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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

1967



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1967

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 report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1967. Dr. McGregor retired at the end of March 1968, too early to compile and present this report to you.

The vital statistics for the year were satisfactory. The number of births increased from 387 to 438, giving a standard birth-rate of 17.26 per 1,000 of the population compared with 15.27 in 1966, and equal to the national figure. The still-birth rate and death rate were lower than for the previous year, but the infantile mortality rate increased from 12.92 to 15.9. This was due to a rise in the number of deaths of infants under one year, from 5 to 7; three of these deaths occurred in infants under four weeks of age.

Only one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year, and one male in the 65-75 age group, died from the disease, giving a death-rate of 0.038 comparable with the national figure of 0.037.

The deaths from malignant neoplasms rose by 3 to 57 in 1967, giving a death-rate in Ashington of 2.16 per 1,000 of the population compared with the national figure of 2.275. Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus increased from 13 to 19, giving a death rate of 0.72 compared with a national figure of 0.584; 16 males and 3 females died from this cause.

As in previous years, the main cause of death was due to diseases of the heart and circulation, 40.8% of the total deaths being due to the latter.

There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of measles notified in 1967, and of the 441 cases, 311 occurred in children between the ages of 3 and 9. By the beginning of April, 413 cases had been notified and the peak of the epidemic had been reached.

The summer months brought an epidemic of dysentery to Ashington. first two cases occurred in pre-school children in the same family, but the source of infection, as is so often the case with this disease, could not be discovered. Cases then began to occur in younger school children in the south east section of the town. The schools involved were visited, letters were given to the children to warn parents of the outbreak and to give advice when symptoms occurred in the household, and advice was also given to the headteachers, caretakers and canteen staff. Each infected family was visited and given a leaflet of advice. Food handlers were kept away from work until they were free from infection. School toilets were inspected regularly, and although in many cases the buildings were old and the amenities were not as good as could have been hoped for, the toilets were found to be kept clean and disinfected. As the epidemic spread to all areas of the town, it was quite obvious, in many instances, that spread had occurred by direct contact between families owing to the fact that, in spite of all the advice and instruction given about the method of spread, parents did not keep infected children away from other children and did not carry out the simple precautions of care with personal hygiene. Until these precautions are taken, we shall always be in potential danger of a further outbreak of dysentery in the town, and the onus must lie on the people of Ashington to prevent this occurrence.

Two cases of food-poisoning were notified during the year and both were due to a salmonella type of organism. One case contracted the infection while on holiday abroad, but it was impossible to discover the source of infection in the second case.

Early in 1967 a Home Safety Committee was formed once again in Ashington, after a lapse of two years. The Committee continued to function during the year, and one of its efforts took place in the autumn when unwanted drugs and medicines were collected and were handed to the Chief Pharmacist at Ashington Hospital for destruction. It is hoped that the Council will continue to support the efforts of this Committee in its work of the prevention of accidents in the home.

The Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued their good work for the old people of the town during the year. Twenty-four meals each day, for four days in the week were delivered to elderly, house-bound people by the W.R.V.S. Delivery drivers were mainly retired men and one W.R.V.S. organiser, but there was a shortage of 'drivers' mates' for the service. This worthy work would only involve duty on one day per month and surely there must be people in Ashington who would give this small amount of time to help this cause. The W.R.V.S. also provided meals on two days each week at a charge of 1/6d per meal, at the Luncheon Club, in a building which was maintained by the Council, and the scheme was aided financially by a grant of £20 from Northumberland County Council.

The chiropody service sponsored by the Old People's Welfare Committee and organised by the W.R.V.S. continued to be used and appreciated, logs were delivered to the old people at Christmas and other help was given where it was required. Several fund-raising efforts by members of the Old People's Welfare Committee took place during the year.

This work has an important place in reducing the loneliness of old age. The old people look forward to being visited for whatever reason, and the visits make them feel that they are not forgotten.

Finally I must record that the loyal support of the Public Health Inspectors, the work of the Health Department Clerk and the interest and support of members of the Council were greatly appreciated during the year.

> I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, Your obedient Servant, K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Assistant Medical Officer

KATHLEEN DICK,
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief
Public Health) Inspector
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector (Meat)

J.S. GRAHAM,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

C.B. McGREGOR,

Public Health Inspector (Meat) S. GREEN, M.A.P.H.I.

Medical Officer of Health

Offices of the Medical Officer 156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington

Clerk to the Medical Officer Mrs. C. Sampson (resigned July 1967)
Miss M. Gibson (commenced Aug. ")

Telephone Ashington 2287/3442

Offices of the P.H. Inspector Station Villa, Ashington

Clerk to the P.H. Inspector Miss D. Oliver

Telephone Ashington 2263/4

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VITAL STATISTICS.

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

BIRTHS				
Live Births.	Total	Male	Fer	ale
Legitimate	419	223		196
Illegitimate	19	8		11
	438	231	2	207
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated popul (Comparability Factor 1.04) Standard Birth				(17.2)
Still Births.		1,11	77	-
T	Total	Male	Fen	nale
Legitimate	7	1		6
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1	5.7	(14.7)
DEATHS				
Total Male	Female			
294 179	115			
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (Comparability Factor 1.17) Standard Death Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of	Rate the Regis	strar-	1.2 3.1	(11.2)
General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (li	ve and st		il	(0.20)
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	Male	Fer	ale
Legitimate	7	5		2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year				
All infants per 1,000 live births Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate liv Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate	e births	1	5.9 6.7 H1	(18.3)
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.	Total	Male	Fer	nale
Legitimate	3	2		1
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	Male	Fer	nale
Legitimate	3	2		1
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants per 1,000 live births)	week)		6.8 6.8	(12.5)
1 week per 1,000 live and still births)			2.4	

1957

CLISES OF DEATH IN ACE CROUPS

-		Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	+	-5-	15-	AGE IN 25-	YEARS 35-	45-	-55-	-65-	75 & over
	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	黑色	п.	1 1	1 1	1.1	1 1	1.1	- 1 - 1	1.1	1.1	1.1	н	1.1
	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	z fa	∞. ↓	1.1	11	11	1 1	1 1	1.1	1 1	01	7.7	41	10
	Malignant Neoplass, Lang, Bronchus	×A	3 2	11	11	1 1	11	1.1	н I	н	41	91	7.5	77
	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	×A	110	1 1	11	1 1	11	1 1	1 1	1.1	14	1 -	14	1.1
	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	H	72	1.1	11	1.1	1 1	1 -	1 1	пп	нн	ч2	20	12
	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	黑色	24	1 1	1.1	H 1	11	н і	1 1	1,1	1 1	1 1	н і	1.1
	Diabetes	25 E4	нн	1.1	1 1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	н і	1 1	1 1	14	1 1
	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2 4	29	11	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	н і	7 2	26	92	97 8
	Coronary Disease, Angina	MA	30 28	1.1	1.1	1.1	1 1	1.1	1.1	нн	9 7	64	52.6	17
	Hypertension with Heart Disease	N F4	210	11	1.1	1.1	1.1	1 1	1.1	1 1	11	1.1	пп	72
	Other Heart Disease	五百	96	11	1.1	1.1	11	11	1 1	н і	1.1	44	21	7
	Other Circulatory Disease	Z Fa	44	11	1.1	1.1	1 1	1.1	1 1	1.1	1, 1	нн	пп	22
	Pheunonia	MA	23	1 -1	NI	1.1	1.1	1.1	11	1 1	1 1	1.1	1 1	
	Bronchitis	H K	279	1.1	11	1.1	1.1	1 1	1 1	1 1	r4 1	W.I	2	4

(contd	
GROUPS	OWNERS OF PERSONS
IN AGE	STATISTICS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN
DEMTH	THE PERSON NAMED IN
6	OR PERSON NAMED IN
CATUSES	STREET, STREET

	Cox	Total		4 weeks	-		-	AGE	N	YEARS			-
		ill Ages	4 weeks	and under	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	-55-	69-	75 & over
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	-
	E4	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	7	1	,	1	,	1	1	1	1		1	1
37	H	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1		7
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	2	-	1	1	,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	E4	7	,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	,
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	7	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Œ	1	,		,	1	1	,	1	1	1	1	1
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	-1	,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
31 Congenital Malformations	×	-				,	,				101	1	
	Fi	1	,	1	1 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	N	7	2	1	п	,	1	,	1	7	П	. 21	4
	Fi	#	1	1	1	1	7	7	1	٦	2	2	2
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	Z F	m	1		1,	1	ı	П	2	1	1	1	
Zi. (17 Others Confidents	4 2	7 1		'	-	1	,	1	1	'		1	-
24 ALL Other accidents	2 12	2 10		. ,	1 1	1 1	1 -	1 -	1	1	н	1	2 -
35 Suicide	. >	, -					1 1	1					4
	E F4	1 1		. 1	1 1		1	1 1		4 1	1-1		1 1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	21	179	2	101	5	1 /	1	2	80	17	32	62	20
	4	110	7	7	7	7	2	2	2	/	2	30	55

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

CAUSES	100	tal mber	1,57(200)	Total
	1966	1967	1966	1967
Diseases of Heart and				
Circulation	114	120	37.62	40.8
Malignant Neoplasms	54	57	17.82	19.4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous				
System	36	45	11.88	15.3
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	45	24	14.85	8,16
TOTAL	249	246	82,17	83.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY

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 wks.	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 -11 months	Total under 1 Jear
Prematurity	2	-	_	_	_	2	_	-	-	_	2
Vesico-intestinal Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	7

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

	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	11	12	15	9	8	7	14	9	5	7
Infantile Mortality Rate	24.83	26.32	30.93	20.98	17.69	15.42	32.04	21.89	12.92	15.9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory 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:

Medical	Officer	of	Health	Faeces	for	pathogenic	organisms	267	873
11	11	11	11	Urine	tt	"	11	-	15
General	Practiti	ione	er	Faeces	11	"	"	150	4

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics, covering a wide field, are held in the Centre at South View.

For the younger children there are infant welfare, toddler and immunisation sessions. Two toddler classes are held in the afternoon, each week, with an associated Tufty Club to teach road safety.

There is a session held each week to teach relaxation and mothercraft to expectant mothers, and three Mothers' Clubs are held each fortnight. Speech Therapy and Ophthalmic Clinics are held weekly and sessions for dental treatment are held daily. A handicraft class for the physically handicapped is held every Monday.

Two chiropodists attend the clinic each week and give treatment to retired men, women over the age of 60 years, antenatal mothers and to handicapped patients.

The clinic is also used for Family Planning sessions, and every Thursday afternoon the Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee covers an "Advice Bureau" manned by members on a rota system. About 120 enquiries from elderly citizens were dealt with during 1967.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in West View, where 16 drivers are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

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

								-	1000	100			-
	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
Measles	23	103	136	175	4	-	-	-	_	-	-	**	441
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dysentery	10	29	29	83	12	7	31	15	5	3	1	-	225
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Total	33	134	165	263	17	8	34	16	5	5	3	-	683

IMMUNISATION.

This was carried out in the child welfare clinics and for the first time in large numbers, by the general practitioners.

The record of immunisations completed is not, now, available for Ashington, alone, but refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

In the Central Area in 1967, 912 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 89 completed a course of diphtheria/tetamus injections.

In addition, 199 older children, not protected in infancy against tetanus, received a primary course of treatment with tetanus vaccine alone.

Re-inforcing injections against diphtheria were given to 2,388 children, against whooping cough to 863 children and against tetanus to 2,217 children.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

It is indeed satisfactory to be able to report that no case of poliomyelitis has occurred in Ashington for a decade.

The immunisation campaign must continue to be actively persued, to prevent the resurgence of diphtheria and policyelitis and the occurrence of dreaded tetanus

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1967.

	_	New	Cases						Deaths	
	Res	p.	No	n-Resp	Tot	Re	sp	Non	-Resp	Tot
	M.	F.	M.	F.			F.	M.	F.	100
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_		
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	_	_	_				
5 -14 years	-	-	-	_	_		2	-	-	-
15 -24 years	-	-	-	-	_	_			-	-
25 -34 years	-	-	-	-	_	_	_			-
35 -44 years	-	-	_	_	_			_	-	-
45 -54 years	-	-	-	_	_				-	-
	-	1	-	-	1	_		-		-
65 -74 years	-	-	- 5	_	-	1	_	_	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	_	_		_	-	1
					No. of the					-
Total		1	-	-	1	1	-	-	_	1

Only 1 new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified in 1967 and 1 death occurred.

The death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was

0.038 per 1,000

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.037 per 1,000

The death-rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was

Nil.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.005 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.	
Death rate in Ashington	0 72 1 000
Death rate in England and Wales	0.584 per 1.000
Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Death rate in Ashington Death rate in England and Wales	1.44 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All	Sites.	
Death rate in Ashingt	on and Wales	2.16 per 1,000 2.275 per 1,000

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year anded 31st December 1967.

	No. of inspections during year.	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	Defects remedied under Improvement Grant Procedure.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory action.	Legal Proceedings.
Housing.			-	-			14702	
Structural Defects. Defective food store. Dampness. Overcrowding.	882	465 4 140	186 4 63	18 8	278 - 76	1	1 -	-
Water Supply.								
Insufficient. Unsatisfactory.	130	-8	8	-6	:	:	:	:
Drainage.		The man make						
Insufficient. Unsatisfactory.	124	8	-8	8	-	2	-	:
Sanitary Conveniences.			~					
Insufficient. Unsatisfactory.	26}	13	10	13	===	:	=	
General.								
Food Premises. Dairies.	662 23	108	108	103	-		-	-
Slaughterhouses.	668	. 12	-	12	-	07-31	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc. Offensive Trades.	53 4	9	-	9	-		-	-
Keeping of Animals.	9	2	-	2 7	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	28	7	-	7	-	1	-	-
Smoke Nuisa nces. Noise Nuisances.	118	13	-	13	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection								
and Disposal.	587	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces. Offices & Shops.	69 489	188	188	5 439	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

General.

The abatement of nuisance was again achieved almost entirely by informal action, and it was found necessary to serve only two Statutory Notices during the year.

Inspections were carried out in connection with all Improvement Grant applications and necessary repairs were carried out before the grants were approved. These repairs have been included in the tables.

A total of 233 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 17 were Standard Grants and 216 Discretionary Grants.

Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2304, while the total number of Standard Grants now given is 108 and the facilities provided by the 17 grants given during 1967 are detailed in Section D of the report.

No Improvement Areas were declared under the Housing Act 1964, as systematic area improvement is still being carried out by the National Coal Board in co-operation with the Council. No representations by tenants for house improvement have been made under the Act.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were made during the year.

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	11	0
Defective W.C. basins		9
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes	4	2
Defective water supply and lack of internal	0	6
water supply	-	
Defective sinks and waste nipes and provision		
for internal water supply	5	4
Defective or missing ashbins	2	2
Delective roofs	46	38
Damp walls.	146	116
Defective spouts	34	27
Delective wallplaster	40	37
Defective ceilings	121	118
Defective doors, windows and floors	88	
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot	30	57
boilers	14	7
Defective chimney flues	42	41
Defective paving and yard surfaces	3	4
Delective food store	4	
Offensive accumulations	2	2
Other defects	28	23

Water Supply.

The water supply to the area is provided by Tynemouth Corporation from Fontburn and Tosson to Hebron Reservoir, and by gravity main to Ashington, with an additional supply provided by the Coquet Water Board.

Only minor works were required during the year, such as de-scaling in the North Seaton Road to South View area, and pressures were improved by adjustments to pressure reducing valves, particularly in connection with the Hospital and its new extensions.

55 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these, 50 samples showed no coliform bacilli.

Of the 5 samples showing coliform bacilli, 3 were from Bothal Village early in the year. Repairs to the storage tanks resulted in subsequent samples being satisfactory.

The remaining 2 samples, taken from the town supply, appeared to be isolated results. After mains flushing, further samples proved satisfactory.

2 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst to ascertain the lead concentration and the results were as follows:-

ACC TANK AND AND	Lead (p.p.m.)	P.H. Value.
Sample No. 1.	0.04	7.4
Sample No. 2.	0.06	7.5

Both samples were taken from houses with the maximum amount of lead piping, and where the water could stand for at least 14 hours before sampling.

Sewerage.

The new sewerage system for Woodhorn Village was completed during the year, and plans were being formulated for a scheme to serve additional factories at Jubilee Estate.

Further examination of the main s werage system is intended, with particular reference to the two main storm water overflows at North Seaton Crossing and North Seaton Hotel.

Though there is nothing further to report with regard to sewage disposal in the Lintonville area, the need for a sewerage system should not be forgotten.

While it is appreciated that, because of subsidence and adverse levels, such a system would be costly, and benefit relatively few people, it should be remembered that there are 80-90 persons employed in factories, offices and other 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.

Swimming Baths cont.

Five bacteriological samples of the baths were taken during the year, and 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:

Schools.

There are 12 Primary Schools in the District (6 junior and 6 infant) 6 Secondary Schools, a Grammar School, Technical College, Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped Children.

The new Coulson Park Primary School, (first phase) was opened during the year.

Following outbreaks of dysentery, all school toilets were inspected, and a report was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health.

While the standard of cleanliness was found to be high, minor repairs to toilet seats, broken chains etc. appeared to be neglected, and the following general recommendations were made.

- Toilet blocks should be built within the main school buildings and should have washing facilities adjacent to them.
- 2. Hot and cold water should be provided in each basin.
- 3. Chains should be lowered for the use of infants so that the toilets can be flushed everytime after use.
- 4. Urinals should be inside the main building and should be provided with an efficient automatic flushing system. It was suggested that priority should be given to the building of new toilet blocks, in those schools in which there are uncovered and unflushed urinals.

In the light of this report, the Council made strong representations to the County Education Committee on the condition of these toilets.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

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

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Council continued to implement their policy of installing room heaters in Council houses, and during the year completed the Newbiggin Road Estate, which brought the total of houses equipped with Smokeless fuel appliances to 451.

The increasing number of these appliances is encouraging interest in the town, in modern methods of heating, and most of the tenants appear to be well satisfied with the standard of comfort and increased cleanliness provided.

The Council having agreed in principle to designate these areas as smoke control areas, in accordance with established procedure, the Minister of Housing and Local Government was informed of this decision, and given details of the areas involved.

The Ministry commented that they did not regard it as good practice to make isolated orders, without first deciding on a phased programme of systematic introduction of smoke control over the whole area.

Atmospheric Pollution cont.

It was pointed out that as all houses concerned were already equipped to operate without smoke, and were on the outskirts of the town, it seemed sensible that they be designated smoke control areas, thereby continuing the policy of gradual introduction of clean air. The Ministry would not comment further on the points raised, and would not say whether they would refuse to confirm the Orders if they were made without a phased programme being first agreed.

Consequently it was intended to submit a fresh report to the Health Committee early in the new year, asking them to approve a phased programme of systematic introduction of smoke control over the whole area.

In view of all that has been said about authorities who have not introduced domestic smoke control, and bearing in mind the particular difficulties encountered in this respect in mining areas, the distinct lack of encouragement or assistance from the Ministry was surprising and disappointing.

The Monthly reports on results from the Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Candles are ammended for your consideration:-

Month		Total Deposits Tons/Sq. Mile	day Mill	imetres per imetres of er 100
		Hirst Park	Hirst Park	Memorial Park
January	1.42	12.25	2.29	1.80
February	2.18	19.64	1.63	1.38
March	1.00	17.83	1.23	1.55
April	1.00	14.84	1.41	1.78
May	(Apparatu	s damaged)	0.84	1.22
June	(Apparatu		1.00	0.97
July	1.79	14.12	0.40	0.37
August	3.16	10.31	0.56	0.38
September	1.74	10.24	0.69	0.69
October	3.21	11.91	0.71	0.68
November	0.42	4.05	2.13	1.26
December	1.21	13.81	1.83	1.17

Rodent Control.

Complaints again were relatively few, and treatments were carried out promptly.

Regular surveys were carried out, checking sewers, allotments, open spaces and other areas likely to harbour rats, resulting in the elimination of most infestations at an early stage. No sewer infestations were found.

No infestation reached major proportions.

Rodent Control cont.

The following table summarised the work done:-

	Type of	Property
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	10,977	25
Total number of properties inspected following notification	170	9
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	121 24	8 1
Total number of properties insp- ected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	472	25
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	10 0	9

Disinfestation.

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Clover Mite	14	1
Beetles	16	35
Bugs	8	WAS 0 24 87 82 82
Earwigs	TO ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	1 1 1
Spiders	appear appear of the latest and at a	1 0 00 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
Mosquitoes	OF AN APROPER PER PER PER PER PER PER PER PER PER	1 1 1
Slugs	2	THE REAL PROPERTY.
Flies		1
Caterpillars	3	GARGE ME
Wasps	The state of the s	1

No charge is made for the treatment of Council houses, though private occupiers pay for the Disinfestor's time and for the insecticide used.

One complaint of mosquito bites was received and larvae found in a water trough were identified as Theobaldia Annulata, a vicious man-biter. The area was searched, and no further larvae were found. The water trough was disconnected and filled in.

Other likely areas were examined, and larvae found in pools and water butts in allotments proved to be Culex Pipiens, which is a relatively harmless variety.

Pet Animals Act.

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

Riding Establishments Act 1964.

There is one riding establishment in the area, and following the submission of the Veterinary Surgeon's report, the licence was renewed for a further twelve months.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Health Committee during the year considered the collection side of the service against the background of the "Working Party Report on Refuse Storage and Collection", and it was found that most of the recommendations were already being carried out, or had been discussed by the Committee.

The principal areas where there appeared to be scope for improvement were:-

- 1) Rationalization of collection frequency.
- Introduction of a Municipal Bin Scheme.
 Introduction of Paper Sack Collection.
- 4) An incentive bonus scheme based on Work Study.

The key factor from which to base decisions in other directions, seems to be the type of collection system to be adopted, and the paper sack system appears to hold the solution for most of the refuse collection problems.

The Committee have agreed in principle to carry out a trial paper sack scheme, though for economic reasons, this has not yet been found possible.

Two replacement vehicles came into service during the year, the last one being a 35 cu. yd. "Pakamatic". This vehicle has been used for trade refuse, where its powers of refuse compression can be used to the greatest advantage, as a result the "Trade Wagon" made only two trips per day to the tip, instead of 5 or 6, and was able to collect from all the small shops, many of which had previously to be dealt with by other vehicles.

The tip face is now some distance from the Ellington Road, and nuisances due to windblown paper and tip fires were not quite so evident, though of course they were still there. Rat infestations were few, due to keeping open tip faces to a minimum.

In August, the Committee accepted a quotation by Tollemache Composting Systems Limited, for the provision of a Refuse Pulverising Plant, subject to Planning Permission and Loan Sanction being receive d.

At the end of the year, planning permission had been obtained and Loan Sanction was awaited.

587 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with refuse collection and disposal.

Statistics and costs for the year 1966/1967 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics.

Total refuse collected	10,255 tons
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day. No. of premises from which refuse is	21,34 cwts
collected	9,512
least once weekly	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point	2.3 miles
Trade Refuse - Weight	1,003 tons £670

Collection	Disposal	Total
€25,177	£6,647	£31,824
33/2d 16/9d	11d 4/6d	34/1d 21/3d
49/1d	13/0d	62/1d
£955	£252	£1,207
	£25,177 33/2d 16/9d 49/1d	£25,177 £6,647 33/2d 11d 16/9d 4/6d 49/1d 13/0d

Refuse Disnosal Vehicles and Staff.

Vehicle Reg.	Make.	Type. Fi	rst Registered.
LJR 136	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	11. 5. 57.
PTY 988		и и и	1. 10. 59.
WTY 163	11 11 11	п п п	7. 9. 62.
DNL 6850	" " "	и и и	4. 1. 65.
KNL 155E	n n n		6. 1. 67.
MJR 890F		Pakamatic	1. 8. 67.
FJR 607C	Austin	Mini Van	4. 6. 65.
-	Bristol Angledozer	(Purchased)	6. 6. 63.

The dozer was due to be replaced in 1963.

Staff consists of:-

1 Foreman, 5 Drivers, 1 Dozer Driver/Tipman, 1 Spare Driver/Lifter, 20 Binlifters (including one spare lifter).

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are 77 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

1. INSTITUTIONS.

Premises	Number	Number of				
	Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted		
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	7	20	-		
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	62	44				
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L. (excl. outworkers' premises)	h 	18				
TOTAL	77	69				

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Numb d	No. of cases in which pro-			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. I	Ву Н.Ш.	secutions were instit- uted.
Want of cleanliness	_	-	_	_	-
Overcrowding	-	-	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	-	AME TOO TOO
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation		-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of					
floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	- 0	-	-
Other offences against the	•	-	-	-	-0.31
Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	- 0	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	2	-	-

PART V111 OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

	Section	Section 134				
Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August 1st required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases in default in send- ing lists to the Council	No. of presec- utions for fail- ing to supply lists	No. of insta- nces of work in unwhole some premises	Notices served	Prosec- utions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc.)	1	-	- 4015	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	11	-	-7-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	-	-	- 194	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Although nine premises were registered during the year, there was a reduction of eight in the total number of registered premises. This was due to the seventeen premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 303 premises registered under the Act, 32 received one or more general inspections during the year.

457 visits and inspections under the Act were carried out for various purposes.

	REGISTRATIONS AND	GENERAL INSPECTIONS	
Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving general insp- ections duri- ng the year.
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops	2 6	64 224	2 29
& warehouses Catering	-	6	
establishments open to the public, conteens. Fuel storage	1	6	1
depots	Appropriate an experience	3	-
Total	9	303	32

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE.

Class of Workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices Retail shops. Wholesale departments, warehouses Catering establishments open to the public. Canteens. Fuel Storage Depots	827 1,216 25 53 8 19
otal	2,148
Total males	897
Total females	1,251

No applications for exemption in respect of temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

One exemption from the first aid provision is in force in view of the Medical Centre which is available to the employees concerned.

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS.

Section	Number of contraventions fo	und
4 5	Cleanliness	18
6	Overcrowding	Taggin 40
7	Temperature	5
8	Ventilation	1
9	Lighting. Sanitary Conveniences	5
10	Washing Facilities.	22
11	Supply of Drinking Water	82
12	Clothing Accommodation	1
13	Sitting facilities	and the second of
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	_
15	Eating facilities	N SATURDAY TO SERVICE OF THE SERVICE

Section	Number of contraventions foun	d.
16	Floors, passages and stairs	27
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery .	A
18	Protection of young nersons from	7
	dangerous machinery	
19	Training of young persons working at	
	dangerous machinery	
23	Prohibition of heavy work	_
24	First Aid - General Provisions	0
50	Posting of Abstract	14
Total		188

25 accidents were notified during the year. Details of these were submitted to the Ministry of Labour in the quarterly returns and in the case of accident No. 20 an informal investigation was carried out, resulting in a letter of advice being sent to the shopkeeper concerned.

Details of accidents notified are as follows:-

5	FYPE OF PREMISES	NATURE OF ACCIDENTS
1.	Retail shop.	Strained back while lifting goods.
2.	" "	Strained back while lifting corease of meat.
3.	" "	Pierced hand with knife while picking up meat.
4.	Catering establishment	Knocked leg against bench sprained
	open to the public.	ligaments.
5.	Retail shop.	Stood on mail which pierced foot.
6.	Office.	Trip ed on partition and cracked ribs.
7.	Retail shop.	Cut finger on nail while cleaning window.
8.	" "	Strained back when lifting box.
9.	" "	Knife slipped while boning meat and entered stomach.
	Catering establishment open to the public.	Slipped and injured back.
11.	Catering establishment	While serving tripped on edge of carpet
	open to the public.	injuring leg.
12.	Retail shop.	Dropped tin of fruit onto foot.
13.	" "	Caught hand on blade of knife while boning
		meat.
14.		Sprained back while lifting goods.
15.	" "	Caused hernia by twisting himself while under- neath shop window disconnecting lighting.
	Canteen.	Slipped causing injury to back and coccyx.
17.	Catering establishment open to the public.	Fell over beer crate cutting leg.
18.	Office.	Paper weight fell onto foot.
19.	"	Bruised toe on wooden floor block.
20.	Retail shop.	Tripped fell onto wire display stand cutting face and bruising back.
21.	" "	Boning bacon knife slipped and cut forcarm.
	Canteen.	Slipped causing injury to wrist.
	Office.	Fell when chair slipped from under her causing
-,-		bruised elbow.
21.	Retail shop.	Sprained wrist while washing floor.
	Office.	Strained groin when bending to o under a
-,.	*******	low hatch doorway.

Once again it was found that help and advice was readily available from Mr. J.M. Beattie, Daputy Superintending Inspector of Factories, ensuring that any action taken was in conformity with action taken elsewhere.

This assistance was particularly appreciated in relation to accidents and the guarding of machinery.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1967.

Houses	completed during the year:		
a)	By Local Authority		141
b)	By any other Housing Authority		Nil
c)			45
			42
Closing	and Demolition.		
	Houses demolished in Clearance Are		Nil
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance	Areas	143
	Houses closed, not demolished		Nil
4.	to the formation of discourse	ntinued as	
	dwellings and not included above		Nil
Repairs			
Houses	made fit by procedure under either H	ousing on P W	Anta
		ousing of I.n.	ACUS.
5.	By informal action	-	34
0.	By owners, following statutory not	ice	1
9	By Local Authority in default of or	wners	Nil
0.	Demolition Orders revoked after re-	construction	Nil
Houses I	Patched.		
	The state of the s		
9.	Houses in Clearance Areas still in	use at end of	
	year for temporary accommodation.		Nil
Clearand	ce Programme.		
10	Marshan at angle 1		
10.		programme	In resign will
	remaining to be dealt with at end of	of year.	187
IMPROVEM	ENT GRANTS		
1 D:	To nedark	*	
A. Disci	retionary Grants	10	o. of separate
			houses
1.	Applications submitted to Local Aut	hority	218
2.	Applications rejected		2
	Applications approved		216
4.	Approximate average grant approved	per house	£267
	Total number of houses approved for	grant in	
	the area since inception of scheme		2304
B. Sta	ndard Grants.	During the	Total to
	The state of the s	Year	Date
1.	Number of concepts because Con all 1		2000
	Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:		100
		17	108
2.	Number of houses so provided with:		
	(a) Bath or shower	2	12
	(b) Wash hand basin	12	20
	(c) Hot water supply	2	19
	(d) Water closet	2 16	101
	(e) Food store	7	49

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream.

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

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

47 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

The analysis of results is as follows:-

		Mob	iles			I SUPER	Pre	mises		
Grade	1	2	3	4	di ton 6	1	2	3	4	
Soft Ice Cream	3	-	1	-		-	-	-	- Find	
Other Ice Cream			-	-	transland	34	4	5	In Table	

Milk Supply.

Three premises were registered as dairies and 57 persons as milk dealers. 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. 53 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and three samples failed to pass the tests.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type, together with an analysis of washing equipment fitted is as follows:-

Trade	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash hand basins)	Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (sinks etc.)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Confectionery	18	18	10	9
Grocers & General	89	89	89	86
Butchers	22	22	22	21
Greengrocery	12	12	12	11
Bakery	11	11	11	11
Ice Cream Parlours	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish	13	13	13	12
Cafes	13 4 3 23	4	4	4
Hotels	3	4 3	3	3
Clubs	23	18	23	23 5
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	10	10	10	10
Total	221	216	213	206

109 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.

662 visits were made to food premises, and in addition food premises being inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were at the same time, dealt with under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food Hygiene standards were found to be quite high, the contraventions found being generally of a minor nature.

Food Complaints.

Five food complaints were received and investigated during the year as follows:-

Complaints.	Prosecuted.	Plea.	Result.
1. Mouldy potato crisps.	Yes	Guilty	Given absolute discharge on payment of £2.6s.0d.
2. Biscuits infected with Ptinus Tectus.	Yes	Guilty	costs. Fined £5. Os. Od. and costs.
3. Dirty Milk Bottle.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5. Os. Od. and costs.
4. Mouldy custard tart. 5. Fly in cream sponge.	No No	43	02.000.700000.0002.000

In the last two cases, the Clerk did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proceedings being taken, and the complaints were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and other persons 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 238 milk samples and 71 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these samples were found to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

Milk - three samples contained added water. The producer was prosecuted, convicted and fined.

Green food colour - contained a non permitted food colour, blue V.R.S. Inquiries revealed that the food colour had been in stock prior to this colour being removed from the permitted list. Remaining stocks were returned to the manufacturers.

Meat and Other Foods.

The four slaughterhouses continued to operate and licence renewals during the year were as follows:-

Slaughterhouse	Occupier	Licence Expires		
Back Wansbeck Terrace. Back Lintonville Terrace.	A.I.C.S. W.J. Burgess & Sons Limited.	31st July, 1968. 31st July, 1968.		
Wellhead Terrace. Back 197 Alexandra Road.	J. Wheatley. T. Davidson.	31st July, 1968. 31st July, 1968.		

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All four slaughter-houses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the statutory procedure laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

2 7/12 505 504 0 040 0690		Bullocks	Heifers	Corrs	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
ormal Kill 525 524 2 849 2680 asualties 1 2	ormal Kill	525	524	2			849	2680

Meat and Other Organs, Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed for Tuberculosis.

Swine.

Heads. 9

For other defined diseases.

Bovine.

Heads and Tongues	Bruising 1; Actinobacillosis 2. Pentatomes 1; Emphysema 1; Cursinoma 1; Pleurisy 37; Pneumonia 5; Abscesses 10;
Livers	Parasites 2; Contamination 14. Circhosis (Chole) 23; (Part) 101; Perihepatitis 9; Hopatitis 1; Absorbes 26;
Hearts	Turour 1; Contamination 2. Pericarditis 6; C. Bovis 2. C. Bovis 1.
Spleens. Kidneys. Kidneys. Kidneys.	Contamination 1. Nephritis 1. Peritonitis 1.
Gut	Peritonitis 1. Peritonitis 1.

Swine.

Hends						Abscesses Z.
Lungs						Pneumonia 132; Pleurisy 12; Abscesses 1.
Livers .						Parasites 35; Perihepatitis 2.
Hearts .						Pericarditis 44.
Kidneys.						Nephritis 3.
Carcase.						Pleurisy (6 lbs.) Malignant tumour with emaciation (46 lbs.)

Sheep.

Lungs	Pleurisy 4; Pneumonia 1; Parasites 1;
Livers	Contamination 4. Perihepatitis 1; Contamination 1;
and the state of t	Parasites 31; Abscesses 5; Cirrhosis 5; Peritonitis 1. Pericarditis 1.
Hearts	
Plucks	Septic Pneumonia 1.
Heads	Contamination 5.
Kidneys	Nephritis 1.

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

	Cattle excl.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lembs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected	1049	2	-	2682	850
All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci: Whole carcases condemned Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned Percentage affected with	- 106	-	-	- 40	- 163
disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticerci	10.1	-	-	1.49	19.3
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	- - -	-	-	-	- 9 1.06
Cysticercosis: Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	- 2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned	2	-	-	-	-

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED.

		Tons.	Cwts.	lbs.
1.	Meat at slaughterhouses.	1	0	29
2.	Meat at retail shops.	-	_	110
3.	Cooked meat and meat products.	-	-	31
4.	Canned Meats.	-	2	59
5.	Other canned foods.	-	5	4
6.	Fish (fresh).	-	-	-
7.	Fruit and vegetables (fresh).	-	-	-
8.	Other foods.	-	-	73
	Total	1	9	82

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



