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BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1927.

Thomas Robson, Printer, 5 and 7, Percy Street, Blyth





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54	Local Psychology
55	Local Philosophy
56	Local Religion
57	Local Morals
58	Local Politics
59	Local Economics
60	Local Social Science
61	Local Education
62	Local History
63	Local Geography
64	Local Statistics
65	Local Topography
66	Local Botany
67	Local Zoology
68	Local Geology
69	Local Astronomy
70	Local Mathematics
71	Local Logic
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74	Local Philosophy
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94	Local Religion
95	Local Morals
96	Local Politics
97	Local Economics
98	Local Social Science
99	Local Education
100	Local History



Borough of Blyth.

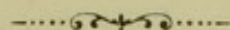
MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman - - COUNCILLOR W. W. MATHER

Vice-Chairman - - COUNCILLOR W. HARDY

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN A. WALTON.

ALDERMAN CARR	COUNCILLOR DONNACHIE
ALDERMAN GOULDING	COUNCILLOR GOWENS
ALDERMAN HEATLEY	COUNCILLOR HANDLEY
ALDERMAN NEALE	COUNCILLOR MITCHELL
COUNCILLOR CROZIER	COUNCILLOR MURDY
COUNCILLOR DAVITT	COUNCILLOR TWADDLE



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman - - MRS. COLPITTS

Vice-Chairman - - MRS. MAXEY

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN A. WALTON.

ALDERMAN CARR	COUNCILLOR HARDY
ALDERMAN GOULDING	COUNCILLOR MATHER
ALDERMAN HEATLEY	COUNCILLOR MITCHELL
ALDERMAN NEALE	COUNCILLOR MURDY
COUNCILLOR CROZIER	COUNCILLOR TWADDLE
COUNCILLOR DONNACHIE	MRS. DOWNIE
COUNCILLOR DAVITT	Mrs. GOWENS
COUNCILLOR GOWENS	MRS. MITCHELL
COUNCILLOR HANDLEY	MISS THOMPSON
<i>Office of Health Dept.</i> -	WELLINGTON HOUSE, BLYTH.

Adopted Acts in operation in the Borough.

1. Baths and Washhouses Acts (1846-1899.)
2. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890,
3. The Public Health Amendment Act 1890. Parts II, III, IV, and V.
4. The Public Street Works Act, 1892.
5. The Public Libraries Acts, 1892-1901.
6. The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts II and III. Section 52 to 60 inclusive, 62 to 66 inclusive and 68 comprised in Parts IV, V, VI, and X.
7. The Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II to V.

Bye-Laws in force in the Borough.

1. The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, 1900.
2. For the prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, Ashes and Rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of Animals on premises so as to be injurious to Health, 1909.
3. Common Lodging Houses, 1909.
4. Slaughter Houses, 1909.
5. Public Bathing, 1909.
6. The Pleasure Ground, 1909.
7. Houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, 1909.
8. The Regulation of Offensive Trades, 1909.
9. New Streets and Buildings, 1924
10. Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation allowed by the L.G.B. on the 11th March, 1913.
11. Street Trading, 1922.
12. School Attendance, 1922.
13. Pleasure Grounds, 1923.
14. Omnibuses, 1923.
15. Good Rule and Government, 1923.
16. Whirligigs, Swings and Shooting Ranges, 1924.
17. Seashore, 1925.
18. Pleasure Ground (Blyth Links), 1926.

Adopted Acts in operation in the Borough

1. Health and Welfare Act 1947
2. The Town and Country Planning Act 1947
3. The Public Health Act 1936 - Part II, III, IV and VI
4. The Public Health Act 1936 - Part I
5. The Public Health Act 1936 - Part II
6. The Public Health Act 1936 - Part III and IV
7. The Public Health Act 1936 - Part V

By-Laws in force in the Borough

1. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
2. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
3. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
4. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
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16. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
17. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947
18. The By-Laws of the Borough of 1947

BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

WELLINGTON HOUSE,

BLYTH.

January, 1928.

*To Councillor W. W. Mather (Chairman), and Members
of the Health Committee of the Borough of Blyth.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1927.

Owing to the unfortunate break-down in health of Dr. MacLachlan in the middle of August, I have been carrying on his duties as regards the Public Health work of the Borough and Port for the last $4\frac{1}{2}$ months of the year. I have accordingly confined my report mainly to the statistical and other information required under Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926. For much information and help, especially as regards the first $7\frac{1}{2}$ months of the year, I am indebted to the Health Department staff, particularly Mrs. Scaife and the Senior Sanitary Inspector. For much of the detail with regard to the Sanitary circumstances of the area, Housing inspection and Supervision of food, I have, you will see, referred you to the very able report of the latter. As regards special schemes dealing with Housing, Privy Conversions, Sewerage, &c., which have been suggested and been before you, I refrain from comments, as they are subjects which must be dealt in the future by a new Medical Officer.

The outbreak of Smallpox towards the end of the year, I dealt with in a Special Report to you. The question of hospital accommodation both for Smallpox cases and other infectious diseases, I have put before you at your meetings, and feel sure the action you have decided to take is the wise one both as regards better accommodation for cases of infectious disease, and as regards economy. The provision of accommodation for Smallpox cases would however, in view of present experience, as well as

that at Ashington and neighbouring districts, be quite unnecessary under a system of universal vaccination. Our endeavours, by means of house to house visitation, to educate the public on this question have not had the hoped for result.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, 124·4 per 1000 births is higher than for some years. Whether this is due to economic conditions or to other causes I cannot say. The provision of an Ante-natal clinic has been suggested and will be dealt with by the new Medical Officer.

Infectious Disease apart from Chicken-pox and Pneumonia has been very little. The marked increase in Pneumonia may have been due to the extraordinary wet and cold year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to thank you all for the courtesy, consideration, and encouragement extended to me in my temporary tenure of office, and likewise to the staffs of all the departments of the Borough services for their very valuable help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. I. GORDON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

General Statistics.

Area Acres	...	...	4509
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	31,833
Population (estimated 1927)	...	...	34,280
Number of Inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	6,846
Number of Families as separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	7,346
Rateable Value	...	...	£146,924
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£531

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>		Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	331	357	688
Illegitimate	...	10	9	19
Total	...	<u>341</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>707</u>

BIRTH RATE ... 20·62.

<u>DEATHS.</u>		Male.	Female.	Total.
		241	200	441

DEATH RATE :— 12·86.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth —

From Sepsis	...	1
From other causes	..	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

		Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	45	39	84
Illegitimate	...	1	3	4
Total	...	<u>46</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>88</u>

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births registered :—124·4.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		10
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	1

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough was 372, but with inward and outward transfers, the number of deaths as certified by the Registrar General is 441.

Of that number 241 were males, and 200 were females.

The Death Rate for 1927 is 12·86.

Comparison of Death Rate with England and Wales, County Boroughs and Small Towns.

England and Wales	...	12·3 per 1000 Population.
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London...	12·2	"
155 Smaller Towns (20-50,000)	11·3	"
Blyth	...	12·86

Deaths of Residents in Institutions not registered in Blyth.

Institution or Districts.	Total Deaths.
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	5
Tynemouth Union Hospital	41
H. M. Prison	1
Newcastle	4
County Mental Hospital, Newminster	4
Woolley Sanatorium	2
Fleming Memorial Hospital	8
Chelmsford and Essex Hospital	1
Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Newcastle	1
City Hospital for Infectious Disease, Newcastle...	1
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	1
Injuries	5
Total	74

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered in the area is 698, but with inward and outward transfers, the Registrar General's figure is 707.

Of these 341 (10 illegitimate) were males, and 366 (9 illegitimate) were females.

This gives a Birth rate of 20·62 per 1000 population.

Comparison of Birth Rates with England and Wales, County Boroughs and Small Towns.			
England and Wales	...	16·7	per 1000 population.
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	...	17·1	do.
155 Smaller Towns (20-50,000)	...	16·4	do.
Blyth	...	20·62	do.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

88 Deaths of Infants under one year were registered during the year 1927.

Of that number 46 were from Premature Birth, Malformation and Congenital Debility.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 124·4 per 1000 births registered.

Comparison with previous Infantile Mortality Rates in the Borough.			
Year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths from Prem Births, &c	Infantile Mortality Rate.
1924	72	33	80·7
1925	80	28	101·7
1926	76	30	96·6
1927	88	46	124·4

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1927.

Causes of Deaths.	Under 1 month						Under 1 year						Ward Distribution.					
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year	Bedside.	Newsham	New Deval.	Croft.	Waterloo	Plessey.	Ridley.	Total.
Premature Birth	18	3	2	...	23	...	...	...	...	23	...	2	...	7	2	11	1	33
Spina Bifida	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Debility	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	...	6	1	1	...	2	3	...	...	6
Marasmus	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Inanition	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	3
Acute Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	2
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	1	...	1	1	4	2	...	9	...	2	...	...	1	1	2	3
Gastro Enteritis	...	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	4	1	...	11
Congenital Heart Disease	2	1	1	...	...	1	4	2	...	11	1	...	...	5	...	...	1	11
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	3
Acute Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	3	1	10	1	...	...	3	5	1	...	10
Bronchitis	1	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	6	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	6
Bronchial Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Tubercular do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intussusception	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Peritonsillar Abscess	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pyloric Stenosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	30	8	10	2	50	6	12	16	4	89	6	11	1	28	18	.19	6	89

Deaths registered during the Calendar
Year 1927 in

BLYTH BOROUGH.

(CIVILIANS ONLY).

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	..	241	200
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2	Small Pox	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	1	2
4	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	...
5	Whooping Cough	...	..	...	1
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza	...	...	19	10
8	Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	..	..	1
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	15	23
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	2	4
12	Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	18	17
13	Rheumatic Fever	..	..	1	1
14	Diabetes	...	..	1	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	12	11
16	Heart disease	...	..	25	24
17	Arterio-sclerosis	..	...	9	2
18	Bronchitis	...	...	14	12
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	26	13
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	2	4
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	2	1
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	4	6
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..	...
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	3	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	1	7
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	1
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...
28	Congenital Debility and malformation premature birth	...	...	23	23
29	Suicide	...	..	4	..
30	Other Deaths from violence	...	...	17	3
31	Other defined diseases	..	...	42	31
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1
Spec'l Causes (included above) Poliomyelitis				...	...
Polioencephalitis				...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year				46	42
Illegitimate				1	3
Total Births				341	366
Legitimate				331	357
Illegitimate				10	9
Population				34,280	

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1927.

(Provisional figures. The rates have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1927. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns. As the registration of stillbirths did not come into operation until 1st July, no still-births are included.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1000 Population.										RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No inquest	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	16.7	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.09	0.07	0.57	0.51	6.3	69	91.7	6.6	0.7*	1.0	
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.1	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.10	0.08	0.49	0.46	8.3	71	91.9	6.6	0.9*	0.6	
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	16.4	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.58	0.41	5.0	68	92.7	5.8	0.3*	1.2	
London	16.1	11.9	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.09	0.39	0.51	7.5	59	90.3	7.9	1.8*	0.0	

* The Coroners Amendment Act, 1928, which came into operation on the 1st May, 1927, provided for the registration of deaths on a certificate of the Coroner after P.M. without inquest. These percentages relate to 8 months of the year only.)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority
or by the County Council.

- (1) **FEVER.**—One Hospital is provided by the Blyth Council, the other is provided by the River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority. The two Hospitals are situated in isolated situations on the river banks, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the centre of the town. There are twenty-four beds available for Infectious Diseases. The two Authorities have an interchangeability with each other.
- (2) **SMALL-POX.**—There is no Hospital for the treatment of this disease in the Borough. All cases occurring in the Blyth Area are sent to the Bedlingtonshire U. D. Council's Small Pox Hospital at Stakeford.
- (3) **TUBERCULOSIS.**—All patients suffering from this disease and living in the Blyth Area are sent to Institutions in the County or further afield should there be no accommodation in the former.
- (4) **MATERNITY.**—All serious Maternity Cases are sent to the Princess Mary's Maternity Home in Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- (5) **CHILDREN.**—The various Children's Hospitals in Newcastle-upon-Tyne accept patients, for treatment, from the Borough of Blyth.
- (6) **OTHER.**—The one Hospital in Blyth is the Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, with 26 beds for the treatment of Medical and Surgical Cases.

**Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers,
Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the Area.**

There are no Institutions in the Borough for the treatment of the above mentioned, but they are admitted when necessary to the North Shields Union Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For Infectious Diseases.

The Corporation have the use of a horse drawn Ambulance belonging to the River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority for the removal to Hospital of all Infectious cases.

(b) For Non-Infectious Disease and Accidents.

The Corporation have a Motor Ambulance for the use of the inhabitants of the Borough of Blyth, a small charge according to the distance travelled being made for its use. The Ambulance is stationed at the Corporation Yard, Seaforth Street.

The various Coal Companies within the area of the Borough provide Ambulances for the use of their own workmen.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

CLINICS.	ADDRESS.	PROVIDED BY	ACCOMMODATION	WORK DONE.
(1) Maternity and Child Welfare	Wellington House Tues. and Thurs. 2-4 p.m.	Blyth Corporation	Waiting, Dressing and Consulting Room.	Infant and Mothers' Com- mittee Food Vouchers Distributed
(2) School Clinics	Do. daily 2-4 p.m.	Do.	Do.	Minor ailments Consultation and Special Clinics.
Dental Clinic	Tues. and Fri. 9-30 a.m.—12.	Do	Do.	Treatment of Defective Teeth, &c.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Friday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.	Do.	Do.	Treatment of Defective Vision, &c.
(3) Tuberculosis Dispensary	Trotter Street, Blyth Tues. 9 a.m. to 12 noon.	Northumberland County Council	Do.	General Consultations.
(4) Venereal Disease	Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle			Consultations and Treatment.
(5) Day Nurseries	Nil.			

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Including all who were employed in work connected with the Public Health, whether under the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, or Education Committees :

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer Port Medical Officer	}	J M MacLACHLAN, M.B., C.M.
Deputy, &c.	...	W. I. GORDON, M A, M.B, B Ch,
Ophthalmic Surgeon (part time)	A, T. PATERSON, M D., F.R.C.S.E. D.P.H.	
School Dentist (part time)	...	A, MAUGHAN, L.D.S.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	...	R, G. REDPATH, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector	...	I, O, WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A. A.R San. I.
Health Visitors	{	Miss R. FINLAY, S.R.N Miss O. DIXON, S R N
School Visitors	{	Miss S. CARROLL S.R.N Miss L. GRAHAM S.R.N.
Isolation Hospital	...	Miss J, WHITE, Matron.
Office of Health Department	...	Wellington House, Blyth

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES.

(a) General.

The Blyth, Bebside, and New Delaval Nursing Associations, all independent of the Corporation and Northumberland County Council, but under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland Nursing Association have each a staff of Nurses for general district work. As the fees received from patients are quite inadequate to meet the working expenses they have to depend principally for their financial support on voluntary and workmen's contributions. Unfortunately the past year has been one of the worst in the industrial depression of the town, with the result that the income for the year has fallen far short of previous years.

Record of Work performed by the Nurses of the various Associations.

	Blyth	Bebside.	New Delaval	Total
No. of Nurses.	5	1	1	7
No. of Maternity Cases attended	423	49	89	561
„ Surgical „	145	66	165	376
„ Medical „	81	26	53	160
„ Visits made ...	11332	2758	3055	17145
„ Ante-Natal Visits ...	505	136	80	721

(b) For Infectious Diseases.

No provision is made by the Corporation for the home nursing of Infectious disease, although the Health Visitors in their routine work of house visiting give advice on the home nursing of Infantile Diarrhoea, Pneumonia in infants, Whooping Cough and Measles or any other ailment and their advice is always greatly appreciated by the parents.

Midwives.

No Midwives are employed by the Corporation. One qualified Midwife is practising in the Borough.

The Midwives Act is administered by the Northumberland County Council, the supervising Authority under this Act.

Registration of Maternity Homes.

The Council are not the Local Supervising Authority.

Chemical Work.

Arrangements are in force with the College of Medicine, Durham University, for any analytical work that may be required.

Copy.

University of Durham.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
The Department of Bacteriology,
at Armstrong College,
Newcastle-on-Tyne

10th March, 1927.

Report on the Bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 8th March, 1927, from the Medical Officer of Health, Blyth and labelled "No. 1 Filtered Water from Hepscott supply."

Lab. Ref. 39. Blyth Reference as above.

B. coli "Flaginac" (Houston.)

Negative in quantities of 100, 10, 1, and 0.1 c.c.

Total organisms on Agar at 37° C. (48 hrs. incubation).

Average = 5 per c.c.

Total organisms on Gelatin at 20° C. (48 hrs. incubation)

Average = 5 per c.c.

Streptococci test = Negative in 10.0 c.c.

(Signed) S. H. WARREN.

The Medical Officer of Health,
Health Department,
Blyth.

Copy.

University of Durham.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

The Department of Bacteriology,

at Armstrong College,

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

10th March, 1927.

Report on the bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 8th March, 1927 from the Medical Officer of Health, Blyth, and labelled "No. 2 Unfiltered water from Hepscott supply."

Lab. Ref. No. 40. Blyth reference as above.

B. coli. "Flaginac" type. (Houston).

100·0 c.c. Positive.

10·0 c.c. Positive.

1·0 c.c. Positive.

0·1 c.c. Negative.

or equivalent to at least 1· per c.c.

Total organisms on Agar at 37° C. (48 hrs. incubation).

Average = 148 per c.c.

Total organisms on Gelatin at 20° C. (48 hrs. incubation).

Average = 640 per c.c.

Streptococci test = Positive in 10·0 c.c.

(Signed) S. H. WARREN.

The Medical Officer of Health,

Health Department,

Blyth.

Copy.

Sample of Water analysed at the request of the Corporation

Public Analyst's Laboratory,

10, Dean Street,

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

11th March, 1927.

We hereby certify that we have analysed the under-mentioned samples of water, and that we find the following results :—

Samples marked :—" Filtered from Hepscott supply taken from Bebside Filter Beds," and " Unfiltered from Hepscott, taken from pump at point of discharge of reservoir." Received 8th March, 1927.

The two samples are very similar to one another, though the evidence of filtration is shown, not only in the lower amount of sediment from the filtered water, which deposits practically none, but also in the lesser amount of oxygen absorbed from permanganate.

The water is perfectly normal, and shows no indication of pollution, or of admixture with any other water, whether polluted or not.

This sample is in our opinion in all respects suitable for drinking and general domestic use, bearing in mind of course that it is now as always a rather hard water.

J. & H. S. PATTINSON.

Dr. MacLachlan,
Medical Officer of Health,
Blyth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The sources of supply, quality and the quantity, supplied to the Borough is ample and sufficient for all the needs of the population and the industrial requirements. The greater bulk of the water used in the Borough is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Co., while the balance is from your own supplies at Hepscott and Healey Wood.

The New Delaval Area of the Borough was supplied by the Seaton Delaval Coal Co., but in June of last year it was found after bacteriological and chemical analysis to be quite unfit for domestic use.

The consumption of Water from the various sources.

SOURCE OF SUPPLY.		GALLONS.
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	...	211,695,000
Hepscott (Local Supply)	...	70,800,000
Healey Wood „	...	2,905,000
Total		285,400,000

Rivers and Streams.

With the exception of Meggie's Burn all the streams and river are in a good sanitary condition.

Meggie's Burn still continues to be polluted by the emptying into it in its upper reaches, the sewage from the Seaton Delaval Area.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The system of Drainage in the Borough may be considered as satisfactory, although in the lower part of the town, flooding occasionally happens. When this occurs it is generally due to an abnormal high tide accompanied by a strong easterly wind.

Closest Accommodation.

During the year 38 conversions from the old privy Ashpit convenience to the Water carriage system were made.

That the need is pressing for a conversion scheme throughout the town, I can verify after personal inspection of a number of these insanitary privy middens. Their entire abolishment could have nothing but a good effect upon the general health of the occupiers.

Scavenging.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

For details of the work in this respect, see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Smoke Abatement.

A few prosecutions for chimney firing during the year have been taken, but no action in that respect has been taken against any of the industrial concerns in the Borough.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

(1) Common Lodging Houses.

48 visits made during the year, adequate cleansing, etc. secured.

One case of Small Pox was reported from a common Lodging House.

(2) Offensive Trades.

2 Tripe Preparers, 1 Gut Scraper, 6 Marine Stores. All these premises were regularly inspected and nuisances dealt with as found.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report,

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply of all the Elementary Schools in the Borough are satisfactory.

There was no necessity to close any of the Schools at any time during the year for infectious disease and every possible precaution was taken to prevent the spread of infection by the school children.

2—HOUSING.

The following statistics, as required by the Ministry of Health, indicate the work done in connection with Housing during 1927.

Number of New Houses erected during the year 1927—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	27
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts		
(i) By the Local Authority	...	Nil.
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	26

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	168
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		68
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		25
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	102

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	42
---	----

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By Owners	...	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil.

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close | ... | Nil. |
|---|-----|------|

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | |
|--|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 23 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;— | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | Nil. |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders... | 22 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 22 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | Nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil. |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... | Nil. |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.

No Licences in operation in the Borough at the end of the year.

Diseases of Animals (Tuberculosis) Order, 1925.

Efforts continue to be made to co-operate with the County Council in eliminating Tubercular Dairy Cows, 3 Cows were dealt with at different places by the County Authority on information supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health by the Senior Sanitary Inspector as to suspected Tuberculosis. The post mortem findings showed that each of these cows had Tuberculosis.

(b) **Meat, etc.**

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 14 licensed Slaughter Houses ; 9 owned by the Corporation and 5 privately. The latter are in very closely populated areas and these should be abolished and all the Slaughter Houses housed under one roof.

(c) **Adulteration, etc.**

No action was taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, the Milk and Cream Regulations and the Condensed and Dried Milk Regulations (the Council not being an Authority for enforcing these Acts and Regulations). These are administered by the Northumberland County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The Diseases compulsorily notified during the year, with the addition of Puerperal Pyrexia to the list are similar to those of 1926.

Owing to the continued prevalence of Small Pox in various parts of the County and Country, your Council deemed it advisable to continue Chicken Pox as a notifiable disease.

Your action in so doing has been justified as several cases notified as Chickenpox were found to be in reality Smallpox.

Smallpox broke out in the Borough in November having been introduced by a case in a Sussex Street Lodging House which had come from Jarrow.

Special arrangements are being made for the treatment of smallpox cases in your own hospital which will necessitate alterations in the Port Sanitary Hospital. This I have advised and is to be carried out and will provide for a long time adequate accommodation for the treatment of all Infectious Disease.

Every possible precaution is taken by your Sanitary staff to prevent the spread of Infectious diseases. Patients are removed to the Hospital whenever possible, but in many cases, there still exists in the minds of parents a diffidence in allowing their children to be taken into Hospital.

Table I. shews the number of cases notified and admitted to Hospital in 1927.

Table II. shews comparison of cases notified in 1927, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923.

Table III. shews age incidence of cases notified in 1927.

Table IV. shews ages at death registered in 1927.

Table V. shews Ward distribution of cases notified in 1927.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1927.**

TABLE I.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ...	5	5	—
Scarlet Fever ...	31	18	—
Diphtheria ...	12	8	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	—	—
Pneumonia ...	194	—	—
Other disease generally notifiable :—			
Erysipelas ...	17	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	13	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—
Other Disease notifiable locally—			
Chicken Pox ...	424	—	—

**TABLE SHEWING THE COMPARISON OF THE
CASES NOTIFIED (1927-1923).**

TABLE II.

Disease.	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
Chicken Pox ...	424	360	198	296	14
Scarlet Fever ...	31	94	61	164	161
Pneumonia ...	194	100	128	180	136
Erysipelas ...	17	22	11	17	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	13	15	12	18	17
Diphtheria ...	12	6	11	26	25
Small Pox ...	5	4	20	2	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	4	1	9	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	2	2	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	3	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	2	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	3	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	1	2	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	709	610	450	722	385

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1927.

TABLE III.

AGES	Un. 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 up	Total.
DISEASES.													
Smallpox ...	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever ...	1	..	3	4	3	12	7	1	..	..	..	..	31
Diphtheria ...	..	..	..	1	..	2	6	..	3	..	..	..	12
Puerperal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Puerpr'l. Pyrexia ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	2	..	..	11
Pneumonia ...	26	23	12	11	6	37	8	12	26	15	11	7	194
Erysipelas ...	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	1	8	2	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chicken Pox ...	34	30	38	32	38	226	24	1	1	..	..	..	424
Total ...	74	54	54	49	47	279	46	16	42	20	19	9	709

AGES AT DEATH FROM NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1927.

TABLE IV.

	Un. 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 up.	To al.
Pneumonia ...	7	3	4	2	..	..	..	2	8	3	4	6	39
Erysipelas ...	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	7	4	4	2	..	..	..	2	8	3	4	6	40

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1927

TABLE V.

Ward.	Chicken Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Small Pox.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Op- thalmia.	Acute Poli- omyelitis.	Total.
Bebside	33	8	9	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	52
Newsham	104	—	34	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	144
New Delaval	77	1	17	2	4	—	—	1	4	—	106
Croft	34	8	46	6	1	—	—	6	1	—	102
Waterloo	74	7	36	4	2	1	1	1	1	—	127
Plessey	62	3	28	1	1	—	—	3	3	1	102
Ridley	40	4	24	2	2	3	—	—	1	—	76
Total	424	31	194	17	12	5	1	11	13	1	709

Attack Rates of Infectious Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
No. of Cases Notified ..	31	94	61	164	161
Attack Rate per 1,000 pop. ..	90	2·7	1·7	4·8	4·8
No. of Deaths ..	—	—	—	—	1
Death Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	—	—	—	—	·03

Of the total number of cases notified (31)—11 occurred in children under 5 years of age. The remaining 20 were of school age.

No use has been made of the tests known as the Dick and Schick in Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP.

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
No. of Cases Notified ...	12	6	11	26	25
Attack Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	·35	·17	·3	·7	—
No. of Deaths ...	—	—	1	1	2
Death Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	—	—	·02	02	—

Of the total cases notified (twelve) 8 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and made a good recovery.

Antitoxin Serum is supplied to all Medical Practitioners in the Borough on request.

42 Bulbs of 2,000 units each or 84,000 in all were supplied to Practitioners during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

As will be seen from the age incidence table of the Infectious diseases, Pneumonia is no respecter of age, as the disease has attacked persons of all ages from infancy to 65 years and upwards.

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
No. of Cases Notified ...	194	100	128	180	136
Attack Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	5·6	2·9	3·7	5·3	4·1
No. of Deaths ...	39	36	43	56	40
Death Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	1·1	1·04	1·2	1·6	1·2

ERYSIPELAS.

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
No. of Cases Notified ...	17	22	11	17	4
Attack Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	·40	·49	·3	5	·1
No. of Deaths ...	1	—	1	—	—
Death Rate per 1,000 pop. ...	·02	—	·02	—	—

17 cases notified—one child between 1 and 2 years of age died.

ENTERIC FEVER.—

No cases of Enteric for 1927.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

There were no cases of this disease notified, but the Registrar gives one death from Encephalitis Lethargica as belonging to this area. The death occurring in Preston Union Hospital, North Shields.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

1 case of this disease was reported during 1927, was removed to Preston Union Hospital, North Shields, and died there.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

11 cases were reported during the year. No requests for facilities for treatment for this disease were asked for during the year. All cases were visited by the Health Visitors and have made recovery.

SMALL POX.

Five cases of Small Pox were notified during the year, giving an attack rate per 1000 of '14.

All the patients were removed to the Bedlingtonshire U. D. Council's Hospital at Stakeford. As many of the contacts as consented, were vaccinated, the others were kept under close supervision by your Sanitary Staff.

No deaths occurred from this disease.

CHICKEN POX.

In view of the continued prevalence of Small Pox in various parts of the County and the similarity of that disease to Chicken Pox, your Council deemed it still necessary to continue Chicken Pox as a notifiable disease. 424 cases were notified throughout the year. The disease was very mild in character and there were no fatalities.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

Measles were not at all prevalent in the Borough during the year, there only being a few cases here and there in the different Wards.

3 deaths are registered.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease has not been very prevalent this year.

1 death is registered.

DIARRHŒA, Etc.

10 children under two years of age died from this complaint.

INFLUENZA.

This disease has existed in the Borough more or less all the year, occasionally of a severe type. It is responsible for 29 deaths.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the following diseases :—
Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Croup,
Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Comparison Tables—Number of Deaths and Death Rates (1927-1925).

Diseases.	No. of Deaths			Death Rate per 1000 pop		
	1927	1926	1925	1927	1926	1925
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	.40	.69	.67
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—			
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—			
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1			
Diarrhoea ...	10	17	13			
Measles ...	3	—	5			
Whooping Cough ...	1	6	4			
	14	24	23			

For the year 1927 this is equal to a Zymotic Death Rate of .40 per 1,000 population as against .69 in 1926.

LIST OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.

FACTORY POINT HOSPITAL.

No. of Patients Admitted.	Discharged.	Under Treatment 31st December.
Scarlet Fever 16	Scarlet Fever 16	Nil.

Factory Point Hospital.

Date of Admission	Name.	Age.	Disease.	Issue.	Date of Discharge
1917					
Febr. 16	Nancy Lee	6	Scarlet Fever	Cured	Mar. 30
Mar. 7	Cyril O'Brian	5½	do.	do.	Apr. 23
16	Irene Backhouse	3	do.	do.	May 21
Apr. 19	Henry Sweeney	7	do.	do.	June 3
21	Winnie Sweeney	5	do.	do.	3
June 14	Sylvia O'Brian	7	do.	do.	July 16
July 7	Jenny Johnson	14	do.	do.	Aug. 2
Aug. 15	Mary Patterson	4	do.	do.	Sept. 19
26	Robert F. Nicholson	13	do.	do.	Oct. 5
Sept. 7	James Laird	3	do.	do.	17
8	Nancy Malston	13	do.	do.	16
16	Rene Dodds	8	do.	do.	24
Oct. 7	James Hepple	14	do.	do.	Nov. 18
7	Mary Hepple	12	do.	do.	18
27	Robert Armstrong	9	do.	do.	Dec. 3
Nov. 8	Dorothy S. Milne	13	do.	do.	18

J. WHITE, Matron.

Port Sanitary Isolation Hospital.

The following were admitted and treated during the year ended December 31st, 1927.

Date of Admission.	Name	Age	By whom sent.	Disease.	Result.	Date of Discharge,
1927.						1927
March 9	Sarah McGarry	27	Corporation of Blyth	Diphtheria	Cured	April 1
April 11	Samuel Cole	3	"	"	"	May 13
May 18	William Clark	9	"	"	"	June 22
May 30	William Barker	9	"	"	"	July 12
June 7	Thomas Wilkinson	11	"	"	"	" 4
June 13	Florence Patience	13	"	"	"	" 6
August 26	Margaret Rump	21	"	Obs' Diphtheria	"	September 2
October 3	John Bates	6	"	Scarlet Fever	"	Nov. 18
" 10	Renee Lyons	5	"	"	"	" 18
" 18	William Lynn	8	"	Diphtheria	"	October 29

No patients under treatment December 31st, 1927.

HELEN KIMM, Matron.

LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements for the examination of Bacteriological and Pathological specimens are made with the County Health Department at South Granville House, Jesmond.

The following table shows the nature and number of specimens submitted for examination during the year with their results.

Specimens Sent in by	Diphtheria.			Tubercle			Enteric Fever.			Total.		Grand Total of Specimens. Examined.
	Pos	Neg	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l	Pos	Neg	
Dr. Moore	...	..	...	18	61	79	...	...	...	18	61	79
Medical Practitioners	2	12	14	4	26	30	2	2	4	8	40	48
Medical Officer of Health	...	2	2	...	..	...	..	1	1	...	3	3
Totals	2	14	16	22	87	109	2	3	5	26	104	130

BACTERIOLOGICAL RETURNS.

There has been no case of Anthrax or Rabies in the Borough during the year.

A Sack Disinfector for the disinfection of clothing, etc. is installed at Factory Point Hospital, while infected premises are disinfected with Formalin and Sulphur.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.
CASES TREATED.

Notified.	Age.	At Home.	In Hospital.	Vision Un- Impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
1 case	2 days	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	—
1 "	2 "	"		"			
1 "	2 "	"		"			
1 "	2 "	"		"			
1 "	2 "	"		"			
1 "	4 "	"		"			
1 "	4 "	"		"			
1 "	4 "	"		"			
1 "	5 "	"		"			
1 "	6 "	"		"			
1 "	9 "	"		"			
1 "	13 "	"		"			
1 "	14 "	"		"			
13 "							

All cases were visited by the Health Visitor and made a good recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS.

89 cases were notified of which number 63 were of the respiratory system.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is 38, and 6 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis making the total 44.

5 deaths registered as having died from Tuberculosis were not notified previously as suffering from that disease.

Age and Ward Incidence of Notifications and Deaths.

	New Cases						Grand Total.	Deaths						Grand Total.
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmon'ry				Pulmonary			Non-Pulmon'ry			
	M	F	Tot'l	M	F	Tot'l		M	F	Tot'l	M	F	Tot'l	
Under 1 y'r.	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	1	1	2
1-5 years	1		1	5	3	8	9	...		...	1	2	3	3
5-10 "	5	3	8	4	3	7	15	1	1	2	...	...	...	2
10-15 "	2	4	6	1	2	3	9	...	2	2	...	1	1	3
15-20 "	5	5	10	1	1	2	12	3	4	7	...	...	...	7
20-25 "	1	4	5	...	2	2	7	2	6	8	1	...	1	9
25-35 "	7	4	11	1	1	2	13	3	6	9	...	...	...	9
35-45 "	8	4	12	1	...	1	13	3	2	5	...	...	...	5
45-55 "	2	3	5	...	...	...	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
55-65 "	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	3	...	...	...	3
65 upw'ds	2		2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	35	28	63	14	12	26	89	15	23	38	2	4	6	44

Ward Incidence

Bebside	3	3	6	3	3	6	12	...	2	2	1	...	1	3
Noweham	...	...	...	1	5	6	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
New Del'v'l	...	1	1	2	...	2	3	...	2	2	...	...	...	2
Croft	13	9	22	3	1	4	26	6	8	14	1	2	3	17
Waterloo	10	8	18	1	...	1	19	4	3	7	...	1	1	8
Plessey	6	5	11	3	2	5	16	2	4	6	...	...	...	6
Ridley	3	2	5	1	1	2	7	3	4	7	...	...	...	7
Totals	35	28	63	14	12	26	89	15	23	38	2	4	6	44

Sanatoria.

The table below gives the numbers of patients admitted and discharged from Sanatoria during the year.

Sanatoria.	Admitted.			Discharged		
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Stannington ...	5	4	9	6	5	11
Woolley ...	25	...	25	21	...	21
North Shields Union	5	...	5	1	1	2
Wyton, Huntingdon	2	1	3	5	1	6
Total ...	37	5	42	33	7	40

Table showing the various Tubercular Rates for 5 years.

	Pulmonary.					Non-Pulmonary.				
	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
No. of Cases notified	63	77	58	64	77	26	40	27	37	20
Attack Rate per 1000 pop.	1.8	2.2	1.6	1.9	2.3	.72	1.1	.7	1.1	1.1
No. of Deaths ...	38	29	27	36	27	6	7	6	14	9
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	1.1	.85	.7	1.09	.8	.17	.2	.1	.4	.5

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925

No action was taken under the regulations during the year.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

No action was necessary under this Act.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1927, we beg to state that during the year the number of Births notified as having occurred in your area was 662, viz. :—

Legitimate Males 304, Females 337.	Total 641
Illegitimate Males 12, Females 9.	„ 21
	662

Number of Still Births was	-	23
Births notified by Doctors	-	652
„ Midwives	-	10
Number of Births not notified (but visited)	-	50
Number of Infants visited (First Visit)	-	738
Re-Visits to Infants under 1 year	-	2905
Visits to Children (1—5 years)	-	2021
Total number of Visits	-	5664

Table of Statistics of Visits paid to Children during the year.

District.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.
Blyth	2666	1409
Bebside	241	139
Cowpen	187	89
Newsham	232	116
South Newsham	53	37
New Delaval	204	173
Isabella Colliery	60	58
Total	3643	2021

In 604 cases the infants were found to be Breast Fed

In 38 cases part Breast and part Artificial food.

In 36 cases wholly artificially fed.

These figures on the feeding of infants are as stated at the first visit, unfortunately, when re-visiting we find many of the babies are being Part or wholly Artificially fed.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

13 cases of this disease were notified and 30 visits were made to them. All cases were slight and made a good recovery with no impairment of Vision.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

12 cases of Pyrexia have been notified during the year 1927. One case proved fatal, the others made a good recovery.

WELFARE CENTRE.

The Centre is held at Wellington House, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2—4 p.m., with the Medical Officer of Health or Deputy Medical Officer in attendance.

The Centre has been open 102 times during the year, and 435 Mothers with their Babies attended, making a total attendance of 3,648, giving an average attendance of 35.78 per Session as against 40.32 per Session in 1926.

The number of Babies under 1 year inspected by the Medical Officer of Health were 604. Children 1 to 5 years, 68.

In February, a Visit was paid to the Welfare Centre by Miss Turnbull, Inspector for the Ministry of Health, who reported satisfactorily as to the progress being made at the Centre.

The total value of foods supplied during the year was £261 10s. 10½d. as against £582 6s. 9½d. in 1926.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

R. M. FINLAY,	} Health } Visitors.
O. DIXON,	

Particulars of Work carried out during 1927 under the Notification of Births Act.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total.
Births notified	61	64	68	61	63	50	46	45	44	52	58	50	662
Notified by Doctors	60	63	65	60	60	49	46	45	44	52	58	50	652
" Midwives	1	1	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
" Parents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of Still Births	1	1	6	5	1	3	2	—	1	1	2	—	23
No. of First Visits	94	55	88	61	80	49	58	59	50	53	60	31	738
Re-visits, Infants	233	174	304	273	287	122	239	246	307	258	282	180	2905
Children	211	114	192	188	208	69	118	213	184	184	200	140	2021
No. of Breast-fed Infants	53	54	57	58	62	40	39	52	46	47	50	46	604
No. Partially Breast-fed	6	5	2	4	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	5	38
No. Artificially fed	9	9	4	—	1	4	1	2	—	1	4	1	36

Borough of Blyth.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1927.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1927.

To Councillor Mather (*Chairman*), and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my third Annual Report showing the work done by Inspector Williams and myself during the year 1927, together with other Public Health matters relevant to the administrative responsibilities as to which it is my duty to keep you informed.

The Report is again divided under the three main headings of—

- (1) Sanitary Circumstances of the District, including Water Supply, Drainage, Privy Conversions, Scavenging, and Factories and Workshops, and district inspections generally.
- (2) Housing.
- (3) Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(a) Water Supply.

An improvement in the water supply to 259 colliery houses at New Delaval has been effected during the year. A private surface water supply provided by the Colliery Co., the use of which the Council prohibited last year on account of contamination at the storage tanks, has been discontinued and the Council's water supply from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. substituted.

A supply to each individual house has not however, been provided, the system of standpipe taps each supplying a number of houses having been retained.

Apart from one row (South Row) at New Delaval, and all the Isabella Colliery no alteration has been carried out of late in the way of improving upon this insufficient and very inconvenient system of water supply which serves the majority of miners' houses in the district.

Improvement in this respect, can, of course, best be effected concurrently with a privy conversion scheme and, like the latter, awaits decisive action by the Council.

Hepscott Supply.

Samples were taken—one for bacteriological and one for chemical analysis from the Council's secondary source of supply at Hepscott disused colliery workings in view of possible contamination from an adjoining working colliery. Favourable reports were, however, received.

In my opinion more frequent tests, at varying periods of the year should be made of this water to arrive at definitely satisfactory conclusions.

A dense growth of water weed which has become permanent in the receiving reservoir, also calls for special attention to prevent accumulation of decaying matter.

(b) Rivers and Streams.

Pollution of Meggie's Burn :—An attempt has been made by the Seaton Delaval U.D.C. to mitigate the pollution of this burn, occasioned by the discharge into it of sewage from their district, by the provision of a screening and septic tank. The extent to which this will, if at all, abate the nuisance, especially in warm weather has yet to be ascertained.

(c) Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewers. The following extensions of sewers to take new houses have been carried out by the Borough Engineer.

Plessey Road, 400 yds 9 in. sewer.

14th Avenue, 40 yds., 9 in. sewer.

Apart from replacements, at Laverock Hall Road (93 yards 9 in.), and Links sewer (24 yards,) no appreciable alterations to the sewerage system have been carried out during the year.

Surface Drainage.

No change has yet been effected in the inadequate conditions of surface drainage due to unpaved roads, courts and spaces at numerous rows of colliery houses in the district, as previously reported upon. The old system of drainage of slop water by long open channels is also prevalent at these rows.

Improvement in this respect is again very much dependant upon decisive action as to privy conversions.

(d) Closet Accommodation.

There are still over 3,600 privy-middens in the Borough. 38 conversions into water closets have been carried out during the year (mainly after informal notice or letter.)

In the case of 22 privies in a particularly dilapidated and insanitary condition the step was taken of enforcing conversions by service of statutory notices and authority given for the work to be carried out by the Council in default of the owners under Section 36, Public Health Act 1875.

Specifications for these have been prepared and tenders invited.

With regard to the small number of conversions shown, it has to be taken into account that trade depression throughout the year has again adversely affected the securing of conversions by private owners at their own cost, while also an increasing number of house owners disregard informal notices and the usual means of moral suasion in view of the matter of a conversion scheme by the Council at half cost to themselves hanging fire in this district and yet being operative in other local districts where, in many cases, the same owners possess house property.

Unfortunately, trade depression also adversely affects the taking up of any large loan by the Council, thus further burthening the Rates, and so the matter tends to stagnate, although, as I pointed out in my Report for 1926, it should be regarded as an urgent improvement of first importance to the town and should be undertaken even if only on a small scale as a commencement.

As a suggestion for this latter I beg to submit a proposal as follows :—

**Proposals re Privy Conversions under Section 39.
Public Health Act, 1907 (at half cost to owners)
out of Revenue.**

The Committee should consider the matter of definitely commencing this work during the coming financial year on a small scale to begin with, say 200 conversions during the year, and to include in the Estimates an amount for the work to be done out of revenue.

This method may appeal to the Committee as better than taking up at the present time an extensive loan for a large number, or a loan for so small a number which would need many yearly repetitions, and, when considered as under, in conjunction with the economies effected in scavenging, which show decreasing costs during the last three years, then the allocation of an amount for privy conversions would less appear a burden than an application of economies effected on one side of refuse disposal to the improvement of this, its other side.

Ashpit Scavenging Costs.

Year ending March, 1926	£9,827
„ March, 1927	£9,265
„ March, 1928	£8,620 plus £671 (Purchase of 2 Ton Motor.)

Taking the average expenditure during these three years as £9,450 it might be worth considering whether that amount should not be stabilised for estimating purposes as the amount requisite for :—

Ashpit Scavenging and Privy Conversions.

Thus ; amount as indicated£9,450

Less estimated amount 1928 for
Scavenging only £8,500

Leaving..... .. £ 950 for 190 conversions.
at an average cost of £10 per closet (£5 of which is recoverable.)
Any surplus saved from Scavenging could then be applied to Con-
versions to raise the number to 200 if possible. Otherwise a
definite rate should be made for privy conversions at 2d. or even 1½d
in the £.

As to methods of procedure, two methods might be worked in conjunction.

- (1) Doing the work where various owners apply to have it done with suitable guarantees as to repayment within a specified time.
- (2) Doing one or two specified streets in which this work is badly needed. These might include to commence with, such as Clive Street, where also the question of either the sweeping away of congested houses situated in an insanitary area or their gradual reconditioning has to be faced ; and conversions, with the clearing away of large ashpits, would be a first instalment of the latter ; and also where the back street needs re-surfacing, which work could then be most economically done along with re-instatement of trenches made for drain laying in the course of conversion work.

Matters of procedure could subsequently be worked out in detail in collaboration with the Borough Engineer once the principle is conceded and the amount to be allotted decided upon.

An alternative, and of course a better, "gradual" method would be to take up a loan sufficient to convert 500 for the first year (approximately £2,500) the loan charges for which would not be an undue burthen on the Rates, especially in view of the improvement in the health and cleanliness of the town to be thereby effected.

(e) Scavenging of Ashpits, etc.

The scavenging of ashpits, etc. is carried out by the Council employing direct labour, and is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector assisted by a night foreman.

Privy ashpits are cleared at night time at an average interval of 10 days except those in the outlying district of Bebside which are cleared fortnightly.

Pail closets, dust bins and trade refuse, are cleared once and twice per week during day-time.

Staff and Vehicles used.

Regular Staff Employed.		No. of Vehicles used	
Night Staff.		Motor Vehicles	... 4
Night Motor Drivers	... 3	(2-ton Covered Motor Dust	
Night Carters	... 7	Cart	1)
Night Labourers	... 17	(1-ton Ford Motor Lorries	
Night Foreman	... 1	(Open)	3)
	28		
Day Staff.		Horse Vehicles	... 11
Day Motor Driver	... 1	(Special Closed Cart	1)
Day Carters	... 4	(Ordinary Open Carts,	
Day Labourers	... 7	Tarpaulin Sheet Covers, 7)	
	12	(Metal "Tumbler" Carts	
		for wet refuse (closed)	3)
Total Men 40		Total Vehicles ...	15
		No. of Horses	11

The scavenging of the district has been carried out regularly and with comparatively few complaints from householders.

Tips · Sufficient tipping facilities continue to be available for the bulk of the refuse at Blyth and Cowpen disused Brickyards where the refuse is utilised for reclamation of ground. A large pond at the latter, which had become foul was successfully filled in

during the year without nuisance although situated adjacent to dwelling houses. The tipping in this area is being carried out on "controlled" lines, by the method of sectional shallow tipping in layers.

Organisation, Costs and Amounts collected.

Definite efforts have been made to reduce the cost of scavenging by better organisation of staff and better equipment which, on the year's working, have shown good results, a saving having been effected on the estimated amount sufficient to purchase out of revenue a two ton motor vehicle and accessories at £671.

Amongst matters contributing to this end the following may be noted :—

- (1) The separate maintenance of stables and staff at Bebside has been discontinued and the work for that district centred at Blyth.
- (2) The principle of not replacing unfit horses has been carried out and motor vehicles substituted.
- (3) An improved type of motor vehicle specially fitted for scavenging has been adopted by the purchase of a "Shelvoake & Drewry" 2-ton Motor Dust Cart. This has enabled the clearance of distant parts like Bebside to be done from Blyth and has been found to give highly satisfactory results in the larger amounts removed at each journey, ease of filling and manoeuvring and quick tipping. It thus lends itself to better organization of the work generally and, as it does more than the work of 4 horses in a better and more economical manner, the replacing of these by further purchase of this type of vehicle can well be recommended.

The quantity removed by this vehicle during 7½ months (to Mar. 31st, 1928) was 1,685 loads, weight 3,370 tons. 11 loads (= 22 tons) per night being frequently collected.

4. The scavenging work is now being carried out with a decreased staff, a reduction of 3 in the number of workers having been made, and as men fall out they are not being replaced otherwise than by the employment of casual labour while work is heavy.

A Costing Return with particulars of amounts collected etc. is given in the following Table (Table I).

This has been compiled for the period of the financial year ending March 31st, 1928, in order to cover the Special Return required by the Ministry of Health.

**TABLE 1—Local Authority—Borough of Blyth.
CLEANSING SERVICE.**

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.

Table showing costs for the year ended 31st March, 1928.

Item.	Particulars.	I. Collection.		II. Disposal.		Total.	
		Including Depreciation or Loan Charges see Note (A) (3)	Excluding Depreciation or Loan Charges (4)	Including Depreciation or Loan Charges (see Note A) (5)	Excluding Depreciation or Loan Charges (6)	Including Depreciation or Loan Charges (see Note A) (7)	Excluding Depreciation or Loan Charges. (8)
	REVENUE ACCOUNT						
A	Gross Expend'tre	£8937		£425		Working Expendit're £8691 Capital Expenditure £671	
B	Gross Income	nil					
C	Nett Cost	£8967		£425		£936 2	
	UNIT COSTS.						
D	Gross Expenditure per ton	6/8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d		3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d		7/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	
E	Gross Income per ton	nil					
F	Net Cost per ton	6/8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d		3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d		7/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	
G	Net cost, per 1,000 population	£262/10/-		£12/10/-		£275	
H	Net Cost, per 1,000 Houses or premises from which refuse is collected	£1191/13/-		£56/17/-		£1248/10/-	
	RATE POUNDAGE.						
J	Net cost, equivalent Rate in the £	1/5		$\frac{3}{4}$ d		1/5 $\frac{3}{4}$	
K	Percentage of J, to total rates in the £					9.4 %	

Amounts collected and methods, etc.

1. Total refuse collected in tons (27,400 loads)26,514 tons.
2. Population : Midsummer, 1926 34,270
3. Weight in tons per 1000 population per annum 780 tons.
4. Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day
(365 days to year) 42·7 cwts.
5. Number of houses and premises 7,500
6. Rateable Value.....£146,925
7. Product of Penny Rate£531
8. Total rates in the £.....£0 15/9d.
(This includes Water Rate.)
9. Method of collection—

By Horse drawn vehicles	65 %	16655 tons.
By Mechanically-propelled Vehicles ...	55 %	9859 tons.
10. Method of Disposal—

Crude tipping.....	30 %
Controlled tipping (i.e. on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)	40 %
Incineration (Trade Refuse)	5 %
On Agricultural Land	25 %
11. Average length of haul to point of disposal 1½ miles.

Plant

Amounts included in item A. in respect of NEW plant (as distinct from repairs or renewals) :—

(Collection) Columns 3, 7 £671. (Purchase outright of 2-ton Motor and accessories.)

(Disposal Columns 5, 7 £48.) (Sleeper Tracks to Tips.)

MEMO.—The district is a mining area with large yield. 6 % of the refuse is "wet" refuse from privy ashpits, entailing night collection at increased rates.

F. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Table II shows the number and nature of inspections made by the two Inspectors during the year, together with number of notices served etc. to secure improvements and abatement of nuisances.

Administrative County of Northumberland

Borough of Blyth,

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Summary of Inspections, Notices served, and results as required by County Council.

Year ending December 31st, 1927.

(Sanitary Officer's Order 1926, Art. 19.)

TABLE II.

District—Blyth Population 34,280 Inspectors— Mr. B. G. REDPATH. Mr. I. O. Williams.	Number of In- spections during year.	Re-Inspections	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	Number of INFORMAL Notices served Letters., etc.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Number of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Legal Proceedings
Housing—								
Structural Defects (Spouting, Roofs, &c.)	41	50	41	41	31	1	1 Closed	
Dampness ...								
Not reasonably fit for Habitation ...	127	54	127	50	42	22	6 Closed	
Overcrowding ...	6	6	6	6	6	Closing Orders		
Nuisances (Dirty Prem)	64	64	60	60	90			
Water Supply—								
Insufficient ...	22	32	22	22	16	2	1	
Unsatisfactory ...	10	*	*	*	*			
Drainage—								
Foul (i.e. choked) ...			113	113	110	3	3	
Untrapped or Defective Insufficient ...	172	198	20	20	20			
Sanitary Conveniences—								
Structural Defects ...			107	107	57			
Insufficient (Conversion to W.C's) ...	193	223	86	86	34	22	4	
Foul ...								
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...								
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	52	...	20	20	20			
Slaughter Houses (14 bi-weekly) ...		...	18	18	13			
Tents, Vans, &c. ...	3	3	3	3	3			
Offensive Trades ...	10	3	3	3	3			
Workshops and Workplaces ...	28	26	36	36	36			
Keeping of Animals ...	7	7	7	7	6	1	1	
Offensive Accumulations	3	3	3	3	3			
Smoke Nuisances ...	3	...	3	3	...			
Total ...	741	669	670	593	460	51	16	...

* SEE REPORT. New supply to standpipes serving 259 colliery houses.

In addition to the foregoing, visits were made re other sections of the work as follows :—

Prevention of Infectious Disease.

Infectious cases removed to Hospital	...	32
Visits of Investigation and to Smallpox Contacts	...	634
Houses disinfected	...	162
	—	828
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	48
Visits to Cinema and Theatre	...	7
Visits re Rat Infestation	...	15

Visits re Scavenging:—

Re Complaints and Requests	...	65
To Tips, etc.	...	115
	—	180

Visits re Food Inspection :—

To Market, Provision Shops, and Ice Creameries	...	54
--	-----	----

Re Meat Inspection 14 slaughter houses visited on average twice weekly involved about	...	1400 visits.
---	-----	--------------

Record of Nuisances abated and Improvements effected.

The following statement shows details of the work carried out as a result of action by and under the supervision of this Department.

WATER SUPPLY.

Defective pipes and fittings repaired	...	17
---------------------------------------	-----	----

DRAINAGE.

Choked Drains Cleared	...	113
New Drains Constructed and Defective Drains repaired	...	58

Total length ... 255 yds.

Inspection Chambers provided	...	30
Additional Gullies provided	...	9
Old Gullies Replaced	...	16
Scullery Sinks provided	...	10
Waste Pipes Repaired and Trapped	...	6
Yard paving repaired or reconstructed	...	16

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Total Privy Conversions	...	38
Privies only abolished	...	4
Privy Ashpits abolished	...	34
Pail Closets provided with New Pails	...	12
Privy Ashpits repaired	...	36
Water Closets provided	...	44
Water Closets repaired	...	9
Sanitary Bins provided	...	65
Ashpits replaced by bins	...	9
Conveniences improved at Cinema and Theatre		2

HOUSING DEFECTS.

Roofs, Spouts and Chimneys repaired	...	39
Defective Outhouses repaired or rebuilt	...	15
New Scullery provided	...	3
Defective Floors, Windows and Wall Plaster repaired	...	21
Defective Fireplaces and Chimney flue repaired		10

NUISANCES.

Overcrowding abated	...	6
Dirty and verminous premises cleansed	...	45
Keeping of Fowls, etc. ceased	...	7
Slops thrown and other Nuisances abated	...	18

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

Cowsheds and Dairies cleansed and limewashed		15
Dairy Ventilation improved	...	1
Dairy re-constructed	...	1
Milkshops and Dairies improved	...	2
Dairying ceased at unfit Cowsheds	...	2
Modern equipment to New Dairy	...	1

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

General Repairs carried out	...	9
Repaving of yard	...	1
Walls and Appliances cleansed	...	3

Factories and Workshops.

During the year 28 inspections have been made of Workshops, including Bakehouses, and the following work effected :—

BAKEHOUSES.

Floors scraped and cleansed	...	5
Cleansed and limewashed	...	15
Additional Ventilation provided	...	2
Unsuitable Convenience (Privy) converted	...	2
Additional W.C. provided	...	2

WORKSHOPS.

Cleansed and limewashed	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	1
Drains relaid	...	2
W.C's provided	...	2
Yards paved	...	2

Factories and Workshops.

Particulars of Inspections and defects found are given in the following Table as required by the Home Office, to which is appended a list showing the number and type of Factories and Workshops in the Borough.

TABLE III.—Year 1927.

I. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

(1) Premises.	Number of		
	(2) Inspections.	(3) Written Notices.	(4) Prosecutions.
Factories ...	3	2	Nil.
Workshops ..	25	14	...
Workplaces ...	...	...	...
Total ...	28	26	Nil.

II. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Act				...
Want of Cleanliness ...	23	23	...	Nil.
Want of Ventilation ...	3	3	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	4	4	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient ..	3	3	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ..	1	1	...	...
Total ...	36	36	36	Nil.

BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS OTHER
THAN COAL MINES, RAILWAYS AND COAL STAITHES.

Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 1927.		Fact- ories.	Work- shops.	Total.
Harbour Works and Import Docks ...	1	...	1	
Shipbuilding Yards and Repairing Docks (1 closed) ...	2	...	2	
Electric Power Station ...	1	...	1	
Stone Dressing (and Quarrying) ...	2	...	2	
Bakehouses ...	7	20	27	
Dressmakers and Milliners ...	...	16	16	
Tailors ...	...	10	10	
Builders, Joiners and Woodworkers ...	8	23	31	
Printers ...	5	...	5	
Engineers and Blacksmiths ...	11	6	17	
Plumbers and Gasfitters ...	2	9	11	
Boot and Shoe Repairers ...	7	7	14	
Painters and Decorators ...	...	5	5	
Motor and Cycle Repairers and Garages	5	12	17	
Picture Framers ...	...	3	3	
Saddlers ...	...	2	2	
Laundries ...	1	1	2	
Sugar Boilers ...	2	...	2	
Shirt and Hosiery Makers ...	...	2	2	
Mis- cel- lan- eous Trades	Monumental Sculptors	3	23	23
	Manufacturing Chemists	1		
	Bottling Stores	5		
	Clock and Watch Repairers	4		
	Marine stores, etc.	6		
	Tripe Preparers	2		
	Skin Dressers	1		
	Drysalters	1		
		54	139	193

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises, (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	3	2	nil,
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	25	34	"
Workplaces ... (other than Outworkers premises)	...	...	"
Total	28	36	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosec- utions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Act—				
Want of cleanliness	23	23	...	nil.
Want of ventilation	3	3	...	"
Overcrowding	...	...	...	"
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	"
Other nuisances	4	4	...	"
Sanitary {insufficient	3	3	...	"
accommo- {unsuitable or defective	2	2	...	"
dation {not separate for sexes	1	1	—	"
Total	36	36	—	—

2.—HOUSING.

(a) Unfit Houses.

Trade depression has had a retarding effect upon house repairs and improvements during the year, and nothing further has been done in regard to the improvement of slum areas.

Hodgson's Mill area has not yet been dealt with, and grows worse in condition while the matter is in abeyance.

Closing orders were issued in respect of 22 houses in Sproat Street and Davison Street which are literally falling to pieces, but the matter has not been pressed to the extent of making Demolition Orders until such time as the Housing Committee decide upon the building of a cheaper type of house than those at present owned by the Council.

It has to be observed that, even when the Housing Committee decide upon the building of a number of such houses no arrangement as yet exists, whereby these are to be earmarked for tenants displaced by the Health Committee from houses unfit for habitation.

And the round-about method of resting on the supposition that say 50 tenants taking Council houses will leave 50 empty houses available and in everyway suitable for those tenants ordered out of unfit houses simply does not work out in practice and fails to touch the problem of improving the housing conditions of those who are in most pressing and urgent need of such.

Statistics as to the number of houses dealt with for housing repairs, closure, etc., under the Public Health and Housing Acts are given in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The following shews Houses closed.

Houses Closed.

Number of Unfit houses closed :—

(a) *After formal notice under Section 3, Housing Act, 1925 on issue of Closing Orders	...	4
(b) Without formal Notice	...	3
Total	...	7

(No. of Houses demolished. nil.)

* Houses referred to.

(a) 4 dwelling houses in Sproat St. and Davison St. closed after issue of Closing Orders.

(b) 1 dwelling in Clive Street on informal notice requiring extensive repairs.

2 dwellings in Waterloo Rd. (Damp, etc.)
re Widening of Trotter's Opening.

(b) Housing Needs.

Only 27 houses were built during the year, all by private builders, while the waiting list of applicants for Council houses becoming vacant, of the 2 and 3 bedroom type, is roughly 500.

This should be a sufficient index as to whether the ordinary "marriage and increase of population" needs are being met leaving entirely out of account, as has been the case for many years, the needs of that large background of the population of the district living under unhealthy conditions of overcrowding in sublet and single rooms so hopeless of abatement that notices are seldom served by this Department, and in houses old and dilapidated and lacking in the decent conveniences of living.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.

At the close of the year there were on the Register—

12 Producers (most of whom are also Retailers) occupying 12 cowsheds with approximately 140 cows, and 29 Retailers.

Improvement in Milk Supply.

The establishment by the Blyth Co-operative Society of a modern hygienic dairy during the year has had a decided effect in improving the milk supply to a large portion of the town as the Society is able to handle a larger quantity than heretofore attempted and can command the provision of a clean milk. A Grade A Supply from a local farm is to be their next progressive step.

The requirements of this Department were adhered to in fitting out the dairy and were exemplified on a visit paid to it by the Health Committee.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

In compliance with the above order a new dairy has been built at one farm and the cowshed improved. Two farmers producing small quantities have ceased production of milk for sale where premises were found unfit. A better standard of milking methods is being gradually secured by means of advice and moral suasion.

Diseases of Animals (Tuberculosis) Order 1925.

Action initiated by this Department was taken by the County Medical Officer under the above Order on 3 occasions and in each case a tubercular cow was killed from a dairy herd.

I have had brought forcibly to my notice during the year an example of a weakness in the Order in that the remaining herd from which a tubercular cow has been taken are not required to undergo the Tuberculin test, should the Veterinary Officer think it necessary to examine the whole herd, but undergo a clinical examination only.

In one such case in the district the herd was examined in this way and no suspicious signs found except that a slightly thriftless but largeboned cow was mentioned as one that might need an eye kept on it, but appeared all right and was milking all right. No particular developments were noticed until this cow, after 8 months, reached the butcher when it was found on inspection to be in a most shocking state of Tuberculosis—the more shocking to me as my own children amongst others were having milk from this farm and, had the Tuberculin test been the method of examination, would have been saved from 8 months risk of infection.

The above mentioned weakness of the Diseases of Animals (Tuberculosis) Order, also points out the necessity that the Local Authority should secure a greater measure of public protection against Tubercular milk by the regular taking of samples for bacteriological test under the Milk and Dairies Act 1915, which the Medical Officer of Health may cause to be done in order to report suspected Tuberculosis to the County Medical Officer who can then take steps to stop the supply.

Facilities for this are always available at the Medical College Department of Armstrong College, Newcastle, at a charge of about a guinea per sample, and for dirt contamination, at about 5/.

This has not heretofore been carried out in the Borough.

In order to facilitate this means of protection—at least to a very minimum extent—the County Medical Officer has arranged for bacteriological testing to be done in the laboratory at his Department of samples from each district in the County in turn free of cost. This is for detection of Tuberculosis only at present.

Taking advantage of this arrangement I took 4 samples in November last from different farms in the district. These, on being submitted, proved each to be negative as to presence of Tuberculosis.

(b) Meat.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 have been strictly administered throughout the year and have been complied with exceedingly well on the whole by the butchers, whose co-operation has been of great assistance in making possible the large amount of meat inspection that has been carried out.

Their willingness to surrender carcasses and organs found unfit has in every case obviated any necessity for obtaining a magistrates order for condemnation and no legal proceedings were found necessary.

In 4 cases of non-notification of slaughter, where the circumstances pointed to oversight more strict compliances was obtained by informal notice.

Two cases of exposing meat for sale on a market stall not constructed in compliance with the Order were be dealt with in a similar manner and the practice discontinued.

In regard to the custom of miners and others slaughtering pigs at their homes for sale of pork to neighbours an improvement has been effected, gradually and without undue pressure, by enforcing notification and on inspection of carcasses, pointing out the unfitness of premises where the Regulations could not be complied with in the matter of properly protecting the meat from contamination.

The result has been that few miners slaughter their own pigs now otherwise than at a proper slaughter house. This has been greatly facilitated by the Council on the recommendation of the Health Committee placing a slaughter house at their disposal at a nominal charge of 1/- per pig slaughtered.

Slaughter Houses.

One unfit private slaughter house has been discontinued reducing the number of private slaughter houses in the district to 5.

Repaving of part of the yard and general repairs to the 9 Council slaughter houses were carried out, and these further improved in fitness by the removal of a Tripe Preparer from one of them where the process was carried on in too close proximity to the dressing and cooling of carcasses.

Diseased and Unsound Meat.

As heretofore Tuberculosis has been the chief cause of diseased conditions found in pigs and bovines and of the latter mainly in cows or heifers,

Diseased and Unsound Meat.

The following statement will indicate the extent to which protection of the public health against diseased and unsound meat has been secured.

The work in this direction is always strictly carried out by the Health Department staff, being regarded as a matter wherein the public are least able to protect themselves, while at the same time experienced judgment enables care to be always exercised in fairness to the butchers, as to whether any disease has caused the whole carcase or only parts or organs to be dangerous and unfit for food, reserving the balance in favour of the public in doubtful cases.

The number of carcasses examined during the year 1927 was as follows :—

Bovine carcasses examined	931	(Average No. per week	18.)
Pig carcasses examined	1,939	"	37.)
Sheep carcasses examined	1,354	"	26.)

Year 1927.

Number of Cattle Pigs and Sheep examined within the Borough.		Number of Animals found Diseased, Unsound, or otherwise unfit for Human Consumption.			(No. found with Tuberculosis.)
		Extensive Whole Carcases Condemned.	Slight, Parts or Organs Condemned.	Total.	
*Bovines	931	9	90	99	(59)
Pigs	1939	4	50	54	(34)
Sheep	1354	...	16	16	—
Total		13	156	169	(93)

Total approximate weight of meat destroyed as unfit.

Beef	...	426 stones	Offals 45 stones	Total
Pork	...	33 "		516 stones
Mutton	...	2 "		(2 tons 4½ cwts.)

* Add slaughtered by County Council under Tuberculosis Order.

Cows	...	3 ½	Total Carcases condemned	...	2
			Parts or Organs	...	1
Total Approximate Weight			...	108 stones	

Grand total of Meat disallowed into the Market,
2 tons 18 cwts.

IN BOVINES.—Extensive Tuberculosis accounted for the 9 whole carcasses condemned (all Cows or Heifers.)

7 of these were carcasses at slaughter houses, purchased in the ordinary way of trade, and 2 were condemned on 'emergency' slaughter at farms, Tuberculosis being in these cases complicated with Septic Metritis (Septic invasion after calving.)

50 parts or organs—mainly heads, lungs and livers,— were also condemned with more or less slight Tuberculosis.

IN PIGS—2 carcasses were condemned with Tuberculosis and 32 parts or organs, including 22 heads with Tubercular glands.

1 pig carcase was condemned with Metritis, and 1 in fevered condition after injury.

Other diseased conditions found are detailed in Table IV

OTHER FOODS : - 26 tins of corned beef (weight 13 stones) were also destroyed on account of decomposition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. REDPATH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

