lice was detected on routine examination.

It is of some interest to note that of a total of 47 patients from Ashington suffering from infectious disease and admitted to the Ashington Hospital of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board during the year, 27 or 57% had a verminous condition of the Head on admission. Of a total of 247 patients admitted to the Hospital from the five areas served by the Board, 127 or 51.4% were found to be infested with lice or nits on admission.

While these patients do not form an entirely unselected group and cannot be said to represent a true cross section of the population, the figures of infestation nevertheless indicate the existence of a disturbing and highly unsatisfactory state of affairs among certain sections of the community.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function during the year and clinics at which your Medical Officer attended were held twice weekly.

The following table shows the number of persons from Ashington who were treated according to their ages and conditions from which they suffered.

	<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.	39	73	-	19	-	5	10	28
5 - 16 yrs.	59	56	10	27	-	6	13	4
Under 5 yrs.	25	19	2	6	-	-	3	4
	<u>123</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>36</u>

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the five districts included in the No.2 Medical Area.

	<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.	56	124	-	29	-	10	11	52
5 - 16 yrs.	144	112	33	67	2	15	17	12
Under 5 yrs.	43	36	5	11	1	-	7	10
	<u>243</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>74</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
15-	5	6	-	-	3	1	-	-
25-	10	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
35-	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
45-	4	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
55-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	23	15	-	1	11	4	-	3

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis ... 5
 Notified deaths from Tuberculosis 13
 Total deaths from Tuberculosis 18

CANCER MORTALITY.

	Males							Females						
	20	30	40	45	55	65	Total.	20	30	40	45	55	65	Total.
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lip	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lung	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Bronchi	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Intestine	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Gall Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Testis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	1	-	-	1	4	18	24	-	-	1	3	4	8	16

Sarcoma - Abdomen 1 male 70 yrs.
 Femur & Lungs 1 female 46 "

Birth-rates, Civilian Death -rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1944. 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	17.6 /	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still "	0.50 /	0.64	0.61	0.42
Deaths				
All Causes	11.6 /	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of age	46 /	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 Years of Age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1
* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths. / Per 1,000 related births / Rates per 1,000 Total population.				
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifications:-				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
(a) Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	10.34	13.13	9.25	(3.61
Puerperal Pyrexia	)	)	)	(/14.14
(b) Maternal Mortality - England and Wales:-				
No.140	No.141	No.147	Nos. 142-6	
Abortion	Abortion	Puerperal	148-150	
with Sepsis	without Sepsis	Infections	Other	
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25	
Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45				
-England and Wales:-				
No.140 With Sepsis		No.141 Without Sepsis		
25		7		
/ Including Puerperal fever				

