

[Report 1968] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashington U.D.C.

Contributors

Ashington (Northumberland, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1968

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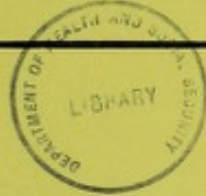
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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

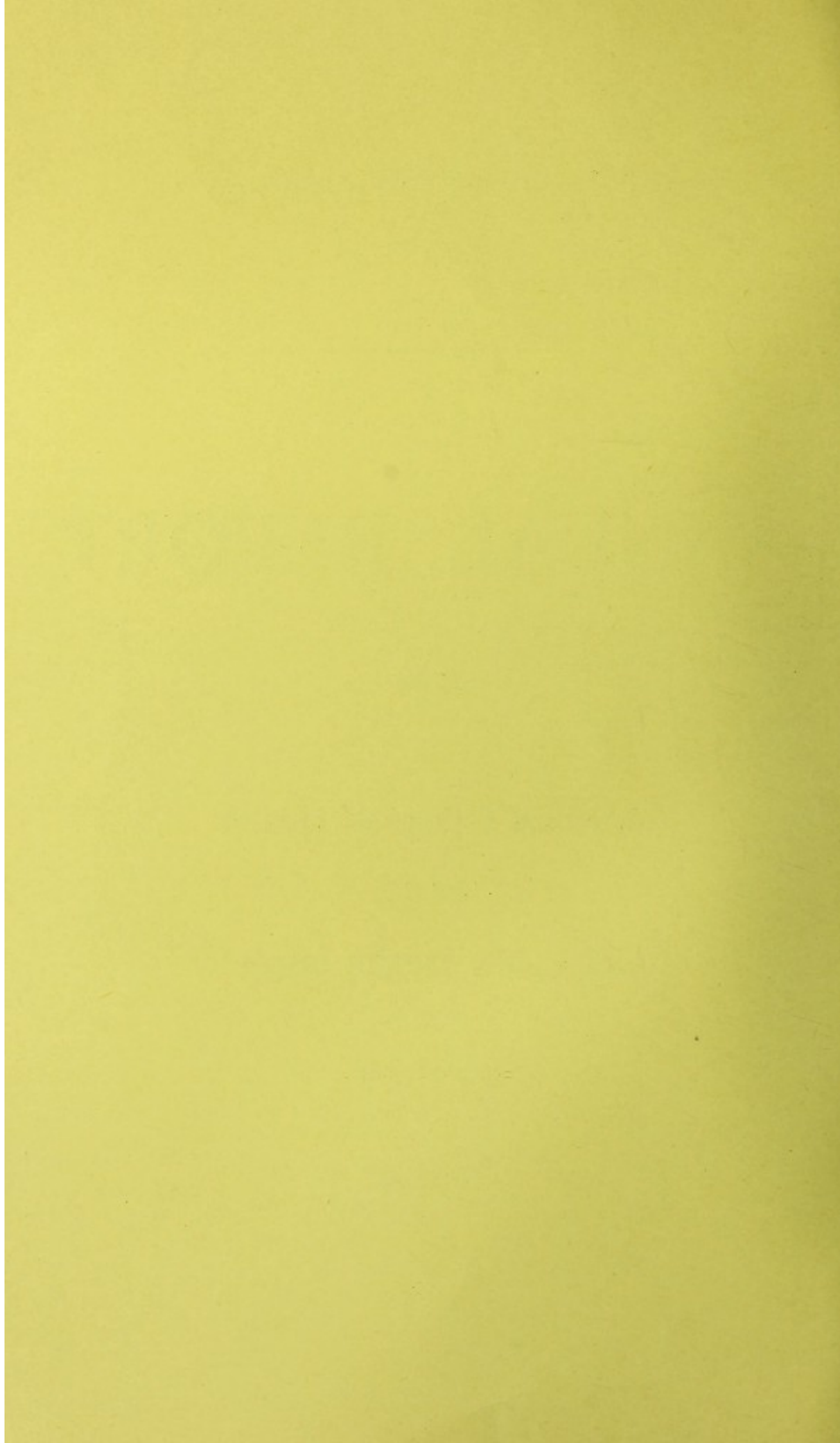
Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1968



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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 1968.

The first event of which mention must be made was the retirement on 31st March of Dr. McGregor, after 25 years of dedicated service to the local community as its Medical Officer of Health. Dr. McGregor knew her area and her people well with their many and varied problems, and the respect in which she was held by her colleagues in the public health field was shown in a presentation to her on her final day in harness.

Following the retirement of Dr. McGregor, an assistant Medical Officer of Health was not appointed, and there was also a reduction in the Public Health Inspector staff during the year. This resulted in the necessity of working in much closer conjunction with the Public Health Inspectors than previously, and also in certain adjustments in work procedure having to be made. All urgent matters were dealt with immediately, but it was not always found possible to devote as much time as could have been desired to routine work. It is hoped that the standard of work which has been carried out in this area in the past, will be maintained in the future.

Fortunately, 1968 proved to be a year comparatively free from infectious disease in Ashington. Twenty eight cases of sonne dysentery and two cases of flexner dysentery were notified. One of the latter cases occurred in a young laboratory technician who had undoubtedly picked up the infection at her place of employment, but she had had no contact with the second flexner case which strangely enough was notified at about the same time. This second case occurred in a man who had recently come from abroad to work in a restaurant in the town. He was kept away from work until he had had three consecutive negative faecal specimens. His family and work contacts all proved to be free from infection.

The first case of sonne dysentery was notified in April and cases continued to occur throughout the summer until September, although at no time were epidemic proportions reached. Eight adults were affected by the disease.

During the month of July, two cases of food poisoning were notified - both due to salmonella dublin. No common factor between the two cases was discovered and the patients had had no contact with each other. The source of infection was not traced in either case.

There was a marked reduction in the number of cases of measles in 1968 - 33, in comparison with 441 in 1967. The measles vaccination campaign began in May of 1968 and 1,096 susceptible children under 8 years of age were vaccinated in the Central Area of Northumberland County by the end of the year. It will be interesting to observe the effect of this campaign upon the number of cases of measles notified during the current year, which one would expect to be a biennial epidemic year for the disease.

Only two cases of tuberculosis were notified in the period under review - one respiratory case and one non-respiratory. There were no deaths from this disease.

A complaint was received towards the end of the year about an outbreak of verruca among a group of children who were using the swimming bath in the town. Other groups using the bath were not affected to the same extent. The bath was inspected, and recommendations for the improvement of hygiene and disinfection made and were readily accepted by the bath manager and acted upon. No further complaints have been received.

The Council continued to support the work of the Home Safety Committee during the year and on one occasion, the Chairman of the Council invited members to view the new Council houses at the east end of the town. This visit was much appreciated. Statistics of home accidents compiled by the district nurses and ambulance drivers were given at each meeting, and these acted as an incentive and guide in the work of the Committee. In the early autumn, a child was admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary suffering from poisoning after eating laburnum seeds, and as a result the parents asked for the laburnum trees to be removed from a certain area in the town. But this seemed not to be the way to deal with the problem; even if every laburnum tree were removed in Ashington, the child could travel to a neighbouring town and find the poisonous seeds there. So it was decided that a campaign should be undertaken to point out the danger of eating berries and seeds from trees and plants. The Schools and the Home Safety Committee co-operated in this campaign and the Committee intended to make a further effort, in the current year, to draw the attention of the community to this dangerous practice. In turn, parents must accept the responsibility of training their children not to eat seeds and berries found in hedgerows and gardens.

During 1968 a very large proportion of time was devoted to the consideration and investigation of cases claiming rehousing priority on medical grounds, and also of cases for the 'Warden Scheme' bungalows at the west end of Ashington. Cases were graded according to the severity of the illness, considered together with existing housing conditions. This work was carried out with the helpful co-operation of the Housing Manager; it was time-consuming to a degree, but was welcomed as a most important Public Health measure.

Finally, a few comments on the vital statistics of the area for the year under review. The estimated population figure for mid-1968 fell by 240 to 26,080. This fall could possibly be accounted for in some measure by the fact that a number of families were rehoused in council houses in an adjacent area and a number moved to an estate of privately owned houses in that area; and some migration took place from Ashington following the closure of collieries in neighbouring districts. The birth-rate in Ashington increased from 16.9 to 17 per 1,000 of the population in 1968 - a figure slightly higher than that for England and Wales. The number of deaths increased by 42, giving a death-rate of 12.9 per 1,000 of the population - higher than the figure of 11.9 for England and Wales. The infantile mortality rate fell from 15.9 to 14 per 1,000 live births, compared with the national rate of 18.

I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the Health Department Clerk, who coped so efficiently with the challenge of extra work and responsibility, of the helpful co-operation of the Public Health Inspectors and other Council Officials, and of the continuing support of the members of the Council 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

Medical Officer of Health	C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Retired 31st March, 1968.
Assistant Medical Officer Medical Officer of Health from 1st April, 1968.	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector Meat	} Inspector S. MUSK, 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. Resigned 28.6.68.
Public Health Inspector (Meat)	S. GREEN M.A.P.H.I.
Pupil Public Health Inspector	I.L. RICHARDSON
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Station Villa, Ashington.
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Miss D. Oliver
Telephone	Ashington 2911

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1968.	26,080
Rateable Value	£790,705
One Penny Rate Produces	£3,070
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968)	9,210
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority in district .	2,680
(This figure includes 88 in N.U.D.C.)	

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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	423	209	214
Illegitimate	21	12	9
	<u>444</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>223</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17 (16.9)
 (Comparability Factor 1.04) Standard Birth Rate 17.68
 Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate 1.05

Still Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	3	4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 16 (14.3)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
336	177	159

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 12.9 (11.9)
 Comparability Factor 1.16) Standard Death Rate 14.96
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. Nil
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. Nil (0.24)
 Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate 1.26

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	-	6

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births 14 (18)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	-	4

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	-	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks
 per 1,000 live births) 9.0 (12.4)
 Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) 6.8
 Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under
 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) 22

1968.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

	Sex	Total All Ages	AGE IN YEARS										75 Years & over
			Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
B4 Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B11 Meningococcal Infection	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	M	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	8	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
B19(5) Leukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, Etc.	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	5
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B46(1) Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B23 Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous Syst. Etc.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	12	20	13
	F	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	11	23

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS (contd.)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over	
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality													
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions													
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents													
	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48	All Other Accidents													
	M	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
	F	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries													
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		177	-	-	3	2	1	2	1	22	31	57	58	85
	F	159	4	2	-	-	1	-	5	7	20	35	85	85

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON.

CAUSES	Total Number		% of Total Deaths	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Diseases of Heart & Circulation	120	138	40.8	41.07
Malignant Neoplasms	57	55	19.4	16.3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	45	44	15.3	13.1
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	24	40	8.16	11.9
TOTAL	246	267	83.7	82.37

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 year
Asphyxia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital Deformity	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Haemolytic Diseases of Newborn	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ulcerative Colitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	3	1	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	6

STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Deaths Under 1 yr.	Infantile Mortality Rat
1906	19,200	37.5	16.35	136	188.6
1916	25,974	27.73	15	109	151.38
1926	31,810	23.22	11.90	81	107.9
1936	30,020	17.52	10.95	41	77.94
1946	28,460	21.5	10.7	30	49.9
1956	28,360	16.61	11.6	17	26.09
1957	28,370	15.83	9.799	15	33.41
1958	28,340	15.49	10.76	11	24.83
1959	28,210	16.16	10.17	12	26.32
1960	28,150	16.23	11.15	15	30.93
1961	27,380	15.70	11.47	9	20.98
1962	27,170	16.636	12.44	8	17.69
1963	26,920	16.86	11.6	7	15.42
1964	26,600	16.43	10.86	14	32.04
1965	26,480	15.52	13.22	9	21.89
1966	26,360	14.68	11.49	5	12.92
1967	26,320	16.6	11.2	7	15.9
1968	26,080	17	12.9	6	14.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

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

Infant Welfare Sessions
 Toddler Sessions
 Immunisation sessions
 Relaxation & Mothercraft sessions for expectant mothers
 Mothers' Clubs
 Speech Therapy & Ophthalmic Clinics
 Dental sessions
 Handicraft Classes for the physically handicapped
 Chiropody Sessions
 Family Planning sessions
 Birthday Clinics
 Pre-school playgroups
 Citizens 'Advice Bureau'

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.

This organization continued its valuable work for the community in Ashington during 1968. Sixty three families, involving 186 individuals, were issued with clothing, 4553 meals were delivered to house-bound elderly citizens and 4058 meals were served in Luncheon Clubs.

The committee met regularly during the year. At Christmas, 160 old people who received no coal allowance were given a bag of non-spark wood blocks.

The boys of Ashington Grammar School continued to service the old people's 'warning lights'. The committee decided to allow the chiropody service to run down during the year, and to close finally in December. Chiropody is now carried out in the clinic at South View.

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

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
Measles	3	8	14	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Dysentery	-	2	4	12	1	2	5	1	1	1	-	-	29
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Total	3	10	18	21	1	2	7	3	1	1	-	-	67

IMMUNISATION.

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 1968, 760 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 86 completed a course of diphtheria/tetanus injections.

In addition, 196 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 2,176 children, against whooping cough to 879 children and against tetanus to 2,087 children.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a primary course was 823. The number of children who received a 'booster' dose during the year was 1,776.

Measles Vaccination.

The number of children who were vaccinated against measles was 1,096.

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1968.

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

The death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was NIL

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.030 per 1,000

The death-rate from other forms of tuberculosis in Ashington was NIL

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.013 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 0.65 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales 0.593 " "

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 1.45 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales 1.723 " "

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 2.1 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales 2.316 " "

-1-

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ended 31st December, 1968.

	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.
<u>Housing.</u>								
Structural Defects.	)	558	142	93	416	1	1	-
Defective food store.	775)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness.	)	169	52	29	117	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water Supply.</u>								
Insufficient.	103)	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.	)	11	11	11	-	-	-	-
<u>Drainage.</u>								
Insufficient.	128)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.	)	14	14	14	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>								
Insufficient.	23)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.	)	6	6	6	-	-	-	-
<u>General.</u>								
Food Premises.	836	177	177	113	-	-	-	-
Dairies.	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses.	542	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	95	16	-	15	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals.	24	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	83	27	-	27	-	1	-	-
Smoke Nuisances and Observations.	120	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Noise Nuisances.	16	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	606	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces.	110	7	3	6	-	-	-	-
Offices & Shops.	284	126	126	96	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases.	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	=	3,825	1,145	532	444	533	2	1

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 126 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 17 were Standard Grants and 109 Discretionary Grants.

Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2,413, while the total number of Standard Grants now given is 125 and the facilities provided by the 17 grants given during 1968 are detailed in the Tabular Statement of Housing.

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. .	14	14
Defective W.C. basins	-	1
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes . . .	6	7
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply.	3	3
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply	9	9
Defective or missing ashbins.	1	1
Defective roofs	60	58
Damp walls.	169	146
Defective spouts.	49	46
Defective wallplaster	48	45
Defective ceilings.	164	153
Defective doors, windows and floors	142	132
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers	19	12
Defective chimney flues	70	67
Defective paving and yard surfaces.	6	6
Defective food store.	-	-
Offensive accumulations	2	2
Other defects	23	21

Water Supply.

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

Alterations to the system were carried out during the year to accommodate new factories, and the main under the Stakeford bridge was moved because of re-inforcement works.

The system was extended to serve the Lane End Development, and work was carried out on new mains for the West End Redevelopment area.

60 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these, 51 samples showed no coliform bacilli. The 9 samples showing the presence of coliform bacilli were from Bothal Village, and were the result of a series of samples from the storage tank system.

Following these results it was decided to press for the elimination of the storage tank, and for the installation of a direct mains supply to the Village.

Sewerage.

A scheme to serve additional factories at Jubilee Estate was completed during the year.

An examination was made of the foul water system running towards the screening chamber because of evidence of damage due to mining subsidence, and the National Coal Board were approached in order to determine liability.

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

There is nothing further to report with regard to sewage disposal in the Lintonville area, though action may be precipitated by the advent of the Northern by-pass.

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 now open all the year round.

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

Six 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.

Work was begun during the year on the second phase of the Coulson Park Primary School, and this section will be opened in September 1969.

Following representations made to the County Education Committee during 1967, on the condition of the school toilets, many improvements were carried out during the year and more were being planned.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Inspection of such buildings was carried out as far as possible during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Following the completion of the Newbiggin Road Estate, in which 451 houses were equipped with room heaters, the Council continued to implement their policy of installing smokeless heating appliances.

All dwellings completed during the year were equipped with room heaters, except for the old peoples dwellings at the West End, in which gas fired heating was installed.

The increasing use of these appliances has done much to make the community familiar with modern methods of heating, and most of the tenants appear to appreciate the greater standard of comfort and cleanliness.

The Council, which had agreed in principle to designate the Newbiggin Road areas as smoke control areas, considered the comments of the Ministry, which indicated that isolated orders should not be made without first deciding on a phased programme of systematic introduction of smoke control over the whole area.

After further consideration, the Council decided that the whole question of domestic smoke control areas be deferred.

They also decided that there was little justification for continuing to maintain the Deposit Gauge, and two Lead Peroxide Candles, and measurement from these instruments was discontinued as from the end of the year.

The monthly reports on results obtained during the year were as follows:-

Month	Rainfall in inches	Total Deposits Tons/Sq. Mile	Sq. Centimetres per day Millimetres of SO ₂ /3 per 100	
			Hirst Park	Hirst Park Memorial Park
January	1.21	13.03	2.19	1.57
February	1.79	12.35	2.34	1.57
March	1.89	20.49	1.00	1.56
April	1.44	8.50	1.00	1.16
May	1.26	10.24	0.97	0.87
June	1.37	10.68	0.53	0.53
July	3.55	13.17	0.50	(Not exposed)
August	2.84	8.07	0.50	0.40
September	2.50	16.54	0.94	0.85
October	2.70	10.04	1.20	1.10
November (Apparatus tampered with)		-	1.38	1.29
December	2.38	12.76	2.21	1.77

Fouling of Footways by Dogs.

There has been a considerable increase in the last year or two, in complaints of dogs fouling footpaths on streets, and on house premises.

It is an offence, to allow animals to stray on a highway, and it is an offence, under County Byelaws, for a dog to be allowed to foul the footway of a street or public place, and the owner is liable to be convicted if the complainant can give evidence of the offence, and can identify the dog and its owner.

Fouling of Footways by Dogs cont.

While many dog owners are conscientious in controlling and exercising their dogs without nuisance to the public, others apparently, push them out to 'do their duty' elsewhere, and these straying dogs cause the fouling of footpaths and grassed open spaces, and on open plan estates, private footpaths and gardens.

It is worth noting that dogs have frequently been found to be carriers of Salmonella Food poisoning organisms and the infection might very well be spread to children in this way.

They may also on occasion, frighten young children, damage gardens, and create hazards on the roads.

Allowing dogs to stray at large must be regarded as an anti-social practice, causing nuisance, danger on the roads, and unhygienic conditions on paths and children's playing areas, and I understand that the County Council's Partliamentary Committee have been considering the problem, and the effectiveness of the law existing to deal with it.

Rodent Control.

Relatively few complaints were received, though there were rather more than usual near the end of the year, when rats are driven in towards the town by harvesting of fields and the onset of cold weather.

We again carried out regular surveys of areas likely to harbour rats, such as the refuse tip, allotments, river banks and other open spaces, resulting in the elimination of many infestations at an early stage.

The sewers were test baited but no sewer infestations were found.

No infestation reached major proportions.

The following table summarised the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	11,327	25
Total number of properties inspected following notification	144	11
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	77 27	7 -
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	516	25
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	14 -	33 -

Disinfestation.

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses.	Private Houses.
Clover Mite.	12	-
Beetles.	12	17
Bugs.	10	-
Spider beetles.	-	1
Spiders.	2	-
Silver fish.	-	2
Snails.	-	2
Flies.	1	-
Bees.	2	-

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

No complaints of mosquito bites were received during the year, and though likely breeding grounds were examined, no larvae were found.

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.

Refuse collection proceeded during the year, with relatively few complaints, in spite of the fact that the teams frequently had to work short handed, due to the absence of crew members through sickness and holidays, and I feel that the refuse collectors and drivers should be congratulated on the cheerful and energetic way they have carried out what must be a difficult and trying job.

As pointed out, when the Health Committee discussed the service against the background of the "Working Party", the principal areas where there appears to be scope for improvement are:-

1. Rationalisation of collection frequency.
2. Introduction of a Municipal Bin Scheme.
3. Introduction of a Paper Sack Scheme.
4. An incentive bonus scheme based on Work Study.

While a trial paper sack scheme has been approved in principle, it has again been deferred for economic reasons.

During the year, we had 530 requests for the removal of bulky objects, ranging from packaged garden refuse to pianos, all of which are collected free of charge.

There were several instances of abandoned vehicles, but in all cases the owner was traced and persuaded to deal with the removal.

The Bristol Angle Dozer was replaced in April by a Bristol Taurus Loader, with a 4 in 1 bucket, which was able to tackle many jobs on the tip which previously necessitated bringing in contractors, and resulted in considerable savings in tip maintenance.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. cont.

Difficulties had been encountered in obtaining top soil for the old sections of the tip which had been under water and where there was virtually no soil to strip off and return. Soil was obtained from contractors on building and sewerage jobs, but on ploughing the ground before handing back to the National Coal Board, it was found that stone and hardcore had been concealed in the loads. This had to be removed, and some sections will have to be re-laid with soil, resulting in further delay in handing the land back.

Again, tip fires, which start when the tip is closed, were quite a problem during the summer months. It is expected that these problems along with those of wind blown paper, and insect and rat infestations, will be eliminated when the refuse pulverising plant comes into operation. The Ministry having satisfied themselves that a joint scheme for pulverisation was not possible at this stage, their Cleansing Inspector conducted a local inquiry on the proposed plant, and loan sanction was granted. Further delays were encountered however, due to the manufacturers submitting a revised plant lay-out, incorporating improvements which had recently been developed. The new offer was accepted in July, and at the end of the year, the contract had been prepared, and was awaiting the receipt of all necessary documents before signature.

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

Statistics and costs for the year 1967/1968 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics.

Total refuse collected	10,455 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed	7%
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day.	21.97 cwts
No. of premises from which refuse is collected.	9,772
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly.	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point	2.3 miles
Trade Refuse - Weight.	1,086 tons.
- Income.	£717

COSTS.

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Gross Expenditure.	£31,605	£8,559	£40,164
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	34/10d	1/7d	36/5d
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	18/-	5/3d	23/3d
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton	59/4d	16/1d	75/5d
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£1,190	£322	£1,512
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£3,176	£861	£4,037

Refuse Disposal Vehicles and Staff.

<u>Vehicle Reg.</u>	<u>Make.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>First Registered.</u>
LJR 136	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	11. 5. 57.
PTY 988	" " "	" " "	1. 10. 59.
WTY 163	" " "	" " "	7. 9. 62.
DNL 685C	" " "	" " "	4. 1. 65.
KNL 155E	" " "	" " "	6. 1. 67.
MJR 890F	" " "	Pakamatic	1. 8. 67.
FJR 607C	Austin	Mini Van	4. 6. 65.
-	Bristol Taurus Loader	(Purchased)	2. 4. 68.

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

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	4	9	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	62	88	3	-
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises)	13	13	-	-
TOTAL =	79	110	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	2	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient					
b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	=	3	3	2	-

PART V111 OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August 1st required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No. of Notices of work in unwholesome premises	Prosecutions served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc.)	2	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	=	14	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Although fifteen premises were registered during the year, there was an increase of only four in the total number of registered premises. This was due to the eleven premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 307 premises registered under the Act, 52 received one or more general inspections during the year.

284 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 inspections during the year.
Offices.	6	66	9
Retail shops . .	8	225	38
Wholesale shops & warehouses . .	-	6	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	7	3
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
TOTAL =	15	307	52

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE.

Class of Workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices.	804
Retail shops	1,225
Wholesale departments, warehouses.	25
Catering establishments open to the public	53
Canteens.	10
Fuel Storage Depots.	19
Total	2,136
Total males	899
Total females	1,237

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 found
4 Cleanliness	20
5 Overcrowding.	1
6 Temperature	12
7 Ventilation	2
8 Lighting.	14
9 Sanitary Conveniences	12
10 Washing Facilities.	5
11 Supply of Drinking Water.	-
12 Clothing Accommodation.	-
13 Sitting Facilities.	-
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15 Eating Facilities	-

Cont.

Section	Number of contraventions found	
16	Floors, passages and stairs.	26
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery .	12
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery.	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery.	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work.	-
24	First Aid - General Provisions . . .	5
50	Posting of Abstract.	17
TOTAL		126

8 accidents were notified during the year. Details of these were submitted to the Ministry of Labour in the quarterly returns.

Details of accidents notified are as follows:-

NATURE OF ACCIDENTS		
1.	Office.	Injured back while moving furniture.
2.	"	Bruised left ankle after slipping and falling on stairs.
3.	"	Trapped hand in safe door causing laceration to three fingers and bad bruising to hand.
4.	"	Slipped on stairs twisting back.
5.	Retail shop.	Hit back on corner of counter.
6.	Office.	Slipped while washing floor injuring right side of leg.
7.	"	Carton of paper rolls fell on foot causing bruising.
8.	Retail shop.	Sprained left ankle after stumbling on stairs.

Once again it was found that help and advice was readily available from Mr. J.M. Beattie, Deputy 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 1968.

Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority.	86
b) By any other Housing Authority.	-
c) By Private Persons.	5

NOTE: 88 houses completed by this Council in Newbiggin Urban District not included in the above total.

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	182
3. Houses closed, not demolished.	-
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above.	-

Repairs.

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

5. By informal action.	61
6. By owners, following statutory notice.	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners.	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction.	-

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation.	-
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Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year.	7
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A. Discretionary Grants.

	<u>No. of separate houses.</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority.	109
2. Applications rejected.	-
3. Applications approved.	109
4. Approximate average grant approved per house.	£228
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	2,413

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year.</u>	<u>Total to Date.</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made.	17	125
2. Number of houses so provided with:-		
(a) Bath or shower.	3	15
(b) Wash hand basin.	4	24
(c) Hot water supply.	4	23
(d) Water closet.	17	118
(e) Food store.	9	58

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Ice Cream.

Seven premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice cream though in only six 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.

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

The analysis of results is as follows:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft Ice Cream.	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream.	-	-	-	-	43	1	-	-

Milk Supply.

Three premises were registered as dairies and 70 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. 48 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and six samples failed to pass the tests.

There is one Producer Retailer in the district, and four samples of milk were taken for the Brucella Abortus Ring Test.

These were all reported to be negative.

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	17	17	10	10
Grocers & General	87	87	87	86
Butchers	22	21	22	22
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	13
Cafes	4	4	4	4
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	23	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	217	216	210	208

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.cont.

108 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 28 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc. and of these 7 premises are registered for both purposes.

836 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 again found to be quite high, the contraventions found being generally of a minor nature.

Food Complaints.

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

<u>Complaints.</u>	<u>Prosecuted.</u>	<u>Plea.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
1. Cardboard in peanut butter.	Yes.	Guilty.	Fined £5.0s.0d. and costs.
2. Larva of flour moth in Almond Fruit Caramel.	Yes.	Not Guilty.	Fined £5.0s.0d. and costs.
3. Wasps in Orange Drink.	Yes.	Warranty.	Case dismissed.
4. Mouldy Cheese Slices.	Yes.	Guilty.	Fined £3.0s.0d. and costs.
5. Insect in Orange Drink.	Yes.	Guilty.	Fined £5.0s.0d. and costs.
6. Mouldy Pasty.	No.		
7. Mouldy Cake.	No.		
8. Pebble in tin of beef and vegetable.	No.		

In the last three 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 221 milk samples and 85 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All samples were found to be genuine with the exception of some Cake Covering, where the ingredients were listed in incorrect order and the designation was deemed to be inappropriate. The manufacturers agreed to amend the label.

Meat and Other Foods.

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

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Licence Expires</u>
Back Wansbeck Terrace.	A.I.C.S.	31st July 1969.
Back Lintonville Terrace.	W.J. Burgess & Sons Limited.	31st July 1969.
Wellhead Terrace.	J. Wheatley.	31st July 1969.
Back 197 Alexandra Road.	T. Davidson.	31st July 1969.

Meat and Other Foods cont.

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though 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 laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulation 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

Number of Animals slaughtered during the year.

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Normal Kill	425	473	-	-	-	2546	760
Casualties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	425	473	-	-	-	2546	760

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

Swine.

Heads. 4

For Other defined diseases.

Bovine.

Lungs. Parasites 1; Pleurisy 12;
Abscesses 9; Contamination 5.
Livers Cirrhosis 16; (Part) 109;
Abscesses 11; Perihepatitis 1;
Parasites. 3.
Skirt. Pleurisy 1; Abscesses 1.
Spleen Contamination 3.
Heart. Pericarditis 1.
Udder. Mastitis 1.

Swine.

Lungs. Pneumonia 90; Pleurisy 18; Parasites 1.
Livers Parasites 12; Perihepatitis 2; Cirrhosis 1.
Heart. Pericarditis 29.
Udder. Mastitis 1.
Kidneys. Nephritis 2.

Sheep.

Lungs. Pleurisy 11; Pneumonia 5; Parasites 8.
Livers Contamination 2; Parasites 17;
Abscesses 1; Cirrhosis 5.
Heart. Abscesses 1; Pericarditis 2.
Kidneys. Nephritis 2.
Skirt. C. Ovis 1.

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

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed & inspected.	898	-	-	2546	760
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned.	45	-	-	46	118
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	5.01	-	-	1.8	15.52
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	4
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.52
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised & totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED.

	Tons.	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at slaughterhouses.	-	11	108
2. Meat at retail shops.	-	-	-
3. Cooked meat and meat products.	-	-	-
4. Canned Meats.	-	2	54
5. Other canned foods.	-	4	28
6. Fish (fresh).	-	-	-
7. Fruit and vegetables (fresh).	-	-	-
8. Other foods.	1	7	-
TOTAL	2	5	78

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

