

**[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough.**

**Contributors**

Berwick-upon-Tweed (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1943

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Borough of Berwick upon Tweed.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF  
HEALTH.

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1943.

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P. W. MACLAGAN, M.D. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH





Borough of Berwick upon Tweed.

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P. W. MACLAGAN, M.D. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors,  
of the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943.

The births this year numbered 215, giving a birth-rate of 19.3, compared with 177 and a rate of 15.31 for 1942. The rate for England and Wales was 16.5 for 1943.

Infantile mortality is 51 per 1000 births, compared with 51 for the previous year, and 49 for England and Wales.

The deaths numbered 159, giving a death-rate of 14.27, compared with 147 and a rate of 12.76 for 1942. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

The average age at death was 59 years 6 months, as compared with 62 years 9 months for the previous year.

Of the total deaths (159) no less than 82, or 52%, were of persons over 65 years of age.

There has been a decrease in deaths from "Violent Causes," cancer, and bronchitis, and increase in tuberculosis, heart disease, and pneumonia.

87% of the children in the Borough have now been immunised against diphtheria.

Despite the war the general health of the Borough has been good. Infectious disease has been comparatively slight, and while the death-rate is slightly above normal, the birth-rate is higher than in any year during the past 20 years.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. W. MACLAGAN, M.D.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

**Sections A. & F.—STATISTICS & GENERAL CONDITIONS**

**General Statistics.**

Area—7,156 acres

Population—1931 census, 12,299. (1921 census, 12,985.)

R.G. est., mid-year 1943—11,140

No. of Inhabited Houses—3306.

Rateable Value—£69,990 (as at 31st March, 1943).

Sum rep. by 1d. rate—£276 Do.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

**Extracts from Vital Statistics.**

BIRTHS.	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		
Legitimate	95	87	182		
Illegitimate	19	14	33		
(Reg.-Gen.) Totals	114	101	215	Rate	19.3

DEATHS.		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate</i>
(Registrar-General) ...	...	81	82	163	14.63
Deduct 4 deaths (see pp. 5 & 6)		78	81	159	14.27

Number of Women dying in consequence of Child-birth—Nil.

Do. from Sepsis ... Nil.

Do. from other causes ... Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Per 1000</i>
Legitimate ...	7	4	11	} 51
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—
Do. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Do. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Do. Diarrhoea	1	—	—	0.09
Do. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Do Tuberculosis (Pul.)	4	3	7	0.63
Do. do. (Non-Pul.)	2	—	2	0.18

## Comparative Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Maternal Mortality Death-rates, and Case-rates of certain Infectious Disease..

	Rates per 1000 population.		
	No.	Berwick.	Eng. & Wales
Births—			
Live ... ..	215	19.3	16.5
Still ... ..	3	0.27	0.5
Deaths—	*163	14.63	} 12.1
All causes ... ..	†159	14.27	
Typhoid & Para. fever	0	0	0
Smallpox ... ..	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0.02
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0.03
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0.03
Influenza ... ..	4	0.36	0.37

Notifications—*			
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0	0	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0	0	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	0.18	0.08
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	0.36	3.01
Whooping Cough ... ..	33	3.00	2.54
Diphtheria ... ..	8	0.72	0.88
Erysipelas ... ..	3	0.27	0.31
Smallpox ... ..	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	1	0.09	9.88
Pneumonia ... ..	6	0.54	1.34
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	...

\*Including non-civilian cases (see p. 10.)

Rates per 1,000 Live Births—			
Deaths under 1 year ... ..	11	51	49
Deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis under 2 years ... ..	1	4.6	5.3

Maternal Mortality rates (per 1000 total births, i.e., live and still)—			
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0	0	0.34
Others ... ..	0	0	0.11
Total ... ..	0	0	0.45

Notifications—			
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	0	} 11.68
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	0.18	

\* Registrar General's figures.

† Excludes 4 deaths, persons resident Scotland (pp. 5 & 6)

## Population.

The population, estimated by the Registrar-General for the Borough to mid-year, 1943, is 11,140.

## Births.

The births allocated to the Borough by the Registrar-General numbered 215, giving a birth-rate of 19.3. The equivalent figures for the previous year were 177 births, and a rate of 15.31, and the birth-rate for England and Wales was 15.8 .

The birth rate is calculated on a population of 11,140.

There were 33 illegitimate births (19 males and 14 females) in the total of 215.

The distribution of the births was as follows :—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Berwick ...	63	55	118
Tweedmouth ...	27	21	48
Spittal ... ..	15	14	29
Inwards and others	9	11	20
	114	101	215

Compared with the previous year the township of Berwick shews 25 more births, Tweedmouth 2 more and Spittal 9 more.

## Deaths.

The number of deaths belonging to the Borough is 159, giving a death rate of 14.27, as compared with 147 deaths and a rate of 12.76 for the previous year.

The death rate of 1942 is calculated on a population of 11,140 but is not modified by any standardising factor to correct the death rate on account of the age and sex constitution of our population.

From the total deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar General, viz., 163, there falls to be deducted 4 deaths belonging to Scotland.

The distribution of the deaths was as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Berwick	46	47	92
Tweedmouth	19	19	38
Spittal	12	11	23
Inland Transfers	2	4	6
Total for Boro'	78	81	159
Scottish	3	1	4
Others	...	...	...
Reg.-Gen. Fig.	81	82	163

The under-noted deaths, which are included in the Registrar-General's classification of the causes of death (see p. 8) should be deducted from the deaths assignable to the Borough :—

Reg. No.	M	F	Age	Cause of death	Assignment
140	1	...	72	Myocardial degeneration	Berwickshire
141	...	1	65	Paroxysmal tachycardia	„
171	1	...	77	Peritonitis	„
480	1	...	70	Cerebral hæmorrhage	„

### Ages at Death.

The tables of ages at death is shewn with the percentage of total deaths at the various age periods, compared with the previous 4 years.

Ages.	No. of deaths.			Percentage of Total deaths				
	M	F	Tot.	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Under 1	7	4	11	6.90	6.12	5.66	3.33	7.26
1-5	2	1	3	1.90	0.68	1.89	1.67	2.23
5-15	2	...	2	1.26	0.68	2.83	2.22	2.80
15-25	0	4	4	2.50	2.72	0.94	2.78	1.68
25-45	6	4	10	6.29	5.44	8.96	7.78	3.91
45-60	12	15	27	16.98	17.01	16.98	12.22	11.17
60-65	10	10	20	12.59	4.76	5.66	12.22	5.59
65-70	8	7	15	9.43	11.56	9.91	11.11	11.73
70-80	20	17	37	23.27	32.66	29.72	27.78	13.52
80-90	10	17	27	16.98	16.33	16.51	18.33	17.88
90 up.	1	2	3	1.90	2.04	0.94	0.56	2.23
	78	81	159	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The following table, showing the percentage of total deaths at certain age periods for 1943 and compared with the average percentage for the 10 years 1929-1938 is interesting. It is desirable to have a low percentage in groups I, II, III, and IV, and a high percentage in group V.

Age period.	Av. % for 10 years 1929-38.	% for 1943.	Notes re percentage for 1943.
I. Babies under 1	6.56	6.91	Normal.
II. Infants 1-5	2.85	1.89	Below normal.
III. School, 5-15	2.02	1.26	Normal.
IV Working, 15-65	36.16	38.37	Below normal.
V. Retired, 65 up.	52.39	51.57	Above normal.

The high percentage of deaths of persons above 65 years is a regular feature in Berwick, and this year is 51.6%. The following figures shew noteworthy increase in the past 16 years over the previous 10 years.

**PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS ABOVE 65 YEARS**  
for five years periods during 26 years. 1918-1943 :—

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	Avg. %
41	40	43	51	47	44.5
1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	
43	41	42	45	47	43.6
1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	
53	42	49	54	57	51.0
1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	
53	48	50	56	59	53.2
1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	
48	65	58	57	62	58.0
1943					
52					

### Causes of Death.

The following table shews the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3	7
7 Other forms of Tuberculous	2	...	2
8 Syphilitic diseases	2	...	2
9 Influenza	...	4	4
10 Measles	...	...	...
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
12 Acute infectious encephalitis	...	...	...
13 Cancer of bucal cavity (M) uterus (F)	1	1	2
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
15 Cancer of breast	...	1	1
16 Cancer of all other sites	1	3	4
17 Diabetes	2	3	5
18 Inter-cranial vascular lesions	5	8	13
19 Heart Disease	23	19	42
20 Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1	3
21 Bronchitis	3	4	7
22 Pneumonia	4	5	9
23 Other respiratory diseases	1	...	1
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
25 Diarrhœa, under 2 years	1	...	1
26 Appendicitis	2	...	2
27 Other digestive diseases	1	...	1
28 Nephritis	2	2	4
29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...
30 Other maternal causes	...	...	...
31 Premature birth	2	...	2
32 Congenital malformation, birth injury, etc....	1	4	5
33 Suicide	2	...	2
34 Road traffic accidents	1	2	3
35 Other violent causes	3	2	5
36 All other causes	12	17	29
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>163</b>

### Infantile Mortality.

11 deaths of infants under 1 year belonging to the Borough were recorded, giving a rate of 51 per 1000 live births, as compared 9 deaths and a rate of 51 in the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales for 1943 is 49.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR

Reg. No.	Age	M	F	Cause
462	4 mths.	1	...	Blood poisoning.
478	1 „	1	...	Broncho pneumonia.
485	4 „	1	...	Convulsions.
16	1 day	1	...	Prematurity.
32	2 mths.	...	1	Intestinal Obstruction.
37	2 „	1	...	Gastro Enteritis.
90	7 „	...	1	Congenital heart disease.
158	4 days	1	...	Hæmorrhagic disease of new born
173	7 „	1	...	Prematurity.
Inwards—				
Newcastle	2 days	...	1	Intra-cranial hæmorrhage.
„	1 „	...	1	Prematurity.

### Infectious Diseases.

119 cases of infectious diseases (33 of which were whooping cough) were notified as occurring amongst the civilian population, and 56 cases amongst the military. 80 patients, including the 56 military cases, were treated at Berwick I.D. Hospital. Details are as stated on next page.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.* — 252 children were immunised during the year, all of these being under 5 years of age. This brings the percentage of children under 15 years of age immunised to 87%

	Under 5	5-15	Total
Estimated population as at 31st Dec., 1943	851	1625	2476
No. of children immunised during 1943	252	...	252
Total No. of children immunised as at 31/12/43	611	1544	2155
Percentage of Children immunised	72%	95%	87%

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Other than tuberculosis).

	Notified—		Removed to hospital		
	Local	Military	Local	Military	Died
Enteric or Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	5	4	5	...
Diphtheria	8	4	8	4	...
Erysipelas	3	2	...	2	...
Measles	1	3	...	3	...
Whooping Cough	33	...	4	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	..	...	...
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5	1	5	1	2
Rubella	...	13	...	13	...
Mumps	...	7	...	7	...
Tonsilitis	...	20	...	20	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	2	...	...
Influenza	...	1	...	1	...
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	New cases				Total deaths			
	Pul.		Non-pul.		Pul.		Non-pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 years	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5-15	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-25	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
25-35	...	5	...	...	1	...	...	...
35-45	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
45-55	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
55-65	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>...</b>

## NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pul.			Non-Pul.			Ttls,
	M	F	Tot.	M	F	Tot.	
On register, 1st Jan., 1943	54	46	100	37	36	73	173
Not. during yr. for first time	6	7	13	1	1	2	15
Removed from reg. during yr.	4	4	8	2	...	2	10
Cases on reg. 31/12/43	56	49	105	36	37	73	178

## Section B—General Provision of Health Services.

*Ambulance Facilities.*—As mentioned in previous reports, motor ambulance facilities are available for removal of infectious diseases to hospital, and of accident and surgical cases to infirmaries. The latter service—that of removal of cases to the local infirmary, and to the Edinburgh and Newcastle Infirmaries—is largely taken advantage of both by people resident in the Borough and the surrounding area.

During the year the Council's ambulance service answered 244 calls, travelling 6,439 miles. 75 cases of infectious diseases were removed to and from the Berwick Infectious Diseases Hospital. From Berwick and neighbouring districts 169 private patients were removed to Berwick Infirmary, to Berwick Institution, to Edinburgh Infirmary, to Newcastle Infirmary, and to Hexham Hospital.

### *Hospitals and Nursing.*

**HOSPITALS.**—No change has taken place in the arrangements made for the treatment of tuberculosis.

*Maternity Nursing.*—The three "Queens" Nurses of the Berwick Ladies District Nursing Association continue to render valuable service to the community. The nurses attended at 186 births or 87.0% of the total births of the Borough, including children born of evacuee mothers and still births occurring during the year. Besides the maternity work, the nurses also attended 170 medical and 65 surgical cases. The number of visits to patients (other than military) were 7,385, articles of clothing given to patients, 44, and the issues of nursing appliances was 36. The work of the "Queen's Nurses," which has been going on quietly and efficiently for many years, is a very valuable contribution to the health services of the Borough, and work which cannot be too highly praised.

	1937	'38	'39	'40	'41	'42	'43
Total births ...	183	167	174	197	201	161	215
No. of births attended	158	151	157	194	179	177	186
% attendances to births	86%	90%	90%	96%	89%	91%	87%

*Scabies Order, 1941.*—A number of cases of scabies occurring amongst school children were reported by the school authorities during the year. 34 children, involving 14 separate families, were reported. The houses were duly inspected, cleansing and disinfection of bed and body clothing carried out, and all persons affected with scabies, including, in several cases, parents, were offered treatment at the cleansing station under the superintendence of the Health Visitor.

Section C.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

*Tabular Statement of Visits, Inspections, etc.,  
by Sanitary Inspector.*

Visits and Inspections to			
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	84
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	24
Slaughter Houses	...	...	380
Bakehouses	...	...	34
Workshops and Factories	...	...	36
Offensive Trades	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...
Ships	...	...	...
Infectious Disease	...	...	114
House-to-house	...	...	160
Yards, Courts, etc.	...	...	276
Shop and Business Premises	...	...	202
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	10
Notices issued—Informal	...	...	52
Do. —Statutory	...	...	...
Notices complied with—Informal	...	...	50
Do. —Statutory	...	...	...

**Statement of Nuisances, Defects, and Contraventions  
discovered and dealt with by Sanitary Inspector.**

*Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.*

Byres cleansed or limewashed	...	...	8
Cows hindquarters and udders found dirty (Herds)...	...	...	4
Manure in proximity to byre or milkshop	...	...	...
Manure pits emptied	...	...	2
Other Contraventions of Regulations	...	...	6

*Stables and Piggeries.*

Piggeries too near dwellings	...	...	...
Manure heaps removed	...	...	2
Stables limewashed	...	...	2
Stables drained	...	...	...

*Slaughter Houses.*

Gullies choked, cleared	...	...	...	2
Offal Carts defective	...	...	...	1
Limewashing required	...	...	...	...
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	...	...

*Workshops and Factories.*

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	6
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation insufficient, unsuitable, or defective	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances or offences	...	...	...	4

*Offensive Trades.*

Delay in removing offal	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	2

*Common Lodging Houses.*

Limewashing required.	...	...	...	...
Bedding and bed clothes cleaned or renewed	...	...	...	...

*Ships.*

Dirty bedding of sailors	...	...	...	...
Dirty forecastles (painting and cleansing)	...	...	...	...
Dirty Lockers	...	...	...	...
Dirty Water-closets	...	...	...	...
Lack of proper ventilation	...	...	...	...

*Infectious Disease.*

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	71
Schools and Public Halls disinfected	...	...	...	9

*House to House—Nuisances discovered.*

Ashes and refuse accumulation	...	...	...	14
Dirty Water Closets	...	...	...	16
Choked gullies, drains, and water closets	...	...	...	18
Dirty houses	...	...	...	8
Dirty yards swept	...	...	...	24

*Shops and Provision Stores.*

Food stores limewashed	...	...	...	2
Food improperly exposed to dust, etc.	...	...	...	2
Rubbish accumulations removed	...	...	...	10
Premises protected against rats	...	...	...	6

*Fish Friers Premises.*

Fat vessels covered from dust	...	...	...
Dirty Floors	...	...	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	4

*Drainage, etc.*

Drains relaid	...	...	5
New drainage system provided	...	...	1
Gully traps obsolete, replaced	...	...	4
Drainage system trapped	...	...	2
Water closets, additional, provided	...	...	2
Water closets erected in lieu of privies...	...	...	1
Privy pails and middens removed	...	...	1
Privy pails renewed	...	...	2
Wash houses provided	...	...	...
Do. repaired	...	...	...
Water supply introduced into yards	...	...	...
Do. do. houses	...	...	3
Repairs to w.c. apartments and fittings...	...	...	16
Privy pans and middens (properties) at end of 1940	...	...	15

**Sanitary Improvements effected under supervision of Sanitary Inspector.**

*Houses.*

Houses closed...	...	...	1
Dampness in Walls	...	...	2
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	10
Wood floors repaired	...	...	4
Plaster work of walls repaired	...	...	3
Windows hung on cords	...	...	...
Window cords renewed	...	...	6
Provided with pantries	...	...	...
Spouting renewed or repaired	...	...	14
Other housing defects remedied	...	...	22
Miscellaneous nuisances removed	...	...	68

*Shops and Offices.*—The following improvements were effected :—

1 Additional w.c. accommodation	...	...
2 Separate w.c. accommodation for sexes	...	...
3 Heating apparatus provided	...	...
4 Improved ventilation	...	...
5 Washing facilities	...	...
6 Facilities for taking meals	...	...

**Section D.—HOUSING.**

The number of occupied houses in the Borough at the end of 1943 was 3306.

**ERECTION OF NEW DWELLINGS.**

By private enterprise :—Nil.

By Local Authority :—Nil.

*(a) Houses erected 1921-43.*

		<i>By private enterprise</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>	<i>Total</i>
1921	...	1	22	23
22	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	24	24
24	...	4	32	36
25	...	20	72	92
26	...	12	26	38
27	...	1	97	98
28	...	25	51	76
29	...	4	...	4
30	...	7	16	23
31	...	2	...	2
32	...	...	60	60
33	...	20	8	28
34	...	32	...	32
35	...	42	24	66
36	...	58	76	134
37	...	33	100	133
38	...	37	178	215
39	...	25	30	55
40	...	4	...	4
41	...	...	...	...
42	...	...	...	...
43	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	327	816	1143

**Section E —INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**Meat and other Foods.**

**CARCASES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED.**

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs	Total
Number killed } (if known) }	885	137	162	7,818	130	9,132
Number inspected	885	137	162	7,818	130	9,132

*All diseases except tuberculosis—*

Whole carcasses condemned	10	9	2	71	2	94
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	185	29	...	197	6	417
Percentage of the number in spected affected with dis- ease other than tuber.	22.03%	27.73%	1.23%	3.43%	6.1%	

*Tuberculosis only—*

Whole carcasses condemned	10	14	...	...	...	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	...	...	...	8
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tub.	1.69%	12.4%	...	...	...	...

**MEAT CONDEMNED (HOME KILLED).**

	Whole Carcases including Organs.	Part Carcases.	Organs other than Ox Livers.	Ox Livers.		Tot. wt. (lbs).
				Wholly.	Partly.	
Bullocks	20	10 (1322 lbs.)	50	64	74	1015
Cows	23	7 (482 lbs.)	17			
Calves	2	1 (6 lbs.)	—			
Sheep	71	42 (747 lbs.)	155			
Pigs	2	6 (65 lbs.)	—			
	118	66 (2622lbs.)	222	64	74	1015

### OTHER FOODS.

Meats, various ...	719 lbs.	Peas and Beans ...	141 lbs
Bacon and Ham ...	85 „	Fruit, various ...	403 „
Sausages... ..	23 „	Sugar, bulk ...	448 „
Soup (tinned) ...	34 „	Chocolate, packages	242 „
Tomatoes (tinned)...	16 „	Milk, 426 tins ...	386 „
Syrup, Jam, and Jelly	46 „	Butter ... ..	42 „
Tea (packages) ...	4½ „	Cheese ... ..	14 „
Flour (bulk) ...	252 „	Fish, various ...	72 „
Rice „ ...	191 „	Fish, bulk ...	126 „
Coffee „ ...	23 „	Vegetables ...	65 „
Barley (Pot), bulk	14 „	Onions, bulk ...	80 „
Ginger Cake ...	80 „	Eggs ... ..	48 dozen

The butchers' shops, fish shops, fruiterers, and grocers were also visited, and the instructions of the Inspector as to the care of foodstuffs and prevention of contamination promptly attended to.

### Milk Supply.

The number of cows in the dairy herds towards the end of last year was 120.

The cowkeepers continue to pay attention to the general cleanliness of the byres and milk utensils. 38 visits were made to the cowsheds, and the usual minor contraventions found (see p. 12) were promptly attended to. 46 visits were paid to milkshops and other dairy premises.

109 samples of milk were examined for keeping quality. 63 of these were found to be of excellent keeping quality, 29 were fairly good, and 17 were "unsatisfactory." Several of the samples of the "unsatisfactory" class were from milk obtained from sources outside the Borough. In these cases the Sanitary Inspector of the district concerned was communicated with, and considerable improvement was subsequently obtained. Long distance travel and railway delay were blamed for a good deal of the unsatisfactory state of the milk on its arrival here. On two occasions churns of milk examined at the station by the Sanitary Inspector were so obviously sour that they were returned immediately to the wholesaler.

Unsterilised churns were found to be a cause of souring of milk and on warning being given to a local retailer, improvement immediately followed.

36 samples of milk were sent for biological examination by the County Bacteriologist for the presence of B. Tuberculosis. All the samples were reported as negative.

## The Infestation Order, 1943.—Rat and Mice Survey.

The following report by the Sanitary Inspector, dated 4th Oct., 1943, indicates the extent of infestations of rats and mice at that time :—

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the results of the survey undertaken in accordance with the Direction of the Minister of Food, dated 30th June, 1943, made under the above Order.

Application was made to the local branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for names of men suitable for carrying out the survey. Three men were selected, and a fourth man was also engaged who had special knowledge of outlying areas (not agricultural land and premises) on a part time basis.

The survey was completed in four weeks, and the whole of the Borough (other than agricultural land and premises) covered.

The "occupied area" of the Borough stretches from Spittal on the South to the New Housing Scheme on the North, is somewhat elongated in shape with agricultural fields around its perimeter, and has the River Tweed and Docks and Quayside in the centre. It will therefore be appreciated that most of the Borough is liable to invasion by rats and mice from the adjoining fields during the winter season, beginning in October, when harvesting of grain and root crops and the colder weather compels these vermin to seek warmer quarters and accessible food supplies.

As the survey was made in September, the number of places where vermin were complained of or found to be present, was not so large as if the survey had been made, say, in November. The Survey Inspectors were therefore instructed not only to find out where rats and mice were present at the time of their visit, but also where those vermin had recently infested premises, so that when action for their destruction is undertaken, such premises which are likely to become infested during the winter would not be overlooked.

The Survey Inspectors' reports were reviewed by me each morning, and where special reasons made it desirable, I visited several premises and places to investigate the extent of the infestation.

Some 510 premises and places were listed where rats and mice were found, or had recently been infesting, 65 where rats were actually present and 76 where they had been recently, whilst mice were

present in 149 premises, and recently in 220 premises.

Mice, in my opinion, are causing more damage to foodstuffs in the "occupied area" of this Borough, both in shops and dwellings, than rats. Apart from dwellings, they are reported chiefly in grocers' premises, and in premises adjoining these food shops and stores.

Rats are fewer in number than at any time during the past 30 years. This is to be expected when it is remembered that (1) there is a quicker turn-over of grain and cattle feeding stuffs, and less of these kept in stock in the granaries and stores, (2) extermination of rats at these stores and various tips and other places carried out during recent years, and (3) protective measures by owners of such premises to prevent the ingress of rats.

There are no "major" infestations of rats in the "occupied area" as defined in the notes accompanying the Ministry of Food circular of 30th June, 1943.

There are, however, several places where heavy infestations of rats, i.e., 50-100, exist, and which may increase during the winter months unless extermination is carried out soon—

These places are situate as follows—

1. Salvage dump, harbour area along Quayside towards the boat-houses at Berwick.
2. Sewers in the vicinity of the above and in Bridge Street, and probably in the Palace Street area in Berwick.
3. Slaughterhouse tip at Bell's Loaning near the Jingling Bridge, North Road, Berwick.
4. Sea Shore near Bathing Ponds and further north.
5. Along the railway line north of Berwick Station.

With regard to Nos. 1 & 2, the attention of the Borough Surveyor and the Harbour Master has been directed to this infestation, and it has been suggested to them that simultaneous action should be taken by employing a rat exterminator to do the salvage dump, the harbour premises, and the sewers at the same time.

No. 3.—This tip has been cleared on numerous occasions, but after an elapse of time rats from the adjoining fields and the shore re-occupy the tip and multiply. Some more permanent solution is required, and I have in mind, if the powers of the Rat and Mice Destruction Act of 1919 are extended to this local authority, to enforce the construction of a simple erection to receive the slaughterhouse refuse for conversion into suitable manure, and at the same time exclude access of rats.

It is to be hoped that, whatever measures the Ministry of Food propose to deal with the rats and mice, the surrounding agricultural

lands will not be excluded. It will only be by systematic and concentrated action towards extermination of these vermin that permanent good can be done. Rats and mice are movable quantities, and very soon occupy places where foodstuffs and shelter are available to them.

I refrain from making suggestions regarding this area until the Miaistry make known their policy and proposals.

D. BOYD, *Sanitary Inspector.*

Assistance and advice was given to householders and owners of premises affected, on methods of ridding their premises of these vermin, and on measures required to protect their premises from further infestation.

### Factories and Workshops.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Prose. cutions</i>
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	24	6	...
Workshops ( do. Workshop do. )	22	4	..
Workplaces ... ..	6	3	...
	52	13	...

### Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and other places

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	6	6
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	4	4
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient ...	1
	unsuitable or defective	1
	not separate for sexes	1
Other Offences ... ..	...	...
	13	13



