

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashington U.D.C.

Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF
ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR 1945.

INCORPORATING THE
REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
(Mr. G. W. TATE.)

ASHINGTON,
WILKINSONS,
HIGH MARKET,
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(M. G. W. JONES)

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1943

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1945.

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

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

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 1945.

There are no changes of outstanding importance to report.

The birth rate shows a slight increase to 20.26 per 1,000 of the population and the death rate a slight decrease to 10.41 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for the urban areas of similar size in England and Wales are 19.2 and 12.3 respectively.

Unfortunately there is an increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate but the figure of 48.82 per 1,000 live births is still the second lowest on record. The lowest figure being 44.52 which was recorded in 1944.

I should like once more to express my gratitude for the consideration which has been extended to me by members of the Council and for the assistance I have received from the Sanitary and other departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR.

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

September, 1946.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer M. & C. W. Authority	...	...	...	
Dental Officer	...	...	...	G. E. Wilson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., L.D.S., part time (locum tenens.) 1st January—30th June only.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	...	...	...	Alex MacRae, M.D., D.O.M.S., part time. 1st January—30th June only.
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.) 1st January—30th June only.
Sanitary Housing Meat	} Inspector	...	...	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
Sanitary Meat		Inspector (additional)	...	E. W. Strachan, M.S.I.A., A.R., San. I.
Health and Child Protection Visitors	...	...	...	{ Miss I. Taylor, S.C.M., Mrs. N. P. Buxton, (nee McKenna) S.R.N., S.C.M. 1st January—30th June only.
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 (leased to S.E.N.J.H.B.)	...	...	...	North Seaton Station, Ashington. Telephone: Ashington 20.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres—6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident population mid 1945—27,290.

Rateable Value—£114,618.

One Penny Rate produces £444'474.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1945)—7,450.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS.				Total.	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	524	262	262
Illegitimate	...	...	...	29	16	13
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—20'26.						

STILL BIRTHS.				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	18	7	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—33'22						

DEATHS:—				Total	Male	Female
				284	153	131

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—10'41.

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

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	0		0
No. 30 Other maternal causes	0		0

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	48'82
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				45'8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				103'4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2

The Registrar General supplies the following :—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1945.

CAUSES.				Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	0	0
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	2	2
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	7	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	2
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	0	0
9.	Influenza	...	...	0	0
10.	Measles	...	...	1	0
11.	Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	...	...	0	0
12.	Ac. inf. enceph.	...	...	1	0
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph : (M) uterus (F)	...	...	0	5
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	9	3
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	0	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites...	...	...	12	6
17.	Diabetes	...	...	0	3
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	28	14
19.	Heart diseases	...	...	32	30
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	4	4
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	10	6
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	6	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach	...	...	0	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years...	...	...	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	1	0
27.	Other digestive diseases...	...	...	5	7
28.	Nephritis	...	...	2	3
29.	Puerp. and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	0	0
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	0	0
31.	Premature birth	...	...	3	4
32.	Con. mal., birth inj., infant dis.	...	...	55	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	0	0
34.	Road Traffic accidents	...	...	1	2
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	5	5
36.	All other causes	...	...	13	16
Total Causes				153	131

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

			Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	11	13
Illegitimate	...	...	2	1
			13	14

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1945.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 27 as compared with 24 in 1944. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 48·82 per 1,000 live births, which is a slight increase as compared with 44·52 in 1944, but is the second lowest rate on record.

The Registrar General's Table S.D. 55 gives the Infantile Mortality rate as follows :—

For England and Wales 46 deaths per 1,000 live births.

„ 126 Great Towns 54 „ „

„ 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000–50,000) 43 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past 7 years :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number of deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years ..	1	1	1	1	2	5	2
Infantile deaths under 1 year ...	27	29	30	23	42	24	27
Infantile Mortality ..	57.08	65.31	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY—1945.

Causes of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	0	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	7
Birth Injury	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Congen. Abnormality ...	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Marasmus	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
Gastro-Enteritis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Meningitis (T.B.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Meningitis (Cerebro Spinal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Accident	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	10	1	1	1	13	4	4	5	1	27

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS 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 Tuberculosis	7	58
General Practitioners	do	6	124
M.O.H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	46	592
General Practitioners	do	216	221
General Practitioners	Swabs for Hæm Strep.	50	33
M.O.H.	Fæces for Organisms	2	10
General Practitioners	do	4	10
M.O.H.	Blood for Widal	1	0
General Practitioners	do	1	1
		Virulent	
		Gravis Type	Others
M.O.H.	Virulence Test for C. Diphtheria	23	4
General Practitioners	do	4	2
		Non-Virulent	
		1	

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

No Change.

Maternity And Child Welfare.—On 1st. July, 1945, Ashington U.D.C. ceased to be a Welfare Authority and these services were taken over by the Northumberland County Council.

The following report refers only to the six months, 1st. January to 30th. June, 1945.

Sessions—49, from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday and Thursday afternoons.

The following is a record of the attendances during the six months :—

Total attendances.

Children under one	...	...	...	3,941
Children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	478

Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time and who at the date of their first attendance were :—

(a) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	254
(b) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	40

Total number of Children who attended at the Centre and who at the end of the 6 months were :—

(a) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	209
(b) Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	185

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

Milk Foods, Etc.—During the 6 months, milk foods and other specialities were supplied in accordance with the undermentioned data.

			Food Sold at Cost Price.
Virolax	...	...	84 cartons
Ostermilk No. 1	...	...	616 lbs.
Ostermilk No. 2	...	...	1641 „
Cow and Gate	...	...	6598 „
Virol	...	...	343 tins
Minadox	...	...	107 ozs.
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion			120 bottles
Marmite	...	...	171 tins
Maltoline	...	...	98 „
Hemolac	...	...	62 „

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	...	...	10
Number of children examined	...	...	101

Defects in pre-school children were found as follows:—

Caries of teeth in 15 cases.	Squints in 12 cases.
Tonsils enlarged in 4 cases.	Bronchitis in 9 cases.

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	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ expectant and nursing mothers who attended	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ pre-school children who attended	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ administrations of general anaesthesia	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ dentures supplied to expectant and nursing mothers	...	...	...	...	...	17

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	3
Number of children attended for the first time	7
Number of subsequent attendances by children...	42

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—squints and errors of refraction. There were 6 cases of squints and in 6 cases spectacles were prescribed by the oculist.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.—Diphtheria immunisation of pre-school children was carried out at clinics on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, and every Thursday. Figures giving the immunisation state of the child population are included in Section F of this report.

MATERNITY SERVICES IN ASHINGTON.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—The Northumberland County Council continued to supply Medical Officers for this Clinic. Two clinics were held each Wednesday and one each Friday morning except the last Friday in each month.

Number of sessions held	70
Total number of new cases under above auspices ...	326
Total number of re-visits under above auspices ...	1983

Home Helps.—The demand for home helps greatly exceeded the supply and it was possible to provide this service on only 2 occasions during the year.

Maternity Outfits were hired on payment of a small fee.

Maternal Morbidity. (Causes 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 first half of the year. There were 20 cases admitted under this scheme and they were classified as follows:—

Toxæmia of Pregnancy	5
Hæmorrhage, (ante-partum)	3
Deliveries (a) Normal	4
(b) Breech	1
(c) Instrumental	4
Version	2
Heart Disease	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	...	38
No. of revisits of the said children	...	1,050

During the 6 months it was open on 49 occasions.

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 has been notified of his recommendation.

Summary of Child Welfare Activities Etc.

No. of infants supervised—first visits	...	317
No. of infants supervised—total visits	...	915
No. of revisits to children from 1—5 years	...	1,172
First visits to expectant mothers	...	12
Total visits to expectant mothers	...	48

Child Life Protection.—Childlife Protection Visitors were the two Health Visitors.

At the end of the year 1945 there were 3 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 examinations carried out:—

Source	Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Town Supply	28-2-45	Nil
do	30-5-45	Nil
do	30-5-45	Nil
do	30-5-45	Nil
do	30-5-45	Nil
do	10-10-45	Nil
do	10-10-45	Nil
do	10-10-45	Nil
do	10-10-45	Nil
do	14-11-45	Nil
do	14-11-45	Nil
Swimming Bath Water	30-5-45	Nil
do	30-5-45	Nil

Five stand-pipes in back streets supplying 17 houses still remain for attention. 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 no 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.—The difficulty of execution of repairs to dwelling houses remained until late summer 1945. The cost of works permitted without Building Licence was reduced from £100 to £10, and as a result the Department was able to direct more attention to properties requiring essential repairs rather than the work which could be classed of the luxury or near luxury type. Progress was accordingly reasonable and housing repairs benefited.

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	160	160
To provide Ashbins	6	6
To repair Eaves Gutters and Downspouts	31	31
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes	16	16
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls, etc.	21	21
Defective Fireplaces	6	5
Defective Outbuildings	12	12
Defective Water Closets	23	23
Defective Sash Cords	7	7
Defective Wallplaster	13	13
Offensive Accumulations	1	1
Defective Ceilings	12	12
Defective Foodstores	3	3
Defective Airgrates	3	3

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.

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.

One section only of the sewers was found to be affected and received appropriate attention, with satisfactory results. The reason for this infestation of this section is not definitely known, but the confinement of infestation to one portion is of benefit when treatment is given.

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.

Colliery Spoilbanks. Following the Ministry's Circular letter of the 13th February, 1945, on Colliery Spoilbanks liable to spontaneous combustion, contact was made with the Ashington Coal Company on this question and attention was drawn to the Public Health (Coal Mine Refuse) Act 1939, which now classifies a coal mine dump as a statutory nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936, if it is liable to spontaneous combustion.

With the lifting of the blackout regulations the colliery spoilbanks deteriorated, and as a result of pressure some special attention was devoted to the burning spoilbanks without achieving maximum results. Close contact was maintained with the Company during the year to endeavour to reduce the nuisance to the lowest possible proportions.

Mosquitoes.—The nuisance from Mosquitoes which had manifested itself during 1944 in Woodhorn Village, recurred with greater force during the period under review. These Mosquitoes of the *Aedes Detritus* variety caused considerable nuisance to a fairly wide range of inhabitants of the district and also in adjoining districts. In an effort to deal with the matter on a wider issue, the Department was instrumental in convening a meeting of representatives from adjoining Authorities to give joint attention to the problem. Agreement as to the source of the mosquitoes was not reached and the nuisance was not eliminated, although measures to minimise the trouble were operated. Work on this problem was carried over to 1946.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—

- (a) No. of Council premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—11
No. disinfested—11.
- (b) No. of Other Premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—25
No. disinfested—25.

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. 13 Other premises were treated for this.

Sanitary Inspector's Report—Summary of Year ending December 31, 1945

	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 interview.	No. of informal Notices served.	Defects remedied there- after.	In progress or being dealt with.
HOUSING.							
Structural Defects...	498	60	4	28	36	28	8
Defective Food-store	41	9	—	—	9	9	—
Dampness	23	12	—	—	12	12	—
Overcrowding	56	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances	93	43	—	29	14	14	—
WATER.							
Insufficient	186	186	12	168	30	23	7
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE.							
Insufficient	431	161	—	151	10	7	3
Defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.							
Insufficient	87	29	—	6	2	2	—
Defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops, Foodstores, etc.	541	10	—	10	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	156	3	—	3	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	532	Government Abattoir.	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	21	2	—	2	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	114	8	—	8	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	137	14	—	14	—	—	—
Keeping Animals	39	3	—	3	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	42	16	—	16	—	—	—
Total	2997	556	16	438	113	95	18

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)	...	...	...	...	281
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	613
(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	...	...	84
---	-----	-----	----

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

2 of these samples were Pasturised Milks, the Plate Counts for which were 2,660 and 12,400, Bacteria per ml.

14 Pasteurised samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test with the appended results:—

6.4 Blue Units;	1.0 Blue Units;	1.5 Blue Units;	1.0 Blue Units;
0.9 Blue Units;	0.8 Blue Units;	0.6 Blue Units;	1.3 Blue Units;
1.8 Blue Units;	4.2 Blue Units;	1.6 Blue Units;	1.6 Blue Units;
2.2 Blue Units;	1.9 Blue Units;		

2 samples it will be noted were insufficiently heat-treated.

Of 38 samples Raw and T.T. Milks submitted to the County Laboratory, Newburn,

30 Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	3 Decolourised under 3½ hours.
1 Decolourised under 5 hours.	1 " " 1 hour.
2 " " 4 hours.	1 " " ½ hour.

Of the 8 samples which failed to Satisfy the Methylene Blue Test 4 were produced within the Urban District, of these 2 decolourised in 3½ hours, 1 in 4 hours, and 1 in ½ an hour.

34 samples were submitted to the test for Tuberculosis, and all were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND.

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

The numbers of animals slaughtered shows some decrease on last year's totals and for the year under review are as follows:—

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1621; Cows 140; Calves 323; Sheep and Lambs 6735; Swine 705.

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

MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

For Tuberculosis.

BOVINE.				SWINE.			
Lungs ...	...	...	138	Heads ...	...	6	
Head and Tongue ...	...	...	71	Plucks ...	...	1	
Livers ...	...	...	18	Mesenteries ...	...	1	
Mesenteries ...	...	...	6	Liver ...	...	1	
Back Skirt ...	...	...	1	Carcases ...	...	2	(Total weight, 64½ stones.)
Hearts ...	...	...	2				
Carcases (inc. 2 T.B. Tests)			20				(Total weight, 668½ stones.)
Beef Weighing 67½ stones.							

Other Defined Diseases.

BOVINE.				
Lungs ...	...	...	Pleurisy, 2; Actinomycosis, 8; Flukes, 3; Abscesses, 4; Congestion, 2; Pneumonia, 1.	
Livers ...	...	...	Cirrhosis (whole) 195, (part) 22; Cavernous Angioma, 8; Abscesses, 20; Friable, 4; Bacillary Necrosis, 4; Actinomycosis, 4; Degeneration, 1.	
Head and Tongue ...	...	...	Actinomycosis, 16; Glossitis, 1.	
Udders ...	...	...	Mastitis, 23; Abscesses, 1.	
Tripe and Gut ...	...	...	Johnes Disease, 2; Inflammation, 1.	
Gut ...	...	...	Johnes Disease, 10; Inflammation, 3; Congestion 2.	
Heart ...	...	...	Pericarditis 1.	
Melt ...	...	...	Echinococcus, 1.	
Calf Plucks ...	...	...	Cirrhosis, 2.	
Beef ...	...	...	Brusing, 13½ stones; Bone Taint, 2½ stones.	
Carcases (of which 4 were Rejects and 18 Casualties) ...			Septicaemia, 3; Pyrexia, 3; Pyrexia & Emaciation, 3; Septic Mastitis, 2; Septic Metritis, 3; Johnes Disease, 4; Emaciation, 1; Septic Metritis and Pericarditis, 1. (Total weight, 678 stones.)	
Calves ...	...	...	Pyrexia, 2. (Total weight, 23½ stones.)	
SHEEP.				
Livers ...	...	...	Bacterial Necrosis, 1; Friable, 1; Cirrhosis, 1.	
Heads ...	...	...	Injury (dog worrying), 4.	
Tripe and Gut ...	...	...	Congestion, 1.	
Heart and Lungs ...	...	...	Abscesses, 2.	
Plucks ...	...	...	Pneumonia, 1; Cirrhosis & Parasites, 2; Parasites & Friable, 1; Myelogenous Leukaemia, 1.	
Mutton ...	...	...	Dog Worrying, 15 lb.; Bruising, 21½ stones; Leg Fracture, 4 lbs.; Bone Taint, 1½ stones.	
Carcases (of which 23 were Casualties) ...			Pyrexia, 10; Pyrexia & Emaciation, 3; Emaciation, 3; Septic Pericarditis, 1; Septic Mastitis, 1; Pneumonia 1; Gangrenous Pneumonia, 4; Moribund, 8; Septicaemia (dog worrying), 9; Oedematous, 1. (Total weight, 136½ stones.)	
Imported Lamb ...	...	...	Contamination, 1,596 lbs.	

SWINE.

Liver	...	...	...	Cirrhosis, 1 ; Friable, 1.
Pluck	...	...	...	Pleurisy, 2 ; Congestion, 1.
Sow Belly	...	...	...	Mastitis, 2 stones.
Pork	...	...	...	Brusing, 14 lbs.
Carcases (including 1 Casualty)				Pyrexia, 1 ; Ureamia, 1. (Total weight, 16½ stones.)

Other Foods. The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed :—

Corned Beef and Corned Mutton	...	717 lbs.	Soup	...	...	21 tins.
Tinned Meats	...	300½ lbs.	Milk	...	...	91 tins.
do. do.	...	40 tins.	Dried Milk	...	...	10 tins.
Pork Sausage Meat	...	33 lbs.	Fruit	...	...	1 tin.
Fish	...	154 tins.	do.	..	...	230 lbs.
Vegetables	...	239 tins.	Rice	...	...	158 lbs.
do.	...	30 lbs.	Margarine	...	...	½ lb.
Syrup	...	5 tins.	Soya Flour	...	...	54 lbs.
Marmalade...	...	7 tins.	Chocolate Bars	...	...	912 bars.
Jam	...	11 tins & Jars.	Sugar	...	...	12 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs—40 tins, 141 jars, 5 packets.			Kidney Fat	...	...	64 lbs.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1945.

	Cattle, exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed } Number Inspected }	1621	140	323	6735	705
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole Carcases Condemned	6	14	2	41	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	210	84	2	15	5
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than T.B.	13.325	70.00	1.238	.831	.993
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole Carcases Condemned	3	17	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	89	103	—	—	9
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.675	89.285	—	—	1.560

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 authority.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	3	1	10	5	1	—	1	—	—	23	3	—
Diphtheria ...	—	1	4	8†	9	85	49	21	16	3	—	1	197	145	4
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4	1	9	*	9
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Measles ...	26	69	74	81	91	195	8	4	—	—	—	—	550	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	1	3	2	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	10	2	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—

* Not known.

Diphtheria Carriers ... 28

Admitted to Hospital ... 16

Enteric Fevers.—One case of Typhoid and one case of Paratyphoid were notified during the year. The case of Typhoid Fever occurred in the same family as that in which last year's case occurred.

There was an interval of 9 months between these two cases and no evidence of continued infectivity in the first case could be found. It seems possible that the two cases were infected from the same source but what that source was could not be determined.

In the case of the Paratyphoid Fever infection was suspected of having taken place outside the district but here again it proved impossible to trace the source.

Both patients made good recoveries.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease again showed a drop in incidence, there being only 23 cases notified compared with 79 in 1944. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria. - This disease became epidemic in the early months of 1945 and continued so during the rest of the year.

The epidemic began in February and it was noticed that most of the cases occurred in school children attending one particular school. This was a very large school and it was impossible to swab every child but a carrier search was instituted about the end of March and resulted in the discovery of four carriers in the boys department and one in the infant department. The four boys were all carrying the Gravis type of B. Diphtheria which was the type causing the epidemic. The other child had a Mitis infection. About the same time other four carriers of the Gravis type attending the same school were discovered as a result of cases occurring in their families and two carriers were found who attended another school. All these carriers were excluded from school and for a few weeks the disease was much less prevalent but broke out again in June.

In all there were discovered by myself and the Assistant School Medical Officer, during the year, 28 carriers of whom 20 were proved to be carrying the Gravis Type.

The following table shows the cases notified and carriers discovered in each month :—

		Cases.	Carriers.
January ...	..	4	—
February	...	10	6
March ...	...	38	6
April ...	...	8	6
May ...	...	2	—
June ...	...	11	4
July ...	...	7	—
August ...	...	9	—
September	...	16	3
October ...	...	25	4
November	...	38	2
December	...	29	2
		197	27

Many of the cases especially in the early part of the year were of great severity and there were four deaths, three of which occurred in children who had been inoculated against Diphtheria but received their injections in the early months of 1941 when the dosage given was smaller than that afterwards recommended and adopted and when, moreover, the reagent used was afterwards proved to be inefficient. This reagent was discarded in June 1941 and, as far as I am aware, no child inoculated with the new reagent adopted in July 1941 has so far died of Diphtheria.

Of the total of 197 cases, 125 are known to have been immunised and of these 75 were treated in 1941.

145 cases were removed to hospital.

Measles.—This disease was again epidemic in 1945 — there being 550 cases notified. The vast majority occurred in children under the age of 10 years. There was one death.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—In March and April visits were paid to the schools most affected by the Diphtheria epidemic and 150 of the pupils received the full course of treatment.

In December a complete round of visits to all the schools in Ashington was begun. I recommended that all children who had been treated in 1941 should be re-inoculated and, in all, during the month, 1036 children received the first inoculation and 17 received a single "boosting" dose.

At the end of 1945 the immunisation state of the child population was as follows :—

Pre school children immunised	...	...	52.85%
School children immunised	...	...	85.55%
Child population under 15 years	...	...	74.68%

Scabies.—The incidence of Scabies again showed a marked decline from the previous year, there being 148 persons treated for "Scabies Only" as compared with 271 in 1944.

Those suffering from "Scabies and Lice" numbered 47 as compared with 64 and those suffering from "Lice Only" number 8 instead of 11.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function throughout 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.

	SCABIES ONLY		SCABIES & LICE		LICE ONLY		SCABIES NOT DISCOVERED	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	28	30	1	10	0	0	1	9
5—16 years	32	34	9	25	0	7	7	1
Under 5 years	17	7	0	2	1	0	0	4
	<u>77</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>

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

	SCABIES ONLY		SCABIES & LICE		LICE ONLY		SCABIES NOT DISCOVERED	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	31	48	1	21	0	1	1	10
5—16 years	68	48	10	38	0	9	6	1
Under 5 years	13	14	1	3	1	0	5	5
	<u>112</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5—	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
15—	3	4	1	1	1	2	0	0
25—	6	3	1	0	2	1	1	0
35—	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
45—	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
55—	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65+	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	18	12	2	5	7	5	1	2

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Notified deaths from Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	11
Total deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	15

CANCER MORTALITY.

CANCER	MALES					FEMALES			
	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total	45-	55-	65-	Total
Lung ...	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Stomach ...	0	0	4	5	9	0	1	2	3
Pancreas ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Liver ...	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Colon ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rectum ...	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	1	2
Ureter ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Prostrate ...	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Ovary ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Uterus ...	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Cervix ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Bronchus ...	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	1	2	6	11	20	5	5	7	17

S.D. 55.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	16.1 †	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still Births	0.46†	0.58	0.53	0.40
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.4 †	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Smallpox	*	*	*	*
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	46†	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6
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	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).				
(a) Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever	} 9.93	12.65	8.81 {	3.60
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87§
(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales—				
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other	
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22	
Abortion. Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales—				
No. 140 with Sepsis		No. 141 without Sepsis		
18		6		

* Signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

