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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

INCORPORATING THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. G. W. TATE)

ASHINGTON:
J. WILKINSON, HIGH MARKET.
1952.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951

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

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1951.

There is, again, little change to report in the vital statistics. The birth rate is practically the same as in the previous year and is still higher than the rate for England and Wales. The death rate, too, is little altered and is higher than the national rate.

There has again been an increase in the Infantile Mortality rate and, at 45.8 per 1,000 live births, it is much higher than the rate for England and Wales. It may be pointed out, however, that half of the total deaths occurred during the first week of life and that 13 out of the 24 deaths occurred during the first month. The main cause of death under one month was prematurity, and between one and twelve months was pneumonia.

The number of notifications of respiratory Tuberculosis rose by one, but, of these, six were cases, probably of long standing, discovered by Mass Radiography. One active case, without symptoms, was also discovered in the same way. It has long been known, or suspected, that there are in any community quite a number of persons suffering from undiagnosed Tuberculosis. The detection of such persons is an important step in the control of the disease, since they are more dangerous sources of infection than are known cases. The Mass Radiography Service fulfills an important function for the community in discovering these latent cases and is, for this reason alone, worthy of all support. It is satisfactory that the mobile unit now visits Ashington at three-monthly intervals, and it is to be hoped that public support will remain sufficient to justify the continuance of this service.

Unfortunately, there were 5 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, an increase of two. Deaths from pulmonary Tuberculosis fell from 13 to 7, but there were 4 deaths from the non-pulmonary form of the disease, while in 1950 there was no death from this cause.

The housing shortage continues, and it is disappointing that the rate of house-building declined still further in 1951, only 42 houses being completed by the local authority. The greatest need of the community is that every family should have its own home. The housing problem, which exists, of course, all over the country, is of special difficulty in Ashington owing to the shortage of adequate and stable sites. There is a conflict between the need of the country for coal and the need of the people for houses. The projected housing scheme in Darnley Road should, when completed, relieve the situation to a considerable extent.

Concerning infectious diseases, there is little to say. All notifiable diseases except Tuberculosis were less prevalent than in 1950, and the only one which occurred to any extent was Measles. There was, for the second successive year, no case of Diphtheria.

In conclusion, I should like to thank members of the Council for the consideration I have received from them, and to express my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by the staffs of the Health and other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	Kathleen Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Sanitary, Housing, Meat Inspector	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.
Sanitary, Meat Inspector (additional)	H. S. Wilson, M.S.I.A.
Sanitary, Meat Inspector (additional)	J. Colvin, M.S.I.A.
Office of the M.O.H.	146 Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone Number	Ashington 2287.
Office of the Sanitary Inspector	Council Chambers, Ashington.
Telephone Number	Ashington 3210.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ashington Urban District lies on the north bank of the River Wansbeck, which separates it from the Urban District of Bedlingtonshire. It is bounded on the west and north by the Morpeth Rural District, and on the east by the Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban District.

Surrounding the built-up area there is a considerable amount of agricultural land, which accommodates eleven farms, of which eight are dairy farms.

The great majority of the working population is employed in the coal-mining industry. During and since the Second World War an effort has been made to introduce some lighter industries, and there are three modern factories situated near North Seaton Station. One of these is engaged on electrical engineering and employs some 78 men, 144 women and 14 girls, a total of 236, of whom 142 live in Ashington.

Another is occupied with the manufacture of cake decorations and employs 11 men and 226 women, while the third, a clothing factory, employs 9 men, 49 women and 28 girls.

In a minor way the National Health Service Act has provided occupation for the population, since about 60 women are now employed by the Northumberland County Council as Home Helps under the scheme for providing domestic help in cases of sickness or infirmity.

The farms, mentioned above, also provide employment for a relatively small proportion of the population.

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1951	28,440
Rateable Value	£125,566
One Penny Rate produces	£470-0-0
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	8,304

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	517	266	251
Illegitimate	7	3	4
	524	269	255

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 18.42
(Comparability Factor 1.05) Standard Birth Rate 19.34

STILL BIRTHS:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	9	4	5
Illegitimate	2	2	—
	11	6	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 20.56
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 0.38

DEATHS:

Total	Male	Female
364	202	162

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 12.8
(Comparability Factor 1.19) Standard Death Rate 15.10

Death from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	45.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46.42
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil

The Registrar-General supplies the following :—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951

		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	1	3
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	1	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	27
18.	Coronary disease, angina	35	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	9
20.	Other heart diseases	27	38
21.	Other circulatory disease	8	1
22.	Influenza	4	4
23.	Pneumonia	10	4
24.	Bronchitis	13	12
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	2	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34.	All other accidents	6	3
35.	Suicide	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
		202	162

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	Male	Female
Legitimate	15	9

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

	Number	% of total deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	138	37.91
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	45	12.36
Malignant Neoplasms	47	12.91
Bronchitis	25	6.87
Pneumonia	14	3.85
Tuberculosis (all forms)	11	3.02

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1951

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 24, an increase of 3 on the total for 1950. The mortality rate was 45.8 per 1,000 live births, which is unfortunately higher than in the two preceding years.

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

For England and Wales, 29.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.
For 126 Great Towns, 33.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.
For 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000-50,000), 27.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The rate for Ashington thus remains considerably higher than the average rate for towns of comparable size in England and Wales.

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

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	1	1	2	5	2	—	1	1	2	—	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year ..	30	23	42	24	27	30	29	29	16	21	24
Infantile Mortality	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82	48.9	46.9	58.1	30.01	39.1	45.8

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

INFANTILE MORTALITY — 1951

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under four weeks	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under one year
Prematurity	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	—	—	7
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Placenta Praevia ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis (Tubercular)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total ..	12	—	1	—	13	3	5	2	1	24

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below :—

Specimen sent in by	Specimen	Positive	Negative
General Practitioners	Sputa for Tubercle	—	18
R.H.B. Chest Physician	do.	46	335
Others	do.	2	—
M.O.H.	Enteric Results	5	45
General Practitioners	do.	2	6
M.O.H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	—	1
General Practitioners	do.	—	7
R.H.B. Chest Physician	do.	—	1
M.O.H.	Swabs for Haem. Strep.	7	17
R.H.B. Chest Physician	do.	1	—
General Practitioners	do.	5	3
General Practitioners	Vincent's Angina	1	—

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council. In Ashington there are now six ambulances, and nine drivers are employed, working shifts, providing a 24-hour service.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Domiciliary nursing and midwifery services are provided by Northumberland County Council. The staff is as follows :—

1 Superintendent.
5 Midwives.
1 General Nurse.

HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals in the district, the Ashington General Hospital and North Seaton Hospital, and both are controlled by the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. North Seaton Hospital was formerly the Isolation Hospital and is now used for general nursing of medical cases and for surgical cases transferred from the General Hospital.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

A Chest Clinic, dealing mainly with cases of Tuberculosis, is held at the Elizabeth Craigs Memorial Clinic in Lintonville Terrace.

These premises, also, are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. A Chest Physician attends twice weekly.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

This service is provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, South View, as follows:—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Every Wednesday — morning and afternoon. Every Friday, except the last in the month — held morning and afternoon on the first and third Friday of each month, and on the fourth Friday when there are five Fridays in the month. Held in the morning only on the second Friday. A doctor is always in attendance.

POST-NATAL CLINICS

Held monthly — on last Tuesday afternoon in the month.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning.

SUN-RAY CLINICS

Every Monday morning and Thursday afternoon, during winter months only.

TODDLERS' CLINICS

Every Tuesday afternoon, except the last Tuesday in the month.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

All day the last Friday in the month.

OPHTHALMIC CLINICS

On Saturday mornings at two-monthly intervals.

DENTAL CLINICS

All day, every weekday.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.—The entire district is supplied with water from the Tynemouth Corporation supply, and samples taken periodically from various points in the area show it to be of the highest purity. The following are the results of the examinations carried out :—

Source	Date	Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.
Town Supply	3-4-51	Nil
Town Supply	7-6-51	Nil
Town Supply	20-9-51	Nil

All the houses in the district are supplied with water from the public mains. There are altogether 8,304 houses, and only 15 of these are supplied by standpipes, representing 0.18% of the total.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—During the year 224 drainage systems were repaired or reconstructed, and all of these were tested and approved by this Department. In the majority of cases, discussions with owners or builders have taken place, and advice given by your inspectors has always been readily acted upon, with the maximum benefit to all concerned.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No action was taken under this heading during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No conversions to water carriage have taken place during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—Informal action to secure the carrying out of repairs continues to be made use of to a great extent, and during the year it was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices for the remedy of nuisances or defects.

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 Closet	204	204
To provide Ashbins	73	70
To repair Eaves, Gutters and Downspouts	43	39
To repair Sinks and Wastepipes ..	9	8
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Wall, etc.	60	53
Defective Fireplaces	25	23
Defective Outbuildings	26	24
Defective Water Closets	27	27
Defective Sashcord	15	12
Defective Wall Plaster	17	16
Offensive Accumulations	5	5
Defective Foodstores	6	6
Defective Ceilings	10	9

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—The Institute Baths, which are open to the public, were visited at frequent intervals and examinations of the chlorine content of the water were carried out. Close liaison exists between this Department and the National Coal Board, which controls the baths and takes frequent samples for bacteriological examination.

The new Pit Head Baths at Ashington are at long last nearing completion.

SCHOOLS.—All schools in the District have a main water supply and water carriage of sewage. In two schools the sanitary arrangements are somewhat inadequate, the numbers of W.C.s provided for the Infants and Girls Departments, in particular, being insufficient for the numbers of children in the schools. The Education Authority hopes to remedy this before long.

CINEMAS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—The ventilation, cleanliness and sanitary accommodation remain satisfactory and no complaints were received during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.—It was again amply demonstrated that the policy of the Council in providing a free service to the ratepayers is a sound one. No attempts were made to conceal the presence of rats or mice, and the greatest possible co-operation is obtained from both occupiers and owners of premises.

The following table shows the prevalence of rats and mice in the district and the number of treatments carried out :—

	Local Authority	Type of Property			
		Dwelling Houses	Agricultural (incl. Allots.)	All Other (incl. Business and Industrial)	Total
Total Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	8	8,304	13	644	8,969
Number of Properties Inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification, or	—	27	—	18	45
(b) Otherwise	8	21	6	12	47
Number of Properties found to be Infested by Rats	1	23	6	17	47
Number of Properties found to be seriously Infested by Mice	—	3	—	2	5
Number of Infested Properties treated	1	26	6	19	52

CAMPING SITES.—There are no camping sites in the District.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.—The attempt to secure a cleaner air was probably initiated as early as 6,000 years ago, according to the Secretary of the American Air Pollution and Smoke Prevention Association; we should not, therefore, be unduly discouraged if in this year of grace progress in Smoke Abatement does not advance as quickly as we would wish it to do. But, to be practical, we cannot afford to be so wasteful of a valuable asset as is the case to-day.

In this area it is the domestic chimney on which the major responsibility for atmospheric pollution lies, so that we must look for improvement to the individual householders in the first instance. When each of them, or a large majority of them, becomes aware of the absolute need to prevent the fouling of the air on economic as well as on public health grounds, they will have found the cause of cleaning the air a worthy one, leading ultimately towards happier living.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS.—Once again I can report close relationship with the Area Officers of the National Coal Board, and a genuine desire on their part to be helpful in dealing with this question, within certain limits.

The Bulldozer for levelling down the washery heaps to reduce the area of face exposed to the wind, thereby, it is hoped, reducing the dust nuisance, will now be delivered during 1952. Properly applied, this should go some way towards reducing justifiable complaints, and its coming is awaited.

On the more general question of the future of Colliery Spoil, the National Coal Board is singularly reticent. Experimental underground stowing is being tried elsewhere, the washing of coal is being expanded, subsidence due to mining apparently shows no diminution, and the sinful waste of Pyrites, due to the closing down in April, on instruction from the Board of Trade, of the Pyrites Plant at Ashington Colliery was a further step backward.

Underground stowing and subsidence can be related, and so confer stability to mining areas. The experiments now in progress are important and the results of concern to all such communities.

Pyrites recovery during the war was economically sound, apart from being a necessity. After the end of the war a spirit of *laissez faire* resulted in a large falling off in the amount recovered, but in spite of the potential yield, and more particularly the world shortage of sulphur, the pyrites plant closed down on the 7th April, 1951. Fortunately, the brasses have not been put on the spoil banks, and, it is hoped, will not be in the future, otherwise a serious nuisance from fumes will be our portion.

The re-opening of the pyrites plant is essential, not only on economic, but on Public Health grounds.

Whether all coals should be washed, and Industry feather-bedded, rather than asked that they should adapt their boiler-houses to suit unwashed fuel demands serious examination. In the 1930s competition between Collieries demanded a better product, and so washing was introduced. It is not sufficient to carry on in a larger way just because it used to be done. The need for close scrutiny of all such schemes is imperative, because the amenities of mining communities are further imperilled by washeries.

MOSQUITOES.—Mosquito control by spraying of water areas continued and its effectiveness was demonstrated by the fact that no complaints were received during the year. The filling in of the Blue-holes by the National Coal Board continued. Judged by present appearance, the work, when completed, should satisfactorily eliminate the breeding ground, as well as give more pleasing appearance to this large water area, although drainage of the Blue-holes is the ultimate achievement to be desired.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.—Disinfestation of premises is carried out by the Local Authority. D.D.T. is used for this purpose, and a charge covering the cost of the material and labour is made according to the circumstances of the case. Advice is given on the avoidance of re-infestation.

During the year 1 Council House and 2 other premises were found to be infested by bedbugs and were treated, and 29 premises were treated for cockroach infestation.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Water Closets provided	1	—	—	1
Water Closets repaired	52	16	—	68
Sanitary Bins renewed	71	2	—	73
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	213	11	—	224
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired ..	7	2	—	9
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	24	—	—	24

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending December 31st, 1951

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws	No. outstanding from previous year	Total	No. remedied after letter or interview	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING											
Structural Defects	789	221	14	235	72	149	125	—	—	24	—
Defective Food Store	31	6	—	6	2	4	4	—	—	—	—
Dampness	285	99	6	105	33	66	57	—	—	9	—
WATER SUPPLY											
Insufficient or Unsatisfactory ..	23	9	—	9	3	6	6	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE											
Insufficient or Unsatisfactory ..	399	224	—	224	213	11	11	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES											
Insufficient or Defective	239	68	—	68	52	16	16	—	—	—	—
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	719	23	—	23	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	897	—	GOVERNMENT ABATTOIR				—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	11	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	153	10	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	53	21	—	21	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Recp. ..	17	9	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	44	6	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	53	19	—	19	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3,784	718	20	738	466	252	219	—	—	33	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There are, in the district, 122 factories and workshops. The following tables give details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1951.

The "other premises" included in section (iii) of the table are 4 building sites on which sanitary accommodation had to be provided.

There are no outworkers in the District.

1.—*INSPECTIONS.*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	118	97	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	17	—	—
Total ..	122	114	—	—

2.—*CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.*

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	7	8	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	9	10	—	1	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

The opening of the three-storey blocks of flats marked a new step in housing in the District. The blocks of self-contained flats for one and two bedroom requirements are situated at Alexandra Road, and when completed will provide accommodation for 42 single and 60 two-bedroom needs. The feature about single persons' flats is that the letting of these can release larger flats and self-contained houses for occupation by families.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

Houses completed during the year		With State assistance	Unaided	Total
(*a*) By Local Authority —	Permanent ...	42	—	42
	Temporary ...	—	—	—
(*b*) By other Bodies or Persons —				
	Permanent ...	—	9	9
	Temporary ...	—	—	—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:—*

(*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 397

(*b*) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... —

(*c*) 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 118

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 118

3. *Action under Statutory Powers:—*

It was not necessary to take Statutory action during the year ... ... —

Housing Act, 1949 (Section 20):—

No action was taken under this Act.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.—During the year 14 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests under the above Regulations. These were returned in the following grades :—

Grade 1 — 4 samples.
Grade 2 — 4 samples.
Grade 3 — 2 samples.
Grade 4 — 4 samples.

In the District a total of 54 shops are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and of these all but 7 sell only wrapped blocks. The others who sell loose ice-cream are the various ice-cream parlours in the town. All shops registered comply fully with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, particularly with respect to the provision of hot and cold water.

FOOD SHOPS AND FOOD-PREPARING PREMISES.—Constant supervision is exercised over the various premises of this type in the district. 719 visits were made during the year, and contraventions of either the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Byelaws were found in 23 cases. All of these contraventions were remedied after interviews or letters to the responsible persons.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot for Ashington and Newbiggin is situated at the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.

During the year the following animals were slaughtered:—

Cattle (excluding cows) 2116; Cows 272; Calves 750; Sheep and Lambs 6,952; Swine 451.

The amount of Meat and Organs condemned and destroyed is set out in the following table, with the reasons for such action. All condemned meat and offal is sent away under Ministry of Food supervision for processing for the extraction of fats, glue, etc.

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

FOR TUBERCULOSIS

BOVINE:—

Lungs	121
Heads and Tongues ...	52
Mesenteries	12
Livers	50
Back Skirts	16
Guts	5
Tripes	2
Hearts	11
Spleens	4
Beef	139¼ stones
Tails	1

SWINE:—

Heads	4
Plucks	3

CALF:—

Carcase	1 (weight 113 pounds)

FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES

BOVINE:—

Lungs	Parasites 38; Pneumonia 2; Abscesses 5.
Livers	Cirrhosis (whole) 182, (part) 535; Abscesses 64; Echinococcus Cysts 13; Cavernous Angioma 6.
Heads and Tongues	Actinomycosis 23; Cysticercus Bovis 3 Abscesses 3.
Udders	Mastitis 124.
Tripes	Inflammation 10; Abscesses 5.
Guts	Inflammation 9; Johne's Disease 13; Abscesses 1.
Spleens	Infarcts 2.
Back Skirts	Abscesses 11; Cysticercus Bovis 2.
Hearts	Pericarditis 3; Cysticercus Bovis 3; Abscesses 1.
Beef	Bruising 54 stones; Fat Necrosis 6 sts.; Abscesses 19½ stones.
Carcases (including 6 casualties and 3 owner's risk)	...Johne's Disease 2; Oedema and Illsetting 4; Sarcomata 1; Septicaemia 1; Septic Metritis 1 Acute Pyrexia 1; Acute Peritonitis and Pyrexia 1. (Total weight 483¼ stones.)
Calves Carcases (including 1 casualty) ...	Immaturity 2. (Total weight 192 lbs.)

SHEEP :—

Livers	Cirrhosis 12; Bacterial Necrosis 2; Parasites 6.
Plucks	Pneumonia 33; Pleurisy 2; Parasites 4; Inflammation 3; Abscesses 2.
Lungs	Pneumonia 8; Parasites 1.
Heads and Tongues	Abscesses 2; Bruising 2.
Guts	Inflammation 35.
Tripes	Inflammation 10.
Mutton	Bruising 52 lbs.; Abscesses 58 lbs.; Deformity 7 lbs.
Carcases (of which 32 were casualties) ...	Oedema and Emaciation 13; Oedema and Illsetting 1; Septicaemia 9; Emaciation 2; Septic Mastitis 1; Septic Pneumonia 3; Decomposition 1; Moribund 4; Oedema 3. (Total weght 101½ stones).

SWINE :—

Lungs	Pneumonia 3.
Plucks	Pneumonia 9; Abscesses 1.
Guts	Inflammation 9; Abscesses 1.
Stomachs	Inflammation 1; Abscesses 1.
Spleens	Inflammation 1.
Pork	Bruising 5 lbs.; Abscesses 6 lbs.
Heads	Abscesses 1.
Livers	Parasites 1.
Kidneys	Nephritis 2.
Carcases (of which 3 were casualties) ...	Pathological Emaciation 1; Septic Pneumonia 1; Septic Pericarditis 1. (Total weight 54 stones.)

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed / Number Inspected	2116	272	750	6952	451
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole Carcases condemned	3	8	6	37	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	342	183	—	77	27
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than T.B.	16.3	70.22	0.8	1.64	6.65
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole Carcases condemned	4	5	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	107	91	—	—	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.24	35.29	0.13	—	1.10

OTHER FOODS.—The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed :—

Poultry	20	lbs.
Canned Goods	1810	tins
Cheese	21½	lbs.
Bread	700	loaves
Sausage	232	lbs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	4	3	13	—	14
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	10	7	5	—	—	—	—	24	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—
Measles	—	21	26	37	50	42	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	202	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	2	3	3	3	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	1
Paratyphoid ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

This term includes deaths from the following seven diseases only:— Whooping Cough, Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid), Enteritis (Diarrhoea under 2 years). One death was attributed to each of the following:— Whooping Cough, Measles and Diarrhoea under 2 years. The Zymotic Death Rate was 0.105 per 1,000 of the population.

DIPHTHERIA

For the second successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred, and for the fifth consecutive year no death was attributed to this disease.

The following Table shows the notification and deaths in the past 20 years:—

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases ..	11	15	196	115	56	32	175	179	8	5	12	18	34	197	76	9	5	1	—	—
Deaths ..	3	2	3	4	—	3	5	4	—	1	2	2	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During 1951 there were treated for the first time, at Child Welfare Centres, at the schools and by private doctors, 376 pre-school children and 229 school children. In addition, 1,247 children received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that at 31:12:51 a total of 1,440 pre-school and 4,088 school children had completed a course of treatment at some time.

This represents 57.02% of pre-school and 85.27% of all children under the age of 15 years.

The response to the immunisation campaign remains good, but continued effort is needed to increase the numbers of pre-school children treated.

The following table, supplied by the Ministry of Health and the Registrar-General, shows that the decline of Diphtheria in England and Wales was maintained in 1951.

TOTAL OF DEATHS AND NOTIFICATIONS IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

Year	Deaths	Cases (Original uncorrected)	Corrected
1940	2,480	46,281	—
1941	2,641	50,797	—
1942	1,827	41,404	—
1943	1,371	34,662	—
1944	934	(29,949)	23,199
1945	722	(25,246)	18,596
1946	472	(18,283)	11,986
1947	244	(10,465)	5,609
1948	156	(8,035)	3,575
1949	84	(4,971)	1,890
1950	49	(2,833)	962
1951	34		699

The average annual number of deaths for the ten-year period 1931/40 was 2,800.

SCARLET FEVER

This disease continued to be mild in character. There were 24 cases notified and no deaths occurred.

MEASLES

The epidemic which began in the last part of 1950 continued into the early months of 1951, there being 75 cases notified in January and 85 in March. There was a total of 202 cases notified during the year and one death was attributed to Pneumonia following Measles.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis)

This disease was fortunately absent from the area throughout the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

One case of Paratyphoid Fever was notified. This was a baby of 3 months who made a good recovery. The source of infection was not determined with certainty.

FOOD POISONING

One case of food-poisoning due to Salmonella organisms was notified. Circumstantial evidence suggested that the infecting agent was a duck egg, as the patient was very fond of duck eggs, had eaten one on the day before the onset of his illness, was the only member of the household to do so and the only one affected.

Duck eggs are quite frequently infected with Salmonella organisms and should always be thoroughly cooked before consumption.

The following table, which uses figures from the Registrar-General's return S.D. 55, shows the comparative figures of notifications of certain infectious diseases in England and Wales, the 148 smaller towns, and Ashington :—

Diseases	Cases Notified in the District	Rate per 1,000 Population: Ashington	148 Smaller Towns	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	24	0.84	1.20	1.11
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0.035	0.02	0.02
Erysipelas	3	0.105	0.12	0.14
Pneumonia	13	0.46	0.96	0.99
Measles	202	7.10	14.82	14.07
Whooping Cough	28	0.98	4.00	3.87
Meningococcal Infections .	—	—	0.03	0.03
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	—	—	0.03	0.02
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ...	—	—	0.03	0.03

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non. Resp.		Resp.		Non. Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 - 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 15 years	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
15 - 25 years	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 35 years	4	4	—	1	—	1	—	1
35 - 45 years	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 - 55 years	5	1	—	—	3	—	1	—
55 - 65 years	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Over 65 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	15	16	2	3	4	3	1	3

Case Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis —1.09 per 1,000 of the population.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Tuberculosis totalled 31 Respiratory and 5 Non-Respiratory, compared to 30 and 3 respectively in 1950. There were 7 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 4 from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.

DEATH RATE FROM TUBERCULOSIS

In Ashington — 0.39 per 1,000 of the population.

In 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 - 50,000) — 0.31 per 1,000 of the population.

In England and Wales — 0.31 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths of notified cases	9
Deaths of non-notified cases	2
Total Deaths from Tuberculosis	11

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

	Males									Females							
Site	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mouth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glands ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mediastinum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bronchus .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	4
Oesophagus	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Stomach ..	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Gall-bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bowel ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Rectum ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peritoneum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostate ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Testis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cervix ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bone ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	2	—	1	2	—	3	19	28	1	—	2	2	1	2	11	19

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms — 1.65 per 1,000 of the population.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1951

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Births				
Live births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
Deaths				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-Paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and Diarrhœa under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

		Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	—
	Abortion with toxæmia	3	0.00	0
A116	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
A117	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119	Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) per 1,000 related live births.