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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1964



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Annual Report
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1964.

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

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting to you my report and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1964.

The vital statistics are rather less satisfactory than in the previous year as the standard birth rate fell from 17.53 to 17.09 per 1,000 of the population while the infant mortality rate rose from 15.42 per 1,000 live births to 32.04, half of the total infant deaths occurring within 24 hours of birth. The standard death rate, however, fell from 14.11 to 13.14 per 1,000 and the still-birth rate fell from 29.91 to 17.98 per 1,000 live and still births but both these rates were still higher than the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

No death occurred as a result of pulmonary tuberculosis but the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms increased by 10, as compared with 1963 in spite of the fact that deaths from cancer of the lung were only half those in the previous year. The death-rate from cancer of the lung was slightly less than half the national rate but the total death rate from cancer was only fractionally less than the death-rate from all forms of cancer in England and Wales.

The completion of 133 Council houses and the improvement of 235 tenanted houses and 55 owner-occupied houses give cause for satisfaction. The grand total of 1,747 houses brought up to modern standards since the inception of the schemes for improvement grants, represents an enormous improvement in the living conditions in Ashington and the greatly enhanced appearance of the Hirst area resulting from the removal of so many of the old outbuildings in the back streets gives a feeling of space and light, lacking in the past.

The principal housing problem now coming to my attention is the request for ground-floor accommodation required by the older members of the community because of heart trouble and other infirmities. The question as to how best to accommodate the old people is a difficult one to answer as cottages, which would be the most acceptable type of housing for most of them, require large areas of land, which is in short supply and there is general agreement that the old people should be kept in the community and not segregated. On the other hand, many of them find noise created by children in upstairs flats and maisonettes very trying. The ideal solution would probably be to have the old people in a ground floor flat with their own children and grandchildren upstairs but this is likely to be possible in only a very few cases.

Finally I should like to thank Councillors for the interest they take in the work of the Health Department and the Public Health Inspectors and other Council Departments for the help they give me.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
Urban District of Ashington.

Annual Report

of the

National Bureau of Health

for 1934

To the President and Congress of the United States of America

W. H. C. ...

I have the honor to present to you my report for the year 1934.

The year 1934 was a year of unusual activity in the history of the National Bureau of Health. It was a year of progress in many of our most important fields of research and service. The year 1934 was a year of progress in many of our most important fields of research and service. The year 1934 was a year of progress in many of our most important fields of research and service.

In 1934 we have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work.

The progress of the National Bureau of Health in 1934 has been marked by many achievements. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work. We have made considerable progress in our work.

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I am sure that the progress of the National Bureau of Health in 1934 will be a source of pride and satisfaction to all who are interested in the health of the Nation.

W. H. C. ...
National Bureau of Health
Washington, D. C.

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1.
SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1964 population shows a further decline, this time of 320, to 26,600. Some of this is undoubtedly due to uncertainty about the future of the mining industry in the area and the removal of miners to pits further south.

The Council is continuing its efforts to attract other industries to the area but has, unfortunately, failed so far, to get any active support from the Government, in this endeavour.

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1964	26,600
Rateable Value	£710,445
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,760
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1964)	8,732

VITAL STATISTICS.

(The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales)

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	430	219	211
Illegitimate	7	3	4
	<u>437</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>215</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.43
(Comparability Factor 1.04) Standard Birth Rate 17.09 (18.4)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 17.98 (16.3)

DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
289	151	138

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 10.86
(Comparability Factor 1.21) Standard Death Rate 13.14 (11.3)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births . Nil (0.25)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	13	8	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

All infants per 1,000 live births 32.04 (20.0)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 30.23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 142.86

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	11	7	4
Deaths of infants under 1 week	10	6	4
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants per 1,000 live births under 4 weeks of age)	25.17	13.8	
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week)	22.88		
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births)	40.45		

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1964.

						Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...		-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	..	...	...		1	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...		-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...		-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...		-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...		-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...		-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...		-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...		-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	...	...		12	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...		7	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...		-	5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...		-	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...		10	15
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...		-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...		-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	...	...		19	22
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...		39	23
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...		2	2
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...		6	12
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...		7	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	...		-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...		6	4
24.	Bronchitis	..	...	...		12	6
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	..	...	...		-	3
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...		-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...		-	4
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...		-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...		5	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...		-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...		1	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	...	...	...		15	20
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...		6	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...		2	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...		1	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...		-	-
Total ...						151	138

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

Causes	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	98	33.91
Malignant Neoplasms	56	19.38
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	41	14.18
Total	195	67.47

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1964.

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 11 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Congenital Abnormality	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Birth Injury	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Placental insufficiency	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	3	-	-	1	11	1	-	1	1	14

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past ten years.

	'55	'56	'57	'58	'59	'60	'61	'62	'63	'64
Infantile deaths under 1 year	14	17	15	11	12	15	9	8	7	14
Infantile mortality	29.55	26.09	33.41	24.83	26.32	30.93	20.98	17.69	15.42	32.04

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREALaboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for Tuberculosis	3	Not available.
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Dysentery	38	92
Regional Hospital Board Physician	" " "	9	2
General Practitioner	" " "	8	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Food Poisoning organisms	17	2
General Practitioner	" " " "	1	-
Medical Officer of Health	Swabs " " "	2	4
Medical Officer of Health	Pathogenic organisms for Phage-typing	3	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for virus examination	-	6
Medical Officer of Health	Food for pathogenic organisms	-	1
Medical Officer of Health	Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	Pos 117 Neg 223	Type 12 77
Medical Officer of Health	Thumb swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	1	2 1
Sensitivity Tests 37			

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided at the Clinic in South View. They include infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, relaxation classes for expectant mothers, ophthalmic clinics, immunisation clinics and dental treatment for mothers and children.

A weekly handicraft class for physically handicapped people is held in the clinic and a chiropodist attends twice weekly, mainly to treat the old people.

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by the County Council and there are 4 general nurses and 3 midwives employed in Ashington.

Meals on Wheels.

For some years, efforts to provide this service for old people in the town had proved unsuccessful but towards the end of 1964 the inception of the scheme became imminent when the local branch of the Round Table generously bought and presented to the Council, a van to be used for transporting meals.

At the close of the year, only small final details remained to be settled and the Women's Voluntary Services had undertaken to organise the service, for which the N.C.B. had agreed to supply the meals from its Area Workshops Canteen.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeneral Inspection.

The abatement of nuisance was as usual, secured mainly by informal action, and it was found necessary to serve only one Statutory Notice during the year.

Improvement Grants made during the year totalled 290, of which 25 were Standard Grants and 265 Discretionary Grants.

Of the 25 Standard Grants, 18 were for owner occupied houses and 7 for tenanted houses, while for Discretionary Grants, 37 were for owned occupied houses and 228 for tenanted houses.

The Discretionary Grants, at an average of £232 per house during the year, now total 1684 since the inception of the scheme.

The total number of Standard Grants given is now 63 and the facilities provided by the 25 grants given during 1964, are detailed in Section D of the report.

The table below summarises the notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage	7	7
Defective W.C. basins	4	3
Defective W.C. cisterns and service pipes.	2	1
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply	1	3
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply	-	-
Defective or missing ashbins	2	2
Defective roofs	13	3
Damp walls	5	7
Defective spouts	10	8
Defective wallplaster	12	9
Defective ceilings	14	8
Defective doors, windows and floors	22	12
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers	3	4
Defective chimney flues	4	3
Defective paving and yard surfaces	2	1
Defective outbuildings	4	3
Defective food stores	-	-
Offensive accumulations	8	8
Other defects	13	7

Water.

Tynemouth Corporation provides the water supply to the area, from Fontburn and Tossan to Hebron Reservoir, and thence by gravity main. An additional supply is provided by the Coquet Water Board.

Work was begun during the year on covering over Hebron Reservoir, and it was expected that this would be completed early in 1965.

The mains in Woodhorn Village were taken over by Tynemouth Corporation in October 1963, and during 1964, all defective mains were renewed.

The water supply was generally adequate throughout the year, with the exception of the Moorhouse Farm Area at peak periods, and improvements are to be carried out to cope with the new development.

All standpipes have been eliminated.

Water samples for bacteriological examination are taken systematically both by ourselves and by Tynemouth Corporation, the total number of samples for the year being 128.

44 samples were taken by this Department, of which 34 samples showed no coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.

84 samples were taken by Tynemouth Corporation, of which 72 samples showed no coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.

Sampling is repeated when unsatisfactory results are obtained, and the results are immediately made known to the Water Engineer, who adjusts the chlorine dosage and/or flushes the mains as found necessary, and has additional check samples taken in the area concerned.

Drainage.

162 drainage systems were constructed, reconstructed or repaired during the year, and these were all tested and approved.

The large amount of new drainage work was mainly due to the number of private and colliery house improvements carried out.

Sewerage.

To deal with the inadequate arrangements for sewage disposal in Woodhorn Village, a new sewage disposal system was to have been constructed during the year but this was delayed, pending investigation into recent development in small sewage plants.

It is now, expected that the new plant of improved design, will be constructed during 1965.

No further trouble has been encountered with the Blackclose sewer since the temporary measure adopted last year.

The new scheme for re-routing this sewer, and for a new branch sewer to the Hospital Area, is now subject to re-tender, following the withdrawal of the tender previously accepted.

The new surface water sewer scheme for the Newbiggin Road area was completed during the year.

A further examination of the remainder of the main sewerage system is intended, with particular reference to the efficiency of the two main storm water overflows at North Seaton Crossing and North Seaton Hotel.

The Lintonville area, too, appears to require attention.

Although, because of subsidence and adverse levels, the provision of a sewerage system would be costly and would benefit relatively few people it should be remembered that there are 80 to 90 persons employed in factories and workplaces where the only facilities provided

are chemical and pail closets, and it is difficult to enforce the modern standards expected today when no sewerage system is available.

Swimming Baths.

The swimming baths belong to the Ashington Miners' Welfare Institute, but are available to the general public as well as to Institute Members, and are open from April to September each year.

The water used is from the main water supply and is treated by continuous chlorination and filtration.

Six bacteriological samples of the baths water were taken during the year, and, with the exception of one sample which gave a count of 1 Coliform Bacillus per 100 m.l. all samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington and copies of the reports are made available to this Department.

This co-operation is much appreciated.

Schools.

There are 11 Primary schools in the district, (6 Juniors and 5 Infants) 6 Secondary schools, a Grammar school, Technical College, Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped Children.

Additional schools contemplated include two Secondary schools, two County Primary schools, and extensions to the Grammar school.

All school kitchens were inspected during the year, and where found necessary, reports were sent to the Education Authority.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Routine inspection of such buildings was carried out during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

During 1964, the Council agreed that on all future housing estates, provision would be made for the installation of room heaters instead of open fires. Arrangements were made with the National Coal Board, for the provision of Sunbrite instead of coal, for miners receiving the tenancy of these houses.

This is only a short step towards domestic smoke control, but is nevertheless, a step in the right direction.

It will encourage the growing interest in modern heating methods and demonstrate to more and more of our community, that clean air is a virtue which brings its own reward - that clean air outside can go hand in hand with clean comfortable warmth inside.

Clean air cannot be achieved without cost. It is however, a cost which we must eventually be prepared to meet in full.

We should remember that polluted air is costly too, to the tune of £250 million each year.

The monthly reports on results from the Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Candles are appended, and should receive thoughtful consideration.

Month	Rainfall in ins.	Total Deposits Tons/Sq.mile	Sq. Centimetres per day Millimetres of SO ₃ per 100	
			Hirst Park	Memorial Park
January	.58	9.50	2.33	1.10
February	.89	18.38	2.10	1.10
March	2.76	23.65	1.12	1.02
April	1.74	10.34	1.32	0.75
May	0.94	7.89	0.85	0.41
June	2.37	9.93	0.82	0.72
July	1.11	7.25	0.67	0.36
August	3.84	18.07	0.71	0.28
September	1.47	8.47	1.12	0.42
October	1.00	7.56	1.89	0.69
November	1.05	9.39	2.31	0.80
December	1.89	10.89	2.10	1.49

Rodent Control.

Complaints once again were comparatively few and received prompt attention. Regular surveys of sewers, allotments and open spaces were carried out and resulted in the elimination of infestations at an early stage.

Only one infestation reached major proportions and this was brought under control after treatment.

It was often found difficult to treat allotments owing to the reluctance of many allotment holders to leave their premises open in their absence.

In an effort to overcome this difficulty Allotment Associations were supplied with poison on condition that they made themselves responsible for seeing that all allotment holders carried out effective treatments when necessary. Periodic surveys were carried out by this Department to check that the scheme was working satisfactorily.

The following table summarises the work done:

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Total
	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	Agric- ultur- al Prop- erty	All other (incl. Busi- ness Prem.)	
Total numbers of properties in the district	16	8732	27	1586	10361
No. inspected because of:-					
a) complaint	1	51	8	22	82
b) as routine surveys	15	34	19	150	218
No. of rat infestations:-					
a) major	1	-	-	-	1
b) minor	4	70	9	21	104
No. of mouse infestations:-					
a) major	-	-	-	-	-
b) minor	2	5	-	6	13
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	7	75	9	27	118

Pet Animals Act.

One licence to sell Pet Animals was granted to a stall holder in the closed market.

Mosquitoes.

There were again some complaints regarding mosquito bites, though they were considerably fewer than in the previous year, and were confined mainly to New Moor and Woodhorn Village.

One of the pools in the New Moor Area proved to be harbouring mosquito larvae identified as *Aedes Detritus*, a vicious man-biter.

This pool, and the Colliery Sewage Disposal Plant were treated, and no further complaints were received.

In spite of the many complaints from Woodhorn Village, the only larvae recovered in the area were identified as non-biting midges.

Larvae found in water butts in another part of the town were identified as those of a non-biting gnat, and non-biting mosquitoes.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT. Year ending 31st December, 1964.

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal action.	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing</u>							
Structural Defects	384)	74	74	65	-	2	-
Defective Food Store	"	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness	"	28	18	28	-	-	-
Overcrowding	"	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water Supply.</u>							
Insufficient	m)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	11)	2	2	3	-	1	-
<u>Drainage.</u>							
Insufficient	394)	4	4	4	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory		3	3	3	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>							
Insufficient	27)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Defective		14	14	9	-	2	-
<u>General</u>							
Food Premises	384	111	-	110	-	-	-
Dairies	11	3	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	697	9	-	11	-	-	-
Tents, Vans etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Factories and Workplaces	69	6	-	6	-	-	-
Keeping of animals	5	2	-	2	-	-	-
Insanitary Ashpits & Bins	5	2	-	2	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	41	15	-	15	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	19	5	-	5	-	-	-
TOTALS	2055	279	116	262	-	5	-

11.
FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are 72 Factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

No outworkers were notified during the year.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	4	5	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	59	51	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises).	9	13	-	-
Total	72	69	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H. M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This Act came into force on 1st August 1964, but, owing to staffing difficulties it was not found possible to carry out any general inspections before the end of the year, though 141 visits were made to offices and shops for various other purposes under the Act.

As registrations received by the end of July were obviously incomplete, all premises which had not been registered, but which were thought to come within the scope of the Act, were visited and, as a result, almost all the premises to which the Act applies, were registered by the end of the year.

No applications for exemption were received, and there were no prosecutions.

Three accidents were notified, all in retail shops and all of a minor character.

The following tables show details of registered premises:-

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS			
Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	63	63	-
Retail shops	251	250	-
Wholesale shops & warehouses	2	2	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	3	3	-
Fuel storage depots	3	3	-
Total	322	321	-

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY
WORKPLACE.

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	576
Retail shops	1253
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24
Catering establishments open to the public	48
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	9
Total	1910
Total males	613
Total females	1297

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1964Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	133
b) By other bodies or persons	3

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3. Houses closed, not demolished	Nil
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs. Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H.Acts.

5. By informal action	22
6. By owners, following statutory notice	3
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation	Nil
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Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	Nil
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Improvement Grants, Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958 and House
Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>	<u>No. of separate houses.</u>
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1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	265
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	265
4. Approximate average grant per house	£232
5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	1684

Standard Grants.

1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year	25
2. Number of houses provided with:	
a) Bath or shower	5
b) Wash hand basin	7
c) Hot water supply	5
d) Water closet	24
e) Food store	13

The Health Committee considered a report on the Colliery Rows from Booths Avenue to Cross Row, comprising 325 houses.

A Sub-Committee met officials of the N.C.B. and agreement in principal on the Redevelopment of the Area was reached.

The next stage will be the preparation of plans for redevelopment, and detailed negotiations with the National Coal Board.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODIce Cream.

Eight premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice cream though in only seven of these was ice cream manufactured during the year.

They were all inspected and were found to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1959, and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Thirty-one samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Reports were returned as follows:-

Grade 1 - 25 samples	Grade 3 - 1 sample
Grade 2 - 5 samples	Grade 4 - Nil

Milk Supply.

Three premises are registered as dairies and 67 persons as distributors of milk. Since 1st January 1961, all milk licences have been issued by Northumberland County Council.

The County Health Department is also responsible for the taking of milk samples. 51 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and only one sample failed to pass the tests.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type in the area is as follows:-

Confectionery	12
Grocers and General ..	99
Butchers	24
Greengrocery	17
Bakery	12
Temperance Bars	8
Fish (wet)	2
Fish and Chips	12
Cafes	2
Hotels	3
Workingmen's Clubs ..	20
Main School Kitchens .	5
Works Canteens	9

108 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 31 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc and of these 7 premises are registered for both purposes.

384 visits to food premises were made and 111 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found of which 110 were remedied by the end of the year.

Food Hygiene standards continue to be quite high and, in general only minor contraventions of regulations are being found, which are quickly remedied.

Apart from the routine inspections, a considerable volume of additional work was carried out, during the early summer, in connection with the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Aberdeen and the discovery that the source of infection had been a tin of corned beef, cooled in unchlorinated river water. At the request of the Ministry of Health a search was made for tins of corned beef produced at certain establishments in South America during a specified period.

Some tins of the suspected batches were found and were returned to the suppliers.

Shortly afterwards the Ministry advised the withdrawal from sale of 6-lb. tins of tongue produced at the same establishments and, a few days later, a search had to be made for 6-lb. tins of corned beef from yet another establishment, because routine examination of a tin in Edinburgh had revealed the presence of a food poisoning organism.

In all, 600 visits were made in connection with these inquiries.

Food Complaints.

Many more food complaints than usual were received during 1964. This is not necessarily an indication of an increase in offences in food production and handling, but is more probably due to an increasing concern on the part of the general public regarding the wholesomeness of food, particularly following the publicity given to the Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak.

Complaints concerned the following :-

- 1) Beetle in pasty.
- 2) Wood splinter in pasty.
- 3) Mould in bread, sausage rolls, a pork pie and a steak and kidney pie.
- 4) Two dirty milk bottles.
- 5) A metal washer in a tin of imported corned beef.
- 6) String in bread.

The firms responsible for the mouldy steak and kidney pie, and for the string in the bread, were prosecuted, and in each case, the manufacturer was fined £25.

In the remainder of the cases, the Council, after carefully considering all the circumstances, decided to caution the traders concerned.

Further complaints, including a mouldy pie, metal in bread, worm in milk and a bottle of lemonade smelling of paraffin, were not proceeded with, owing to lack of evidence, but the complaints were brought to the notice of the traders concerned.

Food and Drugs.

Regular sampling of milk and other foods is carried out in the district by the Northumberland County Council.

Details of this work have been kindly provided by Mr.C.L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 212 milk samples, and 75 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

With the exception of one sample of Pork Sausages, these samples were all found to be genuine.

The Pork Sausages concerned, contained 240 parts per million of Sulphur Dioxide, a preservative, the presence of which had not been declared. Both the seller and the manufacturer were cautioned and the seller now exhibits the statutory notice.

Meat and Other Foods.

The four slaughterhouses continued to operate and were all granted a renewal of licence for a further twelve months.

Hygiene standards generally were good and, while minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All four slaughterhouses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the Statutory procedure for examination and stamping, laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, has been followed.

No charge is made for Meat Inspection.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the year.

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Normal kill	677	601	11	0	6	1214	3116
Casualties	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total	677	601	11	0	0	1214	3120

Meat and Other Organs Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed for TuberculosisBovine

Lungs 1

Swine

Heads 17

For other Defined Diseases.Bovine

Head and Tongues Actinobacillus 3
 Lungs Pleurisy 38; Abscesses 7;
 Parasites 2; Pentastomes 1.
 Livers Cirrhosis (Whole) 13 (Part) 317;
 Abscesses 44.
 Mesenteries Pentastomes 1; Parasites 1.
 Hearts Pericarditis 5.
 Skirts Abscesses 1; Inflammation 1.
 Beef Bruising 30lbs; Abscesses 2lbs.

Swine

Lungs Pleurisy 33; Pneumonia 87.
 Livers Perihepatitis 7; Parasites 39;
 Cirrhosis 1.
 Hearts Pericarditis 51.
 Kidneys Traumatic Haemorrhage, 1; Bruising 1.
 Pork Abscesses 3lb; Bruising 28lbs.
 Udders Mastitis 1.

Sheep

Lungs Pleurisy 20; Pneumonia 12.
 Livers Parasites 24; Abscesses 4.
 Hearts Pericarditis 6.
 Mutton Abscesses 7lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected	1278	11	-	3120	1214
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	93	1	-	51	156
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	7.3	9.0	-	1.6	12.9
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	17
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	0.08	-	-	-	1.4
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Carcases and Offal Inspected and condemned in Whole or in Part cont'd

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed.

Meat	776 tins	Fruit Juice	22 bottles
Apples	6 lbs	Canned Goods	731 tins
Biscuits	204 pkts.	Jam	59 jars
Potatoes	24 stone.		

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character.

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

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Dysentery	-	2	5	5	1	2	5	1	1	1	3	1	27
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	1	33	22	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Total	1	35	29	28	2	2	6	2	1	1	3	1	111

Sonne Dysentery.

With the exception of one case, at the very beginning of the year connected with a family outbreak at the end of 1963, all the cases occurred during the last quarter of 1964.

A small hospital outbreak involved four elderly patients but was quickly brought under control.

Of the remaining 22 cases, 4 occurred in one family in which 3 carriers were discovered, and 4 households had 3 cases each. Two other carriers were discovered.

Almost half of the patients were adults and there was no evidence that any school was particularly involved.

Measles.

In the report for 1963, mention was made of an alteration in the usual pattern of an epidemic of Measles and this was followed by an unusual incidence in 1964 when a very small number of cases would, normally, have been expected. In fact, 79 cases were notified, of which 20 occurred in June, 39 in July and 10 in August.

Diphtheria.

The continued absence of diphtheria from the community is a source of satisfaction. No case of the disease has occurred in the past 15 years and no death in the past 18 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The vast majority of parents continue to take advantage of this method of protecting their children. One primary course of three injections gives simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and oral poliomyelitis vaccine is given at the same time.

A re-inforcing injection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is given about one year later, at the age of 18 months to 2 years, and a further re-inforcing injection against diphtheria and tetanus plus a dose of oral poliomyelitis vaccine is given just before or at the time the child goes to school.

During the year, 337 pre-school and 29 school children completed a primary course of treatment, while 391 pre-school and 342 school children received re-inforcing injections.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1964, the primary course of three doses of oral vaccine was given to 1,406 persons, while 1,869 received a re-inforcing dose and 3 a reinforcing injection.

These figures apply to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

Outbreak of Streptococcal Sore Throat.

On Friday 29th May, it was reported to me that, on the previous day a considerable number of pupils at a local school had complained of feeling ill and had been sent home and that there were, then, absent 143 children, 5 teachers and 2 canteen staff.

The general complaint was of sore throat and 5 of the absentees were visited at home and had throat swabs taken.

On Monday 1st June, the Public Health Laboratory reported that four of the five swabs had produced Lancefield haemolytic streptococci, Group A.

The explosive nature of the outbreak suggested a food or milk-borne infection but an immediate check on the milk supply to the school confirmed that it was pasteurised and that there was no record of the pasteurising plant having broken down recently.

I visited the school on 1st June and took throat swabs from 11 kitchen staff, and from one pupil and one teacher who had had sore throats but had returned to school. One of the kitchen staff had a sore at the base of her left thumb-nail and this, too, was swabbed. She said she had injured her thumb on a baking tray on the previous Tuesday and by the Wednesday evening it was throbbing. She had applied penicillin gauze and had kept the sore covered for the rest of the week. In this batch of swabs, two throat swabs and the thumb swab produced haemolytic streptococci Lancefield Group A.

On 11th June the Public Health Laboratory reported that the organisms in all 7 positive swabs were of Type 12, which is particularly associated with nephritis. It was, therefore, decided that throat swabs should be taken from all who had suffered from a sore throat since the last week in May. Unfortunately, the pupils were engaged in sitting examinations and not until 17th June could all those who had been affected be seen. In all 234 throat swabs were taken, and of these, 63 produced haemolytic streptococci. Further examination of 59 of these, confirmed the presence of Lancefield Group A haemolytic streptococci Type 12 in 52 of them.

Following receipt of the swab results and before the typing results were known all those who had positive swabs were advised to have treatment and their family doctors were notified of the circumstances.

On Monday 6th July, the school was again visited and throat swabs were taken from all who had previously had positive swabs and were then at school. Others were swabbed at home and 63 swabs were taken this time, of which 8 produced haemolytic streptococci not Type 12, 15 produced Type 12 and the remainder were negative.

All positive cases were followed up until they were proved negative.

Until 29th June the absentee-rate at the school had been running at the normal level of about 35 and the sudden increase to 91 on the 28th May and 143 pupils plus 5 teachers and 2 kitchen staff on 29th May, suggests a food-borne infection, especially as the additional absentees were almost all suffering from sore throats.

It was felt that the infection probably occurred on, or about 27th May and an analysis was made of the numbers who had developed a sore throat not later than 3rd June i.e. within one week from 27th May.

In all, apart from the kitchen staff, 170 pupils and teachers came into this category and, of these, 51 or 30% produced Type 12, haemolytic streptococci. This is a high proportion especially when it is remembered that only four were swabbed within the first week, 18 were not swabbed until 12th June and the remainder between 15th and 17th June, by which time many had received treatment, most of them with penicillin. It is a reasonable assumption that, if the swabs had been taken sooner there would have been a still higher percentage of positive results.

The vast majority of the pupils in the school, approximately 700, take school dinners. Of the 170 mentioned above, 17 did not take the school dinner on 26th, 27th or 28th May and of these none had a Type 12 infection. Four had the dinner on the 26th only and of these 2 had a Type 12 infection, 29 had dinner on the 26th and 27th and of these 10 had a Type 12 infection, 117 had dinner on all three days and, of these, 39 had a Type 12 infection, 2 did not take the dinner on the 27th and one took it on the 27th only and these 3 were all negative.

It appears to me to be highly unlikely that the sudden and almost simultaneous occurrence of sore throats among so many in one school could have been due to a spread by droplet infection. Although some experts held the view that streptococcal sore throat is never food-borne it is my opinion that the only reasonable explanation of this outbreak is that it was caused by streptococcal infection of some article of food consumed in the school dinner, on either 26th or 27th May and that the food was probably contaminated by someone in the kitchen.

Samples of dried milk used in making custard, were taken but no pathogens were found.

In conclusion it should be said that conditions in the school kitchen were excellent and no fault could be found with methods or practices employed by the staff.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1964

	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Total	Resp		Non-Resp		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
65 - 74 years	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	2	-	2	12	-	-	1	-	1

Tuberculosis cont'd...

During 1964 there were notified 10 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis which is a reduction of two on the previous year. Two cases of non respiratory tuberculosis were notified and this is an increase of two on the previous year.

No death occurred as a result of the respiratory form of the disease but one death was attributed to non-respiratory tuberculosis.

The death-rate for respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington
was Nil

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.047 per 1,000

The death rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington
was 0.0376 per 1,000

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.006 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

The following table shows the number of deaths from malignant disease classified according to the age and sex of the patient and the site of the primary tumour.

Mortality from Malignant Neoplasms

	Male										Female									
Site of Primary Tumour	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lung and Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	6
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Stomach	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Mediastinum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Testis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bone (Sarcoma)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Nerve	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not Known	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Totals	1	1	1	-	2	1	7	8	7	28	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	10	5	28

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was 56 which is an increase of 10 on the figure for the previous year.

Deaths from cancer of the lung fell to 7, which was one quarter of the total male deaths, instead of half, as in 1963.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus

Death rate in Ashington 0.263 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 0.535 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 1.842 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 1.674 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 2.105 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 2.209 per 1,000



