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Contributors

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I
URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1969





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 1969.

During the year under review, the population fell in Ashington from 26,080 to 25,830. There was a fall in the adjusted birth rate from 17.68 in 1968 to 16.7 in 1969 - slightly higher than the national rate of 16.3. The still birth rate also fell, from 16 per 1,000 live and still births to 7 - lower than the national rate of 13. The number of deaths of infants under the age of 1 year increased by 3 in 1969, giving a rise in the infantile mortality rate to 22 - compared with the national rate of 18. The number of deaths in Ashington increased from 336 in 1968, to 341 in 1969, giving a rise in the adjusted death rate from 14.96 to 15.4 - compared with the national figure of 11.9. There was a marked increase in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms during the year, from 55 in 1968 to 76 in 1969, and almost one-third of these deaths were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus - 23 men and 1 woman died from this disease.

No major epidemic of infectious disease occurred in Ashington during 1969.

Only ten cases of measles were notified during the year and these were scattered throughout eleven months. The following table, showing the number of cases of measles in Ashington in the past ten years illustrates the tendency to the two-yearly cycle of occurrence of the disease:-

<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
3	410	29	353	79	193	22	441	33	10

One would have expected 1969 to have been the biennial epidemic year for measles in the town, but the vaccination campaign carried out in 1968 undoubtedly controlled the number of cases. Unfortunately the measles vaccination campaign, which got off to a good start in 1968, came to a temporary halt in March 1969 with the suspension of vaccine produced by one firm. As a result, only 419 children were vaccinated against measles in the whole of the Central Area of Northumberland during 1969, in comparison with 1096 in the previous year.

It is hoped that when measles vaccine becomes readily available once again, vaccination against this disease will be accepted as a routine procedure to follow immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis in the second year of life.

In the second quarter of 1969, cases of dysentery began to occur in the south-eastern section of the town and cases continued to be notified for two months. There were 21 cases in all, and of these, ten were adults. Two of these adults were found to be food-handlers and they were kept away from work until proved to be free from infection. Staff at their places of employment were investigated, but no further cases or carriers were discovered.

Soon after the first cases of dysentery were notified, letters were sent to parents of all infant school children, informing them of the presence of the disease in Ashington and giving advice with regard to the prevention of its spread. This would appear to have been effective in helping to contain the epidemic.

Early in April a case of infective hepatitis was notified in a boy of four years of age. He was one of a family of gypsies who were living in a caravan, and who had recently moved into the area. No further cases were notified until October, when a girl of six years of age living in Woodhorn Village, became infected.

Undoubtedly this infection had spread from a neighbouring district. Three more cases in children were notified before the end of the year, and it is expected that cases will continue to occur for some time.

Infective hepatitis is caused by an unidentified virus, is world-wide in distribution and only became notifiable in this country in June 1968. It was after this date that an estimate of the number of cases occurring locally in the area could be obtained.

In infective hepatitis the incubation period may be as long as six weeks so that epidemics tend to be long and drawn-out. For every case in which jaundice develops, it is estimated that there may be ten cases in the community which do not develop jaundice, and since generally it is only when jaundice shows itself that the patient's doctor is consulted, it follows that the disease is much more wide-spread than the number of notified cases would indicate.

The virus is present in the faeces for two to three weeks before the occurrence of jaundice, and for about one week after, and the route of spread of infection is generally from infected hands to the mouth. From this brief account of infective hepatitis it will be obvious that isolation of patients helps very little in the spread of infection, for the patients are rarely isolated before they are jaundiced and they will have already been infectious for two to three weeks. Apart from these jaundiced cases, there must be many undiagnosed mild cases without jaundice occurring in the community and these patients will not be isolated. The only effective action to be taken in an effort to stem the spread of an epidemic, is strict attention to personal hygiene, but it must be emphasized that the provision of washing and other facilities may not always reduce the incidence of the disease; it is essential that these facilities be utilized.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified in the period under review. The first was caused by salmonella typhimurium, phage type U20; the remaining two cases were due to salmonella livingstone, and a man and his wife were affected. The actual sources of infection were not ascertained, but in the latter two cases frozen chicken was suspected. Advice was given to this family with regard to the importance of thawing out frozen poultry thoroughly, before the birds are cooked.

There were two cases of whooping cough in 1969, both in three year-old children. Only one of these had been immunised against the disease, in infancy.

The single case of meningococcal meningitis was in a two-year-old child. Throat swabs from family contacts were all negative.

It is most gratifying to be able to report that no new cases of tuberculosis were notified in Ashington during 1969. This is the first time that this has been recorded in this town, since tuberculosis became a notifiable disease in 1912. No deaths occurred from the disease.

During the first three months of 1969, the Warden Scheme Bungalows were occupied at the west end of the town. Many of the old people were at first apprehensive of moving into a house which had gas central heating, and some persuasion had to be used, because they felt that they would miss the comfort of an open coal fire. However, after only a few months they settled down in their new homes and began to appreciate the advantages of living in a warm, even temperature, without the extra work and dirt involved with a coal fire. The daily visits of the warden were also appreciated, although some problems did arise in the early days of the scheme, as on one occasion when the warden was called and was asked to go to the local shop to buy a loaf of bread, which had been forgotten when the baker's van had called earlier in the day.

The old people from the Warden Scheme Bungalows were invited to entertainments at the Day Centre for physically handicapped patients, which was held each Wednesday in the Community Centre. Many of the elderly enjoyed this social event and the fact that they could walk to the hall from their own homes along covered corridors, was of great benefit in inclement weather.

Work in close conjunction with the housing department continued during the year, and almost 200 cases requesting priority on medical grounds were given special consideration before being referred to the housing department. The introduction of the 'points system', with priority grades for medical conditions, made the classification of cases much easier and much more fair.

Finally, I should like once again to express my appreciation for the help which I have been given by Mrs. Hay during the year, for the co-operation of the Public Health Inspectors and other Council Officials, and for the continued interest and support of the members of the Council.

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

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Finally, I should like once again to express my appreciation for the help which I have been given by Mrs. Day during the year, for the co-operation of the Public Health Inspectors and other Council Officials, and for the continued interest and support of the members of the Council.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
L. Dick, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

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Chairman of the Public Health Committee - Councillor J.W.C. Greener

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	S. MUSK M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector	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 (Terminated November 1969) Mrs. A. Middlemiss (Commenced " ")
Telephone	Ashington 2911

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1969 ...	25,830
Rateable Value	£815,725
One Penny Rate Produces	£3,240
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969)	9,312
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority in district	2,838
(Houses completed by this Council in Newbiggin Urban District are not included in this figure)	

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health
HARRISON DICK,
M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
S. HUIE,
M.B., B.S., M.A.P.H.I.

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

Public Health Inspector
I. J. ANDERSON,
156, Woodburn Road, Ashington.

Chief to the Medical Officer
Mrs. M. HAY

Telephone

Office of the P.H. Inspector
Chief to the P.H. Inspector

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Area in Acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1957 25,000
Rural Public Health Inspector
One Public Health Inspector
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) 8,112
Total number of houses owned by local authority in district 7,108
(Notes compiled by this Council in accordance with Section 100 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and not included in this Report)

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	395	207	188
Illegitimate	20	6	14
	<u>415</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>202</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population16.1
 (Comparability Factor 1.04) Adjusted Birth Rate16.7 (16.3)
 Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate1.03
 Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births 5 (8)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .....7			(13)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
341	212	129

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population13.2
 Comparability Factor 1.17 Adjusted Death Rate15.4 (11.9)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, AbortionNIL
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) birthsNIL
 Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate1.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	2	2	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births22 (18)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) 12 (12)
 Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) 10 (10)
 Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) 17 (23)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS cont.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS							75 years & over		
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-	
B46(10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
BE50 All Other External Causes	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	212	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	14	37	85	64
	F	129	2	2	2	-	3	3	-	3	6	18	35	61

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

CAUSES	Total Number		of Total Deaths	
	1968	1969	1968	1969
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	138	130	41.07	38.12
Malignant Neoplasms	55	76	16.3	22.28
Cerebrovascular Disease	44	48	13.1	14.07
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	40	42	11.9	12.3
TOTAL	267	296	82.37	86.77

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 weeks	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-11 months	Total under 1 year
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Congenital Abnormality	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Birth Trauma	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Prematurity	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	1	5	2	1	-	1	9

STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infant Deaths Under 1 yr.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
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
1969	25,830	16.1	13.2	9	22

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
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dysentery	1	6	5	7	2	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	31
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	-	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	1	11	13	12	2	2	8	3	-	-	-	-	52

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY DURING 1969

DISEASE	PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					Others under 16 years	TOTAL
	YEAR OF BIRTH						
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65		
Diphtheria	6	677	52	4	20	14	773
Whooping Cough	6	670	49	2	10	-	737
Tetanus	6	677	52	4	23	54	816
Poliomyelitis	7	666	34	7	20	5	759
Measles	-	25	122	89	169	14	419
<u>RE-INFORCING DOSES</u>							
Diphtheria	-	3	641	67	950	14	1675
Whooping Cough	-	3	613	52	36	-	704
Tetanus	-	4	643	71	963	595	2276
Poliomyelitis	-	3	648	69	953	684	2357
<u>Smallpox</u>	<u>No. of children vaccinated</u>					<u>No. revaccinated</u>	
<u>Age at date of vaccination.</u>							
Under 1 year				11			-
1 year				88			-
2 - 4 years				47			1
5 -15 years				18			24
TOTAL				164			25

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1969.

No new cases were notified and no deaths occurred from tuberculosis in 1969.

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington. NIL

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in England & Wales. 0.022 per 1000 pop.

Death rate from other forms of tuberculosis in Ashington. NIL

Death rate from other forms of tuberculosis in England & Wales. 0.015 per 1000 pop.

Despite this most satisfactory report for the year 1969 with regard to tuberculosis in Ashington, it would be unwise to ignore the fact that this infectious disease is still with us in the community and constant vigilance must be maintained to keep it in check.

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 Ashington0.97 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales0.610 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington2.01 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales1.740 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington2.98 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales2.350 per 1,000 pop.

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 and 1 station officer are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee.

The committee continued its work during the year and special mention must be made of one effort which was organised by its members. On 13th August a Day Centre for physically handicapped, house-bound people was opened in the Community Centre. Twelve patients were brought to the Centre by ambulance at 10.30.a.m. and were taken home at about 4.0.p.m. The cases were referred by general practitioners and by doctors at Ashington Hospital, and the aim of the Day Centre was the rehabilitation of these patients. The improvement in their physical condition and mental outlook by the end of the year was marked. A chiropody session for treatment was held at the Centre every eight weeks.

Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

This organisation continued its valuable work for the community in Ashington during 1969. The number of meals served to house-bound elderly citizens increased from 4,553 in 1968 to 5,044 in 1969, and the number of meals served in luncheon clubs increased from 4,058 to 4,761. Voluntary helpers are still urgently required for this service.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended 31st December, 1969

	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	)	264	140	76	109	15	13	-
Defective food store)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness	792)	80	39	30	35	6	2	-
Overcrowding)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<u>Water Supply</u>								
Insufficient	122)	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	8	8	8	-	-	-	-

<u>Drainage</u>								
Insufficient	110)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	8	8	8	-	-	-	-

<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>								
Insufficient	58)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	12	12	7	-	2	2	-

<u>General</u>								
Food Premises	347	122	122	90	-	-	-	-
Dairies	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	414	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc..	51	6	2	6	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	10	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	38	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Clean Air Acts	29	9	-	8	-	-	-	-
Noise Nuisances	10	3	2	3	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection and disposal.	611	5	4	5	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces	54	8	-	7	-	-	-	-
Offices and Shops	200	95	95	76	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control & Disinfestation	399	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	3,299	643	435	347	144	23	17	-

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 four Statutory Notices during the year. In one case, it was necessary to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Abatement Order before the work was done.

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 178 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 26 were Standard Grants and 152 Discretionary Grants.

Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2,565, while the total number of Standard Grants now given is 151 and the facilities provided by the 26 grants given during 1969 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.. ..	8	8
Defective W.C. basins.. ..	5	4
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes.	9	7
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply.. ..	3	4
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply.. ..	2	3
Defective or missing ashbins.	-	-
Defective roofs.. ..	38	26
Damp walls.. ..	75	73
Defective spouts.. ..	39	32
Defective wallplaster.	32	24
Defective ceilings.	51	48
Defective doors, windows and floors.	61	54
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers.	5	3
Defective chimney flues.	8	8
Defective paving and yard surfaces.	3	1
Defective food store.	-	-
Offensive accumulations.	2	1
Other defects.. ..	18	15

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.

The system was further extended during the year to serve the Lane End Phase 2 development.

54 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination and of these, only three samples showed coliform bacilli. Two of these were from the storage tank at Bothal Village, which was by-passed at the end of January, by a temporary direct connection to the mains. Although the Council pressed for a permanent direct connection, the owners decided to repair the tank. This was reconnected in November, and the repairs appeared to have been effective, as subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Sewerage

A further internal examination by television is to be made of the foul water system running towards the screening chamber, because of evidence of damage due to mining subsidence, and discussions with the National Coal Board were still in progress concerning liability.

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

Seven 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 13 Primary Schools in the district (7 Junior and 6 Infant) 6 Secondary Schools, a Grammar School, Technical College, Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped Children.

The second phase of the Coulson Park Primary School was opened in September 1969.

Since representations were made to the County Education Committee during 1967, on the condition of the school toilets, a steady programme of improvement and renewal of sanitary and washing facilities has been carried out, and continued during 1969.

Cinemas and Public Buildings

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

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council continued their policy of installing smokeless heating appliances in Council houses, and all dwellings completed during the year were equipped with solid fuel room heaters.

Although the prospect of shortage of solid smokeless fuel is bound to have a restraining influence on progress towards domestic smoke control, the community generally are becoming very aware of the advantages of modern heating methods, and the trend towards clean and efficient appliances must continue.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

The most common causes of complaint since the act came into force have been due to such things as fans, compressors etc., in industrial and commercial premises, and 'Pop groups' in clubs and hotels. All complaints so far, have been dealt with informally.

Fouling of Footways by Dogs

Once again, many complaints were received, particularly from open plan estates, of dogs fouling paths and verges.

While it is an offence to allow animals to stray on a highway or for a dog to be allowed to foul the footway of a street or open place, complainants generally are unable to, or unwilling to identify the offending animals.

Allowing dogs to stray at large, is most certainly an anti-social practice, causing nuisance and danger on the roads and unhygienic conditions on paths and childrens' playing areas, and was the subject of a conference of county district councils held in November.

Rodent Control

Comparatively few complaints were received during the year, and all necessary treatments were carried out successfully. A check on the work figures again show a seasonal increase towards the end of the-year when rodents are forced to move into more densely populated areas, because of lack of food in natural habitats.

During the year, surveys of areas likely to harbour rodent infestation were carried out at regular intervals. These surveys resulted in treatment and early elimination of many infestations. No infestations of major proportions developed.

The following table summarises the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	11,151	25
Total number of properties inspected following notification	154	1
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	85 19	1 -
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	471	25
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	25 -	10 -

Disinfestation

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Clover Mite	7	-
Beetles	30	12
Bugs	3	1
Spider Beetles	1	-
Spiders	9	-
Silver Fish	1	1
Snails	-	-
Flies	4	1
Bees	-	1
Ants	-	1
House Mites	-	1
Wasps	1	2
Hornets	1	-
Fleas	-	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.

With the increase in the number of houses being built in open plan estates, many complaints of infestations of clover mite are being received, and estates such as Broomlee, Alexandra Road, West End and Lane End are frequently having to be treated, on occasions two or three times in one year.

These mites, though harmless, are unsightly and upset house occupants. They feed on grass and vegetation, normally lay their eggs in trees, bushes garden walls etc., and when these are cleared, they take to the house walls looking for egg laying sites.

Treatment is expensive, and only temporarily successful, and it would be better to avoid these infestations by not taking grass right up to the house, by maintaining a barrier of at least four feet of concrete or rough turned earth.

No complaints of mosquito bites were received during the year, and though likely breeding grounds were examined, no larva 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 was again carried out with very few complaints being received, in spite of the teams having frequently to work short handed due to sickness and holidays among crew members.

During the year, there were 498 requests for the removal of bulky items, such as furniture, cookers, packaged garden refuse etc., all of which were collected free of charge.

Again, there were several instances of abandoned vehicles, all of which were dealt with by tracing the owner and persuading him to deal with the removal.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (Cont'd.)

In October, the Council decided to appoint consultants to carry out full method study as a basis for bonus payment.

Work began in April on the erection of the Refuse Pulverising Plant, and it was started up in September, but initial teething troubles with the main bearings and dust suppression caused a hold up until the end of October. The plant commenced full operation in early November, but following a visit by directors of the contracting firm, improvements to the building and input conveyor were agreed on.

Most of these early teething troubles were due to the buildings and ancillary equipment, and the pulverised product proved to be very promising.

Since 1961, an area of 24 acres has been covered by tipping and much remains to be done before it is all handed back for farming.

It is expected that these problems will be solved much more quickly and economically in future.

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

Statistics and costs for the year 1968/69 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics

Total refuse collected	10,565 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed	7%
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	22.42 cwts.
No. of premises from which refuse is collected	9,664
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point.	2.4 miles
Trade Refuse - Weight	1,106 tons.
- Income	£697

COSTS

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Gross Expenditure	£28,621	£10,220	£38,841
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	33/10d.	10d.	34/8d.
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	20/-	4/11d.	24/11d.
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton.	53/2d.	19/1d.	72/3d.
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£1,086	£391	£1,477
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£2,904	£1,043	£3,947

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.

LJR.136 is to be replaced in 1970 by a Pakamatic Vehicle.

Staff consists of:-

1 Foreman, 5 Drivers, 2 Plant operators, 1 Spare Driver/Lifter, 20 Binlifters (including one spare lifter). In addition, two men fill in for absent binlifters and work for the Engineer and Surveyor when we have all men present, which is very rarely the case.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 81 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	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A.	65	42	4-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises.)	12	11	-	-
TOTAL:	81	54	4	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961 (Cont'd.)

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. By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	- -	-
Overcrowding	-	-	- -	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	- -	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	- -	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	- -	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
a) Insufficient	-	-	- -	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	- -	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	- -	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	- -	-
TOTAL:	5	4	- -	-

PART VIII 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 instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Artificial Flowers	21	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	21	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

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

Of the 308 premises registered under the Act, 32 received one or more general inspections during the year.

200 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	1	65	11
Retail Shops	7	228	15
Wholesale Shops & warehouses	-	5	-
Catering establishments open to the Public, canteens	-	7	4
Fuel storage depots	1	3	2
TOTAL:	9	308	32

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed.
Offices	864
Retail Shops	1,149
Wholesale departments, warehouses	25
Catering establishments open to the public	63
Canteens	10
Fuel Storage Depots	19
TOTAL:	2,130
Total males	924
Total females	1,206

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 29
5	Overcrowding -
6	Temperature 5
7	Ventilation -
8	Lighting 7
9	Sanitary Conveniences 22
10	Washing Facilities 3
11	Supply of Drinking Water -
12	Clothing Accommodation -
13	Sitting Facilities -
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) -
15	Eating Facilities -
16	Floors, passages and stairs 11
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery 3
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery. -
23	Prohibition of heavy work 3
24	First Aid - General Provisions 12
	Other Matters
TOTAL:	95

7 accidents were notified during the year. Details of these were submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity in the quarterly returns.

Details of accidents notified were as follows:-

Type of Premises	Nature of Accident
1. Retail Shop	Fell while removing a tyre from a rack, fracturing a bone in his foot.
2. Retail Shop	Lacerated finger while boning meat
3. Office	Strained back while lifting cleaning bucket and stretching to close window.
4. Retail Shop	Slipped on staircase hurting right hand.
5. Retail Shop	Lacerated finger while removing kidney from suet.
6. Retail Shop	Fell on step leading to back shop - injuring ankle.
7. Office	Slipped on wet, muddy step bruising spine and right elbow.

An investigation was carried out in the case of Accident No. 1, but no further action was found necessary.

Formal investigation is only required if the accident was of a serious nature, or it appears that there are unusual circumstances, or the possibility of safety regulations having been broken. In fact, we visit the premises of every accident notification, if only to impress the management that notification is not merely a formality, but that the purpose is to find means to prevent accidents.

This policy appears to have born fruit, as accident notifications have decreased, particularly those which were prevalent in the beginning, resulting from assistants larking about and careless actions.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1969

Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	246
b) By any other Housing Authority	-
c) By Private Persons	1

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

Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	7
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	39
6. By owners, following statutory notice	2
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. -

Clearance Programme

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

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A) Discretionary Grants

	<u>No. of Separate Houses</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	152
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	152
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£365
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	2,565
(27 houses improved by local authority under Section 9 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, included in above.)	

B) Standard Grants

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	26	151
2. Number of houses so provided with:-		
(a) Bath or shower	1	16
(b) Wash hand basin	2	26
(c) Hot water supply	3	26
(d) Water closet	25	143
(e) Food store	16	74

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.

27 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	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	19	4	1	-

Milk Supply

Three premises were registered as dairies and 61 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. 52 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and four 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	83	83	83	82
Butchers	22	21	22	22
Greengrocery	11	11	11	11
Bakery	11	11	11	11
Ice Cream Parlours	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish	14	14	14	14
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	23	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	11	11	11	11
TOTAL:	214	213	207	206

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

110 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 27 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc. and of these 6 premises are registered for both purposes.

347 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, contraventions being generally of a minor nature, though it was not possible to maintain the number of inspections carried out in recent years.

Food Complaints

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

<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Prosecuted</u>	<u>Plea</u>	<u>Result</u>
1. Ant abdomen in tea.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5. 0. 0. and costs.
2. Mouldy pasties	Yes	Guilty	Fined £10. 0. 0.
3. Cigarette end in Prawn omelette.			
4. Mouldy loaf			
5. Ground beetle in tinned peas.			
6. Needle in Malt loaf.			
7. Blowfly maggot in bacon.			
8. Mouldy cake.			
9. Mouldy loaf.			

In seven 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 111 milk samples and 89 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All samples were found to be genuine.

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	A.I.C.S.	31st July, 1970.
Back Lintonville Terrace	W.J. Burgess & Sons Limited.	31st July, 1970.
Wellhead Terrace	J. Wheatley.	31st July, 1970.
Back 197 Alexandra Road	T. Davidson.	31st July, 1970.

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	431	391	-	-	-	1,921	811
Casualties	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
TOTAL:	432	391	-	-	-	1,923	812

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

Swine

Heads 7

For Other Defined Diseases

Bovine

Lungs Pleurisy 8; Abscesses 5; Contamination 4.
 Livers Cirrhosis (Whole) 3; (Part) 103; Abscesses 14.
 Hearts Pericarditis 2.
 Skirts Abscesses 2.
 Kidneys Nephritis 2.
 Beef Oedema 31 lbs.

Swine

Lungs Pleurisy 37; Pneumonia 43.
 Livers Perihepatitis 5; Parasites 9.
 Hearts Pericarditis 33.
 Kidneys Cysts 3.
 Tails Abscesses 1.
 Pork Bruising 10 lbs.; Abscesses 5 lbs.

Sheep

Lungs Pneumonia 3; Pleurisy 6; Parasites 3;
 Cirrhosis 3; Abscesses 1.
 Livers Parasites 7; Abscesses 1; C. Ovis 1.
 Hearts Pericarditis 2.
 Mutton Bruising 5 lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed and Inspected	823	-	-	1,923	812
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	23	-	-	21	92
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	2.79	-	-	1.09	11.33
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	7
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.86
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised & totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
1. Meat at slaughterhouses	-	11	12
2. Meat at retail shops	-	1	38
3. Cooked meat and meat products	-	-	-
4. Canned Meats	-	2	48
5. Other Canned foods	-	4	14
6. Fish (fresh)	-	-	-
7. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)	-	-	-
8. Other foods	-	2	57
TOTAL:	1	1	57

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



