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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946.



INCORPORATING THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. G. W. TATE)

ASHINGTON :
J. WILKINSON,
HIGH MARKET
1947

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR 1946

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1906

PREPARED BY THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Wm. C. W. T. M. D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

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 1946.

The vital statistics again show a slight increase in the birth rate from 20.26 in 1945 to 21.5 per 1,000 of the population in 1946. This is the highest rate for more than twelve years and is almost the same as the average rate for towns of a similar size throughout the country. The death rate at 10.7 shows the very slight increase of 0.29 per 1,000 over the previous year but is 1.0 per 1,000 less than the average rate for comparable towns in England and Wales.

It is less satisfactory to have to report that the Infantile Morality Rate which is practically unchanged from last year, is very considerably higher than the average rate for comparable towns.

This report is shorter than those of previous years as there is no detailed statement to be made on the Maternity and Child Services which are now the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council.

In 1946 a beginning was made with the housing programme and it is to be hoped that it will gain momentum in 1947.

I should like, again, to express my gratitude for the consideration 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, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Urban District of Ashington.

July, 1947.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR 1946.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Housing Meat	} Inspector	...	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
Sanitary Meat		...	E. W. Strachan, M.S.I.A., A.R., San. I. (Resigned January, 1946.)
Sanitary Meat		...	H. S. Wilson, M.S.I.A., M.R., San. I. (Appointed 8th April, 1946)
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.H.J.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 1946—28,460.

Rateable Value—£114,618.

One Penny Rate produces £444.474.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1946) 7,512.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS.				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	588	305	283
Illegitimate	...	...	...	25	12	13
				<u>613</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>296</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—21.5

STILL BIRTHS.				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	26	10	16
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 40.68

DEATHS:—

Total	Male	Female
305	158	147

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—10.7

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

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
No. 30	Other maternal causes	1	1.56

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	48.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	47.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	80.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil

The Registrar General Supplies the following :—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1946

CAUSES.			Male.	Female.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	0	0
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough ...	...	0	1
5	Diphtheria ...	...	1	2
6	Tuberculosis of resp. sys. ...	...	7	4
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	0	1
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	...	0	0
9	Influenza ...	...	3	2
10	Measles ...	...	0	0
11	A. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph. ...	...	1	0
12	Ac. inf. enceph. ...	...	1	0
13	Cancer of Buc. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	...	2	2
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	2	5
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	0	2
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	17	8
17	Diabetes ...	...	0	4
18	Intracranial vascular lesions ...	...	17	15
19	Heart diseases ...	...	46	57
20	Other dis. of the circ. system ...	...	5	4
21	Bronchitis ...	...	9	5
22	Pneumonia ...	...	8	7
23	Other resp. dis. ...	...	0	0
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	0	1
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	0	0
26	Appendicitis ...	...	2	0
27	Other digve. dis. ...	...	1	7
28	Nephritis ...	...	6	1
29	Puer. & post abort. sepsis ...	...	0	0
30	Other maternal causes ...	...	0	1
31	Premature birth ...	...	3	3
32	Con. mal. birth inj., infant dis. ...	...	5	5
33	Suicide ...	...	0	0
34	Road traffic accident ...	...	1	0
35	Other violent causes ...	...	7	3
36	All other causes ...	...	14	7
			158	147

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

			Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	17	11
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1
			—	—
			18	12
			—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1946.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 30 as compared with 27 in 1945. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 48.9 per 1,000 live births, which is almost the same as in the previous year.

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

For England and Wales 43 deaths per 1,000 live births.

For 126 Great Towns 46 „ „ „

For 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000–50,000) 37 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past 8 years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years ...	1	1	1	1	2	5	2	0
Infantile deaths under 1 year ...	27	29	30	23	42	24	27	30
Infantile Mortality ...	57.08	65.31	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82	48.9

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

INFANTILE MORTALITY—1946.

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
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	0	10
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Prematurity	8	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Convulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Congen. Malformation	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Asphyxia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Birth Injury	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hæmorrhagic Disease of the Newborn	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Pyuria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	12	1	0	0	13	7	6	4	0	30

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 Tubercle	3	78
General Practitioners	do	3	131
M.O.H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	10	164
General Practitioners	do	101	176
General Practitioners	Swabs for Hæm. Strep.	8	62
General Practitioners	Fæces for Organisms	1	0
M.O.H.	Virulence Test for C. Diph.	Virulent	Non.
		Gravis Type Others	Virulent
		7 2	2

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

NURSING IN THE HOME. (District Nurses & Midwives—7)

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

HOSPITALS.

NO
CHANGE.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This Service is now the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the C.W.C., South View as follows:—

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Every Wednesday—morning and afternoon. Every Friday except the last of the month—held morning and afternoon on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month and on the 4th Friday when there are five Fridays in the month. Held in the morning only, on the 2nd Friday. A Doctor is always in attendance.

Post Natal Clinics. Held fortnightly - on Tuesday afternoons.

Child Welfare Clinics.—Every Monday afternoon and every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Sun-Ray Clinics.—Every Monday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Toddlers Clinics.—Fortnightly—on Tuesday afternoons.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.—On the 2nd Friday afternoon of every month.

Ophthalmic Clinic.—On Saturday mornings at two monthly intervals.

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	11-7-46	Nil
do	11-7-46	Nil
Effluent from sewage disposal works, discharging into Bothal Burn ...	8-8-46	180
Town Supply	8-8-46	Nil
do	8-8-46	Nil
Bothal Village supply (standpipe) ...	8-8-46	2
Town Supply	8-8-46	Nil

Due to the excessive dry spell a restriction of water supply was introduced on the 6th August from 6 p.m., in the evening until 6 a.m. the following morning. This operated only for a few days when full supply was restored.

All houses in the district are supplied with water from public mains. There are altogether 7,512 houses with a population of 28,460 and there are 17 houses with a population of 85 supplied by 5 standpipes. This represents only 0.22% of the total houses and it is estimated that 85.97% have water laid on; 2.93% are supplied by taps in the back-yard and 10.88% by taps in the wash house.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There have been no extensions in this during the year. Discussions with owners and builders have taken place where alterations to existing drainage systems have been necessary and maximum benefit has been achieved thereby.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was taken under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.—No conversions were carried out during the period under view.

Sanitary inspection of the Area.—Consequent on the necessity of obtaining licences to execute works under the Defence (General) Regulations where such cost exceeded £10, the work was divided between the Surveyor's Department and this Department. Licences arising out of the submission of a plan were issued by the Surveyor and all other applications were dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector. Every endeavour was made to ensure that essential works only were carried out so that the leeway in essential repairs was in some measure made up. On the whole, more could have been achieved, than was done, had co-operation between all parties been freer, but under the existing arrangements it is felt that the control of civil building is, at least, achieving the purpose for which it was intended. The lifting of controls will, of course, be welcomed by all, but only when supplies of materials are easier will this be possible.

A total of 610 Building Licences were issued up to the end of December.

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 ...	132	132
To provide ashbins ...	10	10
To repair Eaves Gutters and Downspouts ...	54	35
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes ...	5	4
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls, etc ...	53	19
Defective Fireplaces ...	28	9
Defective Outbuildings ...	39	13
Defective Water Closets ...	20	13
Defective Sash Cords ...	26	8
Defective Wallplaster ...	37	12
Offensive Accumulations ...	2	2
Defective Ceilings ...	15	7
Defective Foodstores ...	6	3
Defective Airgrates ...	1	—
Defective Manhole Covers ...	3	3

Swimming Baths and Pools.—

- (1) Institute Baths (baths, showers and pool) open to the 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 & Mice (Destruction Act, 1919. Infestation Order, S.R. & O. 1943, No. 680.—

The delegation of powers from the County Council under the above Act, was renewed during the year.

That section of the sewers found to be affected received attention and the treatment gave satisfactory results.

The allotments, notably those on which pigs and poultry are kept, proved to be the main areas requiring regular attention and all such allotments were dealt with regularly, after a communication was addressed to the Secretary in each case giving notice of intention to enter.

Experience proves that by making itself responsible for rodent destruction, the Authority obtains the maximum co-operation from all generally and no case of hiding a possible source of infestation was disclosed.

In view of the fact, however, that erections both unsightly and un-hygienic for pigs and poultry are frequently to be found on allotments, it is strongly recommended that the Council insist that buildings of an approved type only should be erected so that proper safeguards against infestation can be adopted. It is noteworthy that in areas where neither pigs or poultry are kept rat population is very low.

Camping Sites.—There are no camping sites within the area.

Atmospheric Pollution.—During the year one report was received from the Police that a householder had permitted the chimney of his dwelling house to be accidentally on fire from which a prosecution was instituted. There were, however, many instances where dwelling house chimneys had polluted the atmosphere to an unreasonable extent by the emission of smoke and soot and so added greatly to the discomfort of the neighbourhood. If offenders in this direction could be brought to a greater sense of civic pride and neighbourliness, this disgusting habit would soon diminish. In the meantime, such offenders, if taken to court, are mulct of sums varying from two-shillings and sixpence to five-shillings, without achieving anything in the matter of prevention.

Colliery Spoilbanks.—Close contact was maintained with the Ashington Coal Company on this important matter. Results were variable but in general a sustained effort was made to reduce the nuisance to the smallest limits.

Close liaison was maintained with H.M. Alkali Inspector to visit the heaps with your Sanitary Inspector. The desideratum is the elimination of these unsightly heaps but whether this can be achieved is for the future.

Approximately six million tons of spoil-heap waste are deposited on the various heaps and it is to be hoped that with the advent of nationalisation it may be found possible for a research department of the Coal Board to be established to deal with the possible uses of this material, with benefit to this district in particular and the Country and Industry in general.

Mosquitoes.—Following on the work of last year attention was again directed to the nuisance from mosquitoes. Evidence of mosquito life was found in the Blueholes (a large water area separating Ashington and Newbiggin to the east.) The salinity of the water in the Blueholes proved to be ideal for the *Aedes Detritus* and breeding was repeated. Spraying of the affected water area with sump oil and kerosene, and attempts to drain the area more effectively were carried out, but at the end of the year the complete solution to the problem had not been achieved and work on this was still proceeding.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—

- (a) No. of Council premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—9
No. disinfested—9
- (b) No. of Other Premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—16
No. disinfested—16

For this work Zaldecide and D.D.T. were 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. 15 premises were dealt with for this.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—Summary of Year ending Dec. 31, 1946.

	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	615	310	8	16	294	150	152
Defective Food-store	25	6	—	—	6	3	3
Dampness	41	32	—	6	26	5	21
Overcrowding	184	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER.							
Insufficient	192	72	7	60	12	15	4
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE.							
Insufficient	376	188	3	180	8	10	1
Defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.							
Insufficient	115	22	—	5	17	13	4
Defective	634	18	—	18	—	—	—
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	161	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	698	7	—	7	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	139	12	—	12	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	141	5	—	5	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	39	12	—	10	2	2	—
Keeping Animals	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3400	692	18	327	365	198	185

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

A.—Total ...	79
B.—As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme (10 Permanent) (67 Prefabricated)	77

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) ...	372
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1210
(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	101

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 ...	59
---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

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

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

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

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—40 samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination as set out below:—
9 Pasteurised samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test with the appended results:—

1.7 Blue Units;	1.2 Blue Units;	1.3 Blue Units;	6.0 Blue Units;
1.5 Blue Units;	1.3 Blue Units;	1.3 Blue Units;	1.5 Blue Units;
1.1 Blue Units.			

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

Of 31 samples Raw and T.T. Milks submitted to the County Laboratory, Newburn,

22 Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

1 Decolourised under 5½ hours.

2 " " 5 "

4 Decolourised under 4½ hours.

2 " " 2 "

Of the 9 samples which failed to Satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 5 were produced within the Urban District, of these, 1 decolourised in 5 hours and 4 in 4½ hours.

28 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 increase on last year's totals and for the year under review are as follows:—

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1617; Cows 271; Calves 607; Sheep & Lambs 9981; Swine 165.

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	...	...	246	Heads	...	...	2
Head & Tongues	...	...	84	Carcases	...	...	1 (Weight 9½ stones)
Livers	...	...	52				
Mesenteries	...	...	22				
Back Skirts	...	...	6				
Hearts	...	...	5				
Tripe	...	...	1				
Gut	...	...	1				
Kidney	...	...	1				
Carcases (inc. 2 T.B. Tests)			30				
Beef weighing 111½ stones.							

(Total weight 979 stones)

For Other Defined Diseases.

BOVINE			
Lungs	...	...	Actinomycosis 11; Abscesses 2; Pneumonia 1; Parasites 17.
Livers	...	...	Cirrhosis (whole) 270, (part) 510; Cavernous Angioma 24; Abscesses 19; Melanosis 2; Friable 7; Bacillary Necrosis 5; Actinomycosis 1; Echinococcus 43.
Head & Tongues	...	...	Actinomycosis 39.
Udders	...	...	Mastitis 99.
Tripe & Gut	...	...	Inflammation 1.
Gut	...	...	Johnes Disease 12; Inflammation 1.
Heart	...	...	Pericarditis 2
Kidneys	...	...	Hydronephrosis 2
Back Skirt	...	...	Abscesses 2
Mesentery	...	...	Actinomycosis 1.
Beef	...	...	Bruising 17 stones.
Carcases (of which 8 were Rejects and 26 Casualties)	...	...	Septicaemia 14; Septic Intoxication 1; Anaemia 1; Septic Mastitis 9; Septic Metritis 4; Johnes Disease 7; Emaciation 2; Septic Pericarditis 1; Pyrexia following Injury 1; Oedema and Emaciation 1; (Total weight 1314½ stones.)
Calves	...	...	Gangrenous Pneumonia 2; Septicaemia 2. (Total weight 11½ stones.)
SHEEP.			
Livers	...	...	Bacterial Necrosis 1; Friable 1.
Heads	...	...	Parasites 1.
Plucks	...	...	Pneumonia 15; Parasites 29; Congested & Friable 2.
Mutton	...	...	Bruising 4½ stones; Leg Fractures 21 lbs; Bone-Taint 12 lbs; Abscesses 2½ sts.
Carcases (of which 45 were Casualties)	...	...	Pyrexia 16; Pyrexia & Emaciation 1; Emaciation 3; Septic Pneumonia 1; Pneumonia 1; Gangrenous Pneumonia 13; Moribund 7; Septicaemia 5; Oedematous 2; Pyrexia & Illbled 2; Pneumonia & Emaciation 4; Pyrexia & Injuries 1; Malignant Tumours 1; Oedema & Emaciation 1. (Total weight 235 stones.)
SWINE—			
Plucks	...	...	Pneumonia 1
Heart	...	...	Pericarditis 1
Gut	...	...	Inflammation 1
Carcases (including 17 Casualties)			Swine Fever 50; Acute Swine Erysipelas 1; Multiple Tumours 1; Moribund 1.

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

Corned Beef	...	...	412½ lbs.	Soups	...	...	669 tins & pkts.
Tinned Meats	...	...	87½ lbs.	Milk	...	...	151 tins.
do. do.	...	...	71 tins.	Tomatoes	...	...	28 tins.
Fish	...	...	151 tins.	Sugar	...	...	13 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	49½ lbs.	Cooking Fat	...	...	7 lbs.
do.	...	...	188 tins.	Lard Trimmings	...	...	3¼ lbs.
Syrup	...	...	10 tins.	Cheese	...	...	13½ lbs.
Jam	...	...	17 tins & jars.	Dried Egg	...	...	1 tin.
Fruit	...	...	35 lbs.	Loaves	...	...	17½ doz.
do.	...	...	23 tins.	Flour	...	...	2 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs—6 tins, 14 jars, 24 bottles, 270 pkts.				Mustard	...	...	2¼ lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1946.

		Cattle, exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	} ...	1617	271	607	9981	165
Number Inspected						
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—						
Whole Carcases Condemned	...	9	32	4	58	55
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		194	114	—	49	3
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than T.B.		12.554	53.874	.658	1.072	35.757
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole Carcases Condemned	...	4	22	4	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		103	162	—	—	2
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		6.617	67.896	.658	—	1.879

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 diseases 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 DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	Over 65	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	3	2	4	31	16	7	8	3	2	—	76	55	3
Pneumonia ...	2	3	1	1	—	2	3	3	3	4	7	2	31	[†]	15
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	2	—	1	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	12	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	5	3	—
Erysipelas ...	[1*]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	6	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	5	7	13	10	15	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	57	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	14	23	28	14	22	32	—	—	1	[1*]	—	—	135	—	1
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

* Age not stated. † Unknown.

Diphtheria.—Continued to be very prevalent during the year although in much less epidemic form, there being 76 cases notified compared with 197 in 1945.

Of the total of 76 cases 42 had been inoculated against Diphtheria at some time and 55 were admitted to hospital. There were 56 cases under 15 years of age and 20 over that age.

There were three deaths, all of which occurred in non-immunised children aged, 5, 5, and 3 years respectively.

Elaborating this further, there were 35 immunised cases under 15 years of whom none died and there were 21 non-immunised cases under 15 years of whom three died.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease again showed a drop in incidence there being only 12 cases compared with 23 in 1945 and 79 in 1944. One case, an adult, was removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Measles.—This disease showed a marked decrease in 1946. Compared with the epidemic year of 1945 when 550 cases were notified, there were 57 cases in 1946.

Whooping Cough.—An epidemic of Whooping Cough occurred during the months May to August and in all 135 cases were notified whereas only 10 cases occurred during the previous year. There was one death.

Dysentery.—Five cases of Dysentery were notified and of these three were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Enteric Fevers.—No cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The round of visits to all Ashington Schools begun in December, 1945 was completed in January and February 1946

Altogether there was treated for the first time, at the schools, at the Child Welfare Centre and by private doctors, 303 pre-school children and 336 school children. In addition 906 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31/12/46 the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows :—

Pre-school children immunised	...	...	53.5%
Children 5—15 years	...	...	89.57%
Child population under 15 years	...	...	77%

Scabies.—The incidence of this disease continued to decline in 1946. In all, 62 persons were treated for Scabies and 14 for Scabies and Lice. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 148 and 47.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function throughout the year.

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		SCABIES NOT FOUND	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	14	15	0	2	1	1
5—16 years	12	9	1	8	0	0
Under 5 years	11	1	1	2	2	0
	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

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

	SCABIES ONLY		SCABIES & LICE		SCABIES NOT FOUND	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	20	20	0	4	1	1
5—16 years	17	14	2	14	2	0
Under 5 years	12	3	1	3	3	0
	<u>49</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>

These figures are probably misleading in that they suggest that the incidence of Scabies in Ashington was proportionately very much higher than in the other districts, but it should be remembered that the figures given represent only the persons *treated*.

Thus, the disparity is more likely to be due to the fact that it is more convenient for Ashington residents to attend the cleansing station than for persons living further away to do so.

Since Scabies is not a notifiable disease no figures are available which would indicate the real incidence of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	8	9	—	1	—	1	—	—
25—35	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 & Over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	17	18	2	2	7	4	—	1

CANCER MORTALITY.

	MALES.						FEMALES.					
	35-	40-	45-	55-	65-	Total	35-	40-	45-	55-	65-	Total
Nose ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tonsil ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Oesophagus	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchus ...	1	1	0	3	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	1
Breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Stomach ...	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	5
Pancreas ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colon ...	0	0	0	2	6	8	1	0	0	0	1	2
Ovary ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Uterus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cervix ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bladder ...	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rectum ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vulva ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	1	2	1	7	10	21	1	2	1	2	11	17

S.D. 55.

Birth-Rates, Civilian Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1946.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	19.1 †	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still Births	0.53†	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.5 †	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	*
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	43†	45	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Notifications—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
(a) Notifications ;—				
Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia				§ 9.68
(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales—				
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other	
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	
Abortion :— Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales :—				
No. 140 With Sepsis		No 141 Without Sepsis		
11		5		

* Signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

