

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Blyth Borough.

Contributors

Blyth (Northumberland, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1941

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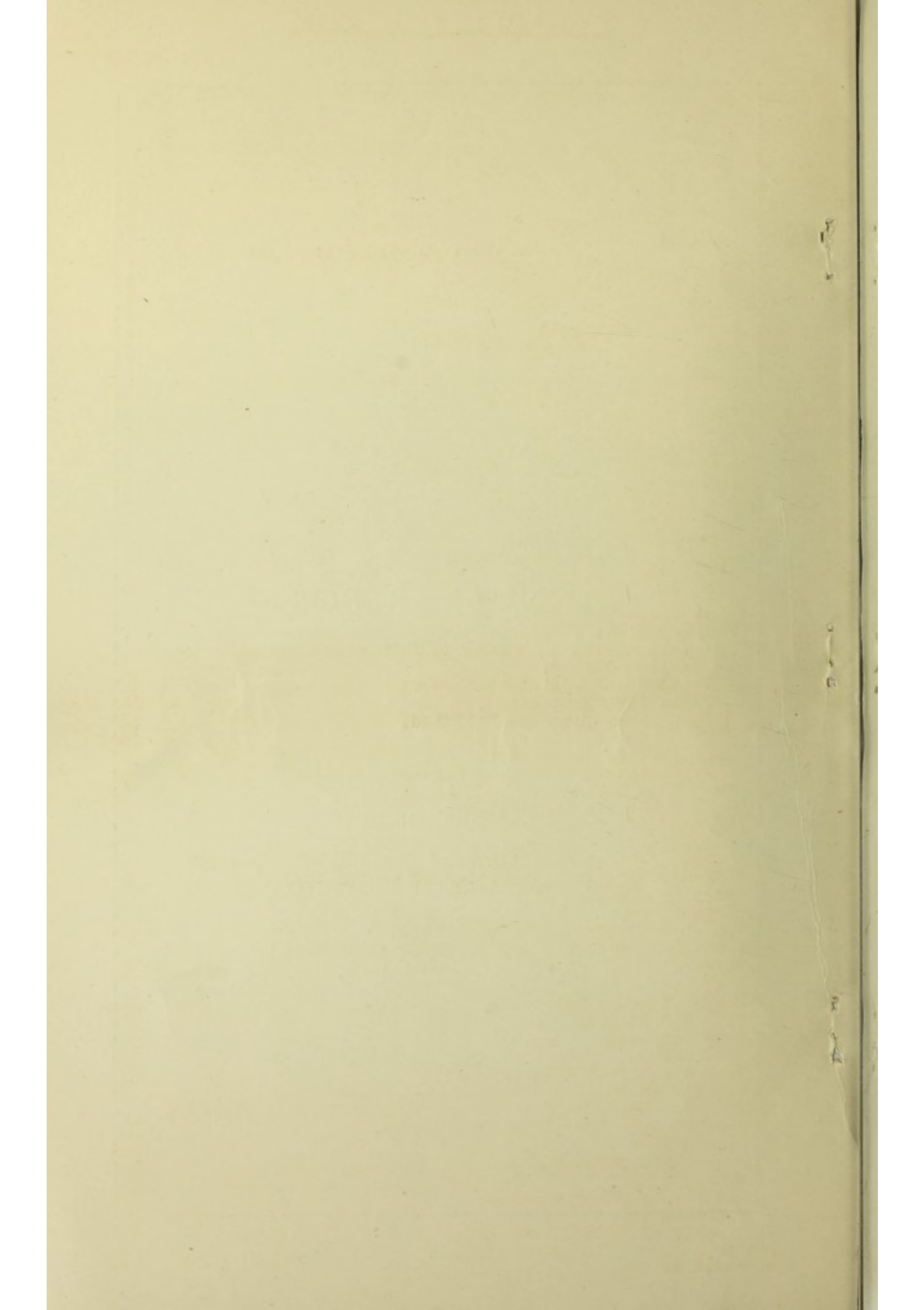
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BOROUGH OF BLYTH



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1941



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

Chairman - Alderman H. Donnachie,

Vice-Chairman - Alderman J. Mitchell.

The Mayor,

Councillor Crate,

Alderman Reilly,

" Curry,

" Walker,

" Foy,

Councillor Allan,

" Hamm,

" Baron,

" Hepple,

" Beamson,

" Murdy,

" Berry,

" Purves,

" Broadin,

" Raffell,

" Carr,

" Searle.

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD
WELFARE COMMITTEE:-

Chairman - Mrs. Darling,

Vice-Chairman - Mrs. Colpitts.

Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Co-opted Members:-

Mrs. Allison,

Mrs. Dixon,

" Berry,

" Gray,

" Carr,

" Sowden,

" Clarke,

" Watson.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

Your Worship and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, upon the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1941.

The Report is more comprehensive than that of recent years but it is still curtailed. By the direction of the Ministry of Health (Circular 2604), certain information in connection with statistics has been omitted to prevent the possible re-construction of population figures; information which may be of service to enemy agents.

Extensive staff changes, bringing about an almost complete replacement of personnel within a period of a few months, handicapped the work of the Health Department. Despite these interferences and the restrictions upon our activities due to war conditions, I am pleased to report that a satisfactory standard of efficiency was reached. Mr. A. P. Robinson obtained his Sanitary Inspector's Certificate during the year and a Pupil Sanitary Inspector was added to the staff.

The posts of Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Additional Sanitary Inspector and Chief Clerk, were all vacated during 1941 and had to be filled by others. Also three of the four Clerks and Typists were replaced during the same period.

Mr. Hartley, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for preparing Sections C. D. and E. of the Report. The attention of the Council is directed, with respect, to Mr. Hartley's observations upon Slaughterhouses and Milk Production. In connection with Sanitary Inspectors' duties, may I recommend for the serious consideration of the Council, the pressing need for more modern facilities for the disinfection and disinfection of clothing and bedding. The cost of a Steam Disinfector, in my opinion, would be well repaid by the service it would render to the public.

It is with regret that I have to report that 1941 was marked by a series of outbreaks of disease. That of Diphtheria was serious and brought about the deaths of a number of children. A special report was submitted to the Health Committee at the appropriate time and extracts from it are incorporated in this Report. Similarly, in the case of the Food Poisoning Outbreak in the summer, extracts from the special report to the Health Committee are included here. The onset of the increased prevalence of Scabies was noted in 1941, a detailed account appearing in my Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for that year.

Civil Defence duties naturally occupied much of one's time, for besides the direction of the Casualty Services operating from three First Aid Posts, three First Aid Party Depots and two Ambulance Depots, the Department was closely associated with other spheres of this work. We were called in consultation on matters associated with refuse disposal, rat infestation and sanitary provisions for military establishments; in the Emergency Rest Centres Scheme, regarding ablutions and sanitary provisions and the establishment of

Medical Rest Centres. The Chief Sanitary Inspector was appointed Authorised Officer of the Food Decontamination Service and as such has received appropriate instruction. As a result he has coached teams of volunteers for duty under a Scheme in which we have the full co-operation of the Borough Engineer's Decontamination Service.

By adopting the Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital Scheme, organised by Northumberland County Council, you provided an excellent Maternity Service, less than which is not deserving of Blyth people. In connection with the Maternity Services, the Local District Nursing Association, under the able direction of Miss Scott, has rendered valuable work, not only in providing a competent Ante-Natal Service, but by their care of patients during transport to and from Maternity Hospitals. The Infantile Mortality Rate is high; too high. Although directions have been issued that each Infant Death shall be investigated, insufficient information has been obtained to enable definite opinions to be offered as to the cause. Perhaps, when expectant mothers become more educated into believing the necessity for Ante-Natal care and supervision, some appreciable improvement may be expected, especially in regard to deaths from prematurity.

1941 was a heavy year, often difficult. Yet the staff, entering into the spirit of things with intelligence and resourcefulness, surmounted their difficulties, grateful for the opportunity to contribute their quota to what is truly work of national importance.

My thanks are due, in particular, to Mr. Hartley whose untiring energy and determination to see a job well done, subscribed much to the credit of the Department.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. STOKOE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE
DEPARTMENTS - 1941.

Medical Officer of Health	} J. STOKOE, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer, M. & C.W. Authority	
School Medical Officer,	
Port Medical Officer.	
Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer	C. BAINBRIDGE, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (with H.M. Forces).
Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer	I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Resigned 2nd Sept. 1941). A. DUNSMUIR, M.B., Ch.B. (Appointed 11th Oct. 1941).
Ophthalmic Surgeon	A. T. PATERSON, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H.
Oto-rhinologist	J. A. STENHOUSE, M.D., Ch.B. (with H.M. Forces).
Women's Advisory Clinic	MRS. D. SINTON, M.B., Ch.B.
Obstetric Emergency Service	{ PROFESSOR E. F. MURRAY, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. H. H. EVERS, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. F. STABLER, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. (with H.M. Forces). W. HUNTER, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.O.G.
Dental Surgeon	H. O. J. BEDGOOD, L.D.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	F. B. HARTLEY, M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	{ R. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A. (Resigned Jan. 1941). F. J. DAVIES, M.S.I.A. (Appointed May 26th, 1941).
Housing Inspector	A. P. ROBINSON, A.R.I.P.H.H. (with H.M. Forces).
Health Visitors	{ MISS R. M. FINLAY, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS O. DIXON, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS D. ROBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 10th Nov. 1941).
Chief Clerk	{ MRS. A. C. SCAIFE (Resigned 6th Sept. 1941). MISS M. WALKER (Appointed 3rd Nov. 1941).
Junior Clerk	N. GODFREY (with H.M. Forces).
Temporary Overcrowding Clerks	{ C. FELLOWS; T. MORALEE (with H.M. Forces). T. WALTON (Appointed 12th Mar. 1941).
Temporary Shorthand-Typists	MISS R. M. PERNICE, (Resigned 2nd Sept. 1941). MISS B. REDEBURN, (Appointed 22nd Sept. 1941). MISS J. DOBSON, (Appointed 10th Nov. 1941).

S E C T I O N A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.- No change in the Borough Area took place in 1941.

POPULATION.- The estimated population has shown minor fluctuations in recent years with a tendency to decline.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.- 9,322.

RATEABLE VALUE.- £165,519.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.- £628.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.-

Births -

The Birth Rate (19.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population) has increased steadily during the last few years, but the figure is influenced by the lower estimated population.

The Still Birth Rate of 37.7 per 1,000 total births remains fairly steady and is a decided improvement upon rates of 1934 - 1938.

Deaths -

All Ages and Causes: The Death Rate, unadjusted by a Comparability Factor, but including Transferable Deaths, was 13.18 per 1,000 estimated resident population and is comparable with that of other industrial areas in England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Births.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes	5.	7.8.

The rate of 7.8 per 1,000 total births shows little alteration in recent years.

Deaths in Infants under one year of age: The Infantile Mortality Rate of 89.4 per 1,000 live births is considerably higher than the rest of the country. It is, however, usually high in Blyth.

Principle Causes of Infant Deaths:

Diseases of the Respiratory System.-

Bronchopneumonia	- 10.	
Bronchitis	- 4.	
Whooping Cough	- 4.	
Pulmonary Congestion	- 3.	- 21.
Prematurity		- 15.
Congenital Defects		- 12.

Deaths from ~~Diarrhoea~~ and Enteritis in Infants under 2 years of age represented 1.6 per 1,000 live births.

Principle Causes of Death (all ages):

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Heart and Circulatory	67	56	123.
Zymotic Diseases.-			
Diphtheria - 20.)			
Pneumonia - 16.)			
Others - 7.)	21	22	43.
Cancer	19	21	40.
Violence.-			
Suicide - 2.)			
Road Traffic Accidents - 6.)			
Works Accidents - 9.)			
Drowning - 7.)			
Other Causes - 10.)	26	8	34.
Intra-cranial Vascular Disease	14	17	31.
Tuberculosis.-			
Respiratory - 17.)			
Non-Respiratory - 4.)	10	11	21.

Nearly one-half of all deaths were in persons
65 years of age or older.

Cancer Deaths 1941 - Situation of Disease.

Site.	Age Groups - In Years						Males	Females	Total.
	Under 36	36 to 45	46 to 55	56 to 65	66 to 75	Over 75			
BUCCAL CAVITY { Mouth	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
{ Nasal Cavity	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
{ Parotid Gland	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1 - 3.
DIGESTIVE TRACT { Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	1	4
{ Stomach	-	-	2	4	1	-	2	5	7
{ Colon & Caecum	-	1	1	-	2	3	3	4	7
{ Rectum	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	3
{ Liver	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2
{ Pancreas	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	2 - 25.
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM { Lung	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	-	3
{ Mediastinum	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1 - 4.
GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM { Vulva	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
{ Uterus	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1 - 2.
OTHER ORGANS { Breast	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	3
{ Cervical Glands	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
{ Pharynx	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1 - 5.
OTHER TUMOURS { Epithelioma of Lip	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1 - 1.
TOTAL.	-	3	6	9	15	7	19	21	40.

S E C T I O N B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of Blyth Residents requiring Hospital treatment find accommodation locally at the Knight Memorial Hospital. Facilities are also available in Institutions outside the Borough, more particularly at:-

General Hospitals.-

The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.
Newcastle General Hospital.
Preston Road Hospital, North Shields.

Maternity Hospitals.-

Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital, Corbridge.
(by arrangement with Northumberland County Council).
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle.
Preston Road Hospital, North Shields.

Hospitals for Sick Children.-

Babies Hospital, Newcastle.
Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle.
W.J. Sanderson's Orthopaedic Hospital School, Gosforth.

Infectious Diseases.-

Wallsend Fever Hospital.) By arrangement with Earsdon
Scaffold Hill Hospital.) Joint Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Local Authority possesses four ambulances, one of which was purchased during the year out of monies subscribed by the residents. Ambulances are available on applications, accompanied by a family doctor's recommendation, submitted to the Borough Engineer. The service was made free of charge for use within a certain specified area as from the first of February.

CARE OF THE BLIND.

In Blyth, the Local Blind Welfare Committee operates the service under the direction of the County Council. The Committee is comprised of volunteer workers and representatives of the Blind. The Borough Council is represented also.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Three separate Committees control this work in Blyth area, that for Bebside and New Delaval being under Committees whose activities extend into areas outside the Borough boundaries. Co-operation between the three groups of Nursing staffs is very satisfactory but I cannot help feeling that it would be an advantage if the whole of the work of the District Nursing Associations in Blyth were controlled by a single Committee.

I am grateful to Matron Scott of the Blyth and District Nursing Association for providing the accompanying Table which summarises the work done for Blyth residents:-

	Blyth.	Rebside.	New Delaval.
Number of Nurses	6	1	1
Number of Maternity Cases	263	25	55
Number of Midwifery Cases	61	9	9
TOTALS	324	34	64
Ante-Natal Visits	1263	194	383
Visits to Maternity Cases	6114	539	1458
" " Surgical Cases	3941	405	1339
" " Medical Cases	1672	216	859
" " Chronic Cases	1448	74	316

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The clinical work controlled by the Authority is, for the most part, conducted at the Municipal Clinic, Beulah House. During the year, because of the great increase in the incidence of Scabies, a Special Clinic providing Baths and Treatment was established at Wellington House. Medical Examinations of members of the A.F.S. and A.R.P. Services were carried out at Wellington House.

Clinics are held as under:-

Clinics.	Address.	Time.
Infant Welfare,	Beulah House	Tuesday - Thursday 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Toddlers Clinic,	" "	Every Wednesday except first in month. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Ante-Natal (by District Nursing Association)	" "	Monday. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Women's Advisory	" "	First Wednesday in month. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Minor Ailments	" "	Daily. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. Saturday. 9.0 - 12 a.m.
Dental	" "	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. 9.30 - 12 a.m.
Ophthalmic	" "	Friday. 9.30 - 12 a.m.
Aural	" "	Monday. 10.30 - 12 a.m.
Sun-Ray	" "	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. 9.30 - 12 a.m.
Special Examinations	" "	Monday and Wednesday. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. Saturday. 9.30 - 12 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	" "	Friday. 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Scabies	Wellington House	Daily. 9.30 - 12.0 and 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Tuberculosis (Northumberland C.C.)	Middleton Street Dispensary	Tuesday 9.0 - 12 a.m.

TREATMENT OF INFANTS AND PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

(Figures applicable to School Children appear in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer).

Minor Ailments Clinic.

	No. of Cases.	Total Attendances
Diseases of the Skin.-		
Impetigo	51	268
Scabies	30	98
Others	28	195
Minor Eye Defects.-		
Blepharitis	3	10
Conjunctivitis	16	67
Minor Ear Defects.-		
Otorrhoea	10	36
Others	3	9
Miscellaneous.-		
Minor Injuries etc.	15	46
Vermineous Heads	4	11
TOTALS	160	740.

Sun-Ray Clinic.

	Under 1 year.		Between 1 & 5 years.	
	B.	G.	B.	G.
Number of children	6	1	12	12
Attendances	137.		432.	

Dental Clinic.

	Fillings.	Extractions.	No. of Patients.
Children under 5 years	-	176.	53.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Number of new patients	-	38.
" " old patients	-	18.
Spectacles prescribed	-	33.
" obtained	-	33.
" satisfactory	-	2.
" not prescribed	-	21.
Referred to Minor Ailments Clinic	-	3.

Throat, Nose and Ear Clinic.

Number of examinations and re-examinations	-	18.
Operations for removal of Tonsils and Adenoids	-	6.

Orthopaedic Defects.

No case of major orthopaedic defects in children of this age was reported during the year.

Scabies Clinic - from 1st June to end of 1941.

Number of cases transferred from Minor Ailments Clinic	-	23.
" " new cases	-	49.
" " Baths	-	276.
" " Dressings	-	113.
Examinations by a Medical Officer	-	96.
Visits to Homes	-	8.

Nurseries.

It has not been found necessary to establish these in Blyth.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements continue as in previous years. Considerably greater use was made of them during 1941, largely on account of the higher incidence of infectious diseases.

Bacteriological (County Council Laboratory, Newburn).(A) Pathological.-

(1) Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs:

Corynebacterium Diphtheriae present	- 175.		
" " not found	- 1749.	-	1924.
Virulent C. Diphtheriae present	- 67.		
" " not found	- 18.	-	85.

(2) Sputum:

B. Tuberculosis present	- 29.		
" " not found	- 156.	-	185.

(3) Faeces - 17.

(4) Blood Urea - 7.

(5) Urine - 5.

(6) Pleural Fluid - 2.

(7) Blood - 1.

(8) Abscess - 1. - 33.

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS SUBMITTED 2,227.

(B) Food, Milk, Water etc.

(1) Water supplies (various sources) - 32.

(2) Milk Samples.-

(a) For B. Tuberculosis	- 26.		
(b) Methylene Blue and B. Coli Test	- 31.		
(c) From Pasteurisation Plant	- 4.		
(d) For C. Diphtheriae	- 13.	-	106.

In addition to the above, the Laboratory furnished reports in connection with a Food Poisoning Outbreak:-

Agglutination reactions	- 9.		
Faeces	- 7.		
Ham	- 1.		
Tongue	- 1.		
Cream Cakes	- 1.		
Various fragments of food	- 1.		
Tin container	- 1.	-	21.

GRAND TOTAL 2,354.

Chemical (Public Analysts' Laboratory, Newcastle).

Water samples	- 18.		
Sherry Wine	- 3.		
Chocolate	- 1.	-	22.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

As the work in the Department increased, the Council appointed a Third Health Visitor who commenced duties in November. Towards the end of the year the Fruit Juices Scheme was launched.

Home Visiting by Health Visitors.Visits to Infants under 1 year.-

First Visits after notification	-	745	
Number of re-visits	-	870	
Number of Still Births visited	-	19	- 1634.
Visits to children 1 - 5 years			- 1689.
<u>Visits to Expectant Mothers.-</u>			
First Visits	-	77	
Re-visits	-	10	- 87.

Miscellaneous Visits.-

	First Visits.	Re-Visits.	Total.
Puerperal Disease	6	2	8.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	13	18.
TOTALS	11	15	26.

GRAND TOTAL OF VISITS - 3436.

Infant Welfare Clinic.-

Table A.

No. of Sessions.	First Attendances 0-1 yr.	Re-attendances 0-1 yr.	First Attendances 1-5 yr.	Re-attendances 1-5 yr.
102.	419.	3,223.	190.	324.

Table B.

Total No. of Attendances.	Average No. of Attendances.	Average No. at M.O.'s Sessions.
3,966.	38.9	6.83.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Clinic = 598.

At the Infant Welfare Sessions the Health Visitors are assisted by ten VOLUNTARY HELPERS, attending according to rota and all of whom are co-opted members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The total quantity of MILK SUPPLIED by the Council at the Clinic to expectant and nursing mothers and young children, was 7,133 lbs. of Dried Milk.

The following conditions were noted among infants under 1 year of age:-

Congenital Malformations.-

Phimosis	- 42.
Umbilical Hernia	- 12.
Cleft Palate	- 3.

Diseases of Digestive system.-

Feeding Dyspepsia	- 7.
Vomiting and Diarrhoea	- 6.
Stomatitis	- 1.
Constipation	- 7.
Melaena	- 1.

Diseases of the Respiratory System.--

Coryza	- 6.
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	-24.

Diseases of the Skin.--

Infantile Eczema	- 8.
Scabies	- 4.
Seborrhoeic Dermatitis	- 8.
Impetigo	-11.
Minor Injuries	- 1.

Diseases of the Eye.--

Conjunctivitis	- 3.
Blepharitis	- 1.

Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear.--

Tonsillitis	- 3.
Otorrhoea	- 8.

Other Diseases.--

Rickets	- 8.
Anaemia	- 3.
Talipes	- 3.
Pink Disease	- 2.
Chicken Pox	- 2.
Whooping Cough	- 1.

Toddlers Clinics.

As we became more organised, special sessions were held on Wednesday afternoons for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years:-

No. of Sessions.	Average Attendances.	Examinations by M.O.	Total Attendances.
16.	10.	160.	160.

At these Sessions the following conditions were found:-

Congenital Malformations.--

Hernia (umbilical)	- 1.
Heart Disease	- 2.
Talipes	- 1.

Diseases of the Respiratory Tract.--

Coryza	- 3.
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	- 9.
Dental Defects	- 53.

Diseases of the Skin.--

Scabies	- 20.
Impetigo	- 41.
Dermatitis	- 9.

Diseases of the Eye.--

Squint	- 40.
Conjunctivitis	- 11.
Blepharitis	- 2.

Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear.--

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	- 14.
Enlarged Cervical Glands	- 4.
Otorrhoea	- 1.

Other Diseases.--

Rickets	- 5.
Enuresis	- 3.
Anaemia	- 1.
Epilepsy	- 1.
Inguinal Hernia	- 1.

Fruit Juices Scheme.

Under the auspices of the Ministries of Health and Food, Schemes for the distribution of Cod Liver Oil and various vitamin containing fruit juices and extracts were administered by every Local Authority. In Blyth, distributing centres were established at the Municipal Clinic, Bebside Senior School, and Newsham Junior School (the two latter, with the permission of the Local Education Committee). Sessions are held weekly; while a fourth centre at Seaton Sluice is open once per fortnight. The first session was held on December 9th, and by the end of the year, attendances reached the following figures:-

Municipal Clinic.	Bebside.	Newsham.	Seaton Sluice.
601.	68.	81.	13.

Child Life Protection.

Under Section 206 - 220, Public Health Act, 1936, two persons were receiving children for reward at the end of the year. The Health Visitors reported that both children were well cared for in satisfactory homes.

Infectious Diseases in children under five years of age.

Whooping Cough	- 196.
Measles	- 58.
Diphtheria	- 50.
Pneumonia	- 12.
Scarlet Fever	- 7.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	- 5.
Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Fever	- 4.
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	- 3.

TOTAL 335.

Health Visitors paid visits to 256 of these cases. All Ophthalmia patients recovered without impairment of vision.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

Patients admitted to the County Council's Maternity Home at Dilston Hall, Corbridge, are granted treatment free of charge or are assisted in the payment of their fees, according to a scale of charges based upon net income. A number of beds in semi-private wards are available for those able to afford the three guineas per week.

Number of patients who completed treatment in 1941:-

Free.	Assisted.	Paid own Fees.	TOTAL.
40.	32.	19.	91.

Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, to which the Authority subscribed 60 guineas in 1941, treated a further 46 patients.

Borough Ambulances are readily available, without charge to the patients.

Obstetric Emergency Service.

The Service was called out on two occasions during 1941.

Home Helps.

Conditions of employment and wages were amended during the year. No women have registered as Home Helps nor has any application been made for their services.

Maternity Outfits.

Bags were loaned out four times during the year.

Dental Treatment.

No. of patients.	Extractions.	General Anaesthetics.	Dentures Supplied.
19.	126.	19.	7.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

With the approval of the Council, the District Nursing Association established an Ante-Natal Clinic at the Municipal Clinic. The Sessions were held on Monday afternoons.

Number of sessions during 1941 - 31.
Number of patients attending - 575.

Maternal Deaths.Causes.-

Anaesthetic - 1.
Difficult Delivery - 1.
Shock - 1.
Lack of attention - 2.

Although it is gratifying that no death was due to the once dreaded Puerperal Sepsis, it is difficult to understand why two patients should die from lack of attention.

Women's Advisory Clinic.

The following is an extract from a report for which I am indebted to Doctor Dorothea Sinton:-

Number of new patients.-
Gynaecological advice - 4.
Contraceptive advice - 8.
Other reasons - 4. - 16.
Returned Patients.-
Post-natal advice - 1.
Post-natal and contraceptive advice - 6.
Contraceptive advice - 3. - 10.
Total number of Sessions - 12.
Total attendances - 63.

S E C T I O N C.

An attempt was made to conduct the work of the Department in a progressive spirit in spite of restrictions and handicaps due to circumstances brought about by hostilities.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:

Chemical and Bacteriological samples of the main sources of water supply are taken as a routine measure. The reports indicate that a satisfactory standard of purity was maintained during the year.

Cracks in a reservoir, allowing the entrance of surface water, led to unsatisfactory laboratory reports. Repairs were promptly executed by the Borough Engineer's Department. The reports have been satisfactory since then.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(1) INSPECTIONS.-

The Report includes the number and nature of inspections made of nuisances, housing defects, and contraventions of Bye-Laws etc. during the year, together with the number of notices served.

The method adopted for the remedy of defects is of an informal character and includes letters, verbal intimations and interviews. Statutory Notices are served where owners fail to comply with the Informal Notices. Statutory action follows continued non-compliance.

Complaints Received:

During the year, 595 complaints, relating to various matters, were received and are summarised below:-

Verminous and dirty premises	-	49.
Choked drains, manholes and gullies	-	100.
Water Supply (defective fittings, etc.)	-	155.
Defective Drains	-	4.
" W.C.'s, Privies etc.	-	60.
" Dustbins	-	21.
General Housing defects	-	118.
Overcrowding	-	4.
Rats	-	17.
Offensive Smells	-	23.
Requests to remove refuse	-	4.
Dangerous buildings	-	1.
Miscellaneous nuisances and requests	-	39.
	TOTAL	<u>595.</u>

Total number of Inspections made during the year, 1941:

1. Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of houses inspected	-	1,306.
" " re-visits	-	870.
" " visits to dangerous buildings	-	20.
" " places of public entertainment	-	10.
" " restaurants	-	1.
" " public conveniences	-	26.
" " piggeries	-	28.
" " offensive trade premises	-	57

Infectious diseases investigated	-	874.
Other visits made in connection with investigation of infectious diseases	-	880.
Number of visits made to common lodging houses	-	18.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>4,092.</u>

2. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	-	2,441.
" " " " butchers shops	-	85.
" " " " ice-cream manufactories	-	4.
" " " " fishmongers shops	-	7.
" " " " premises where food is prepared for sale	-	69.
" " " in connection with Food Poisoning Outbreak	-	58.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>2,664.</u>

3. Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of visits to cowsheds	-	95.
" " " " dairies and workshops	-	180.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>275.</u>

4. Milk(Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Visits to premises pasteurising milk	-	27.
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5. Public Health(Meat)Regulations, 1924-35.

Visits to market	-	10.
" " butchers vans	-	54.
Other visits	-	7.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>71.</u>

6. Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Visits to rat infested premises	-	18.
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7. Housing Act, 1936.

Number of inspections	-	4.
" " re-visits	-	30.
" " overcrowding visits	-	8,869.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>8,903.</u>

8. Factories Act, 1937.

Visits to workshops	-	11.
" " factories	-	14.
" " offices	-	4.
" " bakehouses	-	29.
TOTAL VISITS		<u>58.</u>

9. Shops Act, 1934-36. - Section 10.

Visits to shops	-	754.
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10. Miscellaneous.

Visits and interviews	-	355.
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GRAND TOTAL OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS
17,217.

(2) NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 330.

Work done by informal action was as follows:-

W.C. Pedestal renewed	-	8.
General repairs to W.C.	-	25.
W.C. flushing apparatus repaired	-	28.
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	-	27.
Drains cleared (a) By owners	-	25.
(b) By Corporation	-	73.
New sinks provided	-	4.
Waste pipes repaired	-	31.
Choked sinks cleared	-	4.
Inspection chamber covers renewed	-	1.
Dirty houses cleansed	-	1.
Eavesgutters and spouts repaired or renewed	-	5.
Drains amended	-	2.
Extra drains provided	-	1.
W.C. cleansed	-	1.
Bins provided	-	7.
W.C. apartments cleansed	-	1.
Floors repaired	-	4.
Outbuildings repaired	-	1.
Water supply pipes and fittings repaired	-	60.
General repairs to houses	-	4.
Plaster renewed	-	4.
Cords repaired	-	1.
Water supply re-instated	-	20.
Roofs repaired	-	10.

Milk and Dairies Order.

Walls, floors and ceilings cleansed	-	1.
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Shops Act.

New W.C. cisterns provided	-	2.
Burst water pipes repaired	-	1.
General repairs to W.C.	-	4.
Waste pipes repaired	-	1.
Eavesgutters repaired	-	1.
Choked drains cleared	-	1.
Water supply re-instated	-	1.
Roofs repaired	-	4.
Walls redecorated	-	1.
Floors repaired	-	1.
W.C.'s cleansed	-	1.

Food and Drugs Act.

Walls, floors and ceilings cleansed	-	3.
Floors repaired in fish-preparing room	-	1.
Roof lights repaired	-	1.
Leaking roofs repaired	-	1.
Grating provided to gulleys	-	1.
General repairs	-	1.

The following Statutory Notices were served where informal action was not complied with:-

Public Health Act, 1936.

1. Under Section 39 - Notice by Local Authority requiring execution of works of drainage etc. in existing building	-	29.
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Public Health Act(Contd.)

2. Under Section 45 - Notice by Local Authority to put defective closets into repair	-	12.
3. Under Section 75 - Notice requiring provision of Dustbins	-	11.
4. Under Section 38 - Dangerous or dilapidated buildings and structures	-	1.
5. Under Section 93 - Abatement notice in respect of nuisance	-	17.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

1. Under Section 13(a) - Protection against contamination of food	-	1.
2. Under Section 13(b) - Work of a structural character	-	1.

Shops Act, 1934.

1. Notice of contravention of statutory requirements in respect of conveniences	-	5.
TOTAL		<u>77.</u>

Work done by Statutory action:-

Public Health Act, 1936.

Section 39 - Eavesgutters or rain water spouts repaired or renewed	-	17.
Drains renewed	-	1.
Water pipes repaired	-	2.
Wastepipes repaired	-	5.
W.C. pedestals renewed	-	8.
General repairs to W.C.	-	2.
Drains cleansed	-	1.
W.C. cisterns repaired	-	2.

The above were carried out by the owners, with one exception which was done by the Corporation in default.

Section 93 - Roofs repaired	-	9.
Plaster renewed	-	1.
Floors repaired	-	1.
Nuisances abated	-	6.
Section 75 - Bins provided	-	8.

Shops Act, 1934.

W.C. pedestal renewed	-	1.
Lavatory basin renewed	-	1.

(3) FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following tables in the form required by the Home Office, show the inspections made of factories with mechanical power, factories without mechanical and other premises, together with the defects found and remedied during the year:-

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions
as to Health.

P r e m i s e s. (1)	Number of		
	Inspect- ions (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	95	-	-
" without " "	35	-	-
Other Premises under the Act, including works building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises	-	-	-
TOTAL	130	-	-

Number of Main Factories other than Coal
Mines, Railways and Coal Staithes in the
Borough.

Factories on Register.	With Mechanical Power.	Without Mechanical Power.	TOTAL.
Acetylene Welding	1	4	5.
Boot and Shoe Repairers	15	1	16.
Bakchouses	14	5	19.
Blacksmiths and Tinsmiths	2	1	3.
Cabinet Making	2	3	5.
Corn Grinding	1	-	1.
Creamery	1	-	1.
Coppersmiths & Brassfinishers	2	-	2.
Plumbers	2	5	7.
Engineers	5	-	5.
Electrical Business	5	3	8.
Ice Creameries	4	1	5.
Gas Works	1	-	1.
Iron Foundries	1	-	1.
Joiners	8	3	11.
Letterpress Printing	5	-	5.
Mantle alteration	2	3	5.
Photography	-	1	1.
Pie and Sausage Making	4	1	5.
Sausage Making	13	3	16.
Signwriting	-	3	3.
Sawmills	2	-	2.
Sugar Confectioneries	1	-	1.
Shipbuilding Yard & Repairing Docks	1	-	1.
Tailoring	2	1	3.
Upholstory	1	1	2.
TOTAL	95.	39.	134.

All bakchouses were inspected regularly, special attention being paid to the cleanliness of the premises and utensils. Sanitary accommodation, including the provision of lavatory basins and towels and the regular collection for disposal of all trade refuse received the attention of the Department.

(4) SHOPS ACT, 1934-36.

A total of 754 shops were inspected during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. The ventilation and temperature of shops, sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences with other arrangements for the health and comfort of the shop workers were the main considerations.

(5) CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in operation in the district at the present time.

(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

General observations have been maintained during the year but it was not found necessary to recommend legislative action. Complaints were received however concerning smouldering pit heaps. The companies were approached and definite improvement obtained.

(7) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Vigorous efforts are still being maintained in the Borough for the eradication of the Bed Bug. During the year, 40 houses were cleansed of vermin. In some cases the infestation was only superficial, while in others it was extensive and entailed the removal of all skirtings, architraves, picture rails, wall papers etc. All surfaces were subjected to the flame of a blowlamp to destroy eggs and larvae prior to spraying with a reliable insecticide (Zaldecido).

(8) DISINFECTION.

The following table indicates the amount of disinfection carried out by the Department during the year. The disinfectant used is Formalin, sprayed by pneumatic sprays.

Bedding etc. disinfected at request of.-

Articles.	P.A.O.	A.F.S.	A.R.P.	H.M. Services	Owners	K.M. Hos- pital	TOTALS
Bedspreads	-	-	-	1	1	-	2.
Blankets	63	18	17	332	-	5	435.
Coats	-	-	2	-	-	-	2.
Coverlets	-	-	-	2	-	5	7.
Curtains	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.
Cushions	-	-	16	1	-	-	17.
Jackets	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.
Mattresses	22	10	-	3	1	4	40.
Pallliasses	-	-	-	8	-	-	8.
Pants	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.
Pillows	-	6	-	16	4	1	27.
Pyjamas	-	-	-	2	-	-	2.
Quilts	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.
Sheets	-	-	-	10	-	-	10.
Shirts	-	-	-	3	-	-	3.
Towels	-	-	-	3	-	-	3.
Overcoats	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.
Pillowcases	-	-	-	4	-	6	10.
Kits	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.
Files	-	-	13	-	-	-	13.
Log Books	-	-	14	-	-	-	14.
Bundles of Papers	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.

(9) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria was most prevalent during the year 1941, and necessitated many hundreds of inspections. Indeed, the high incidence of infectious diseases needed one man to be employed almost continuously on this work.

Cases of infectious diseases investigated	-	874.
Other visits made in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious diseases	-	880.
Cases of infectious diseases removed to hospital	-	361.
Houses disinfected after removal of cases of infectious disease. (Including bedding and personal clothing)	-	710.
Surgeries disinfected at request of Medical Practitioners	-	2.
Ambulances disinfected after removal of infectious disease	-	1.
Schools disinfected	-	1.
Air Raid Shelters disinfected:- (a) Public	-	2.
(b) Anderson	-	1.
Schoolgirls hats disinfected at request of Headmaster	-	22.
Nursing outfits disinfected at request of District Nursing Association	-	11.
Seamen's Kits disinfected at request of Port Health Authority	-	12.

669 Books were disinfected before being returned to libraries after being in contact with infectious disease.

Bedding destroyed at Owners request	-	32.
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(10) SCHOOLS.

Periodical inspection was made of the Schools throughout the Borough with special reference to the sanitary accommodation and drinking water fountains. Any defects found were reported to the appropriate department and were remedied forthwith.

(11) RESTAURANT KITCHENS IN CAFES.

Routine inspection was made of these premises. All were found to be satisfactory.

(12) PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

A systematic inspection of all places of public entertainment was carried out. One Notice, since complied with, was served.

(13) DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.

Demolition of a ruined Bakehouse, because of the dangerous state of the structure, was obtained after the service of a Statutory Notice.

(14) PIGGERIES.

Following the Government's appeal to the public to keep pigs and feed them from their kitchen wastes, the number of pig-keepers in the Borough has increased to 48. Visits of inspection were paid periodically to their premises.

(15) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The offensive trades in the Borough are:-

Fried Fish and Chips	-	25.
Tripery	-	1.
Rag and Bone Dealer	-	1.

Fried Fish Shops.-

Systematic inspections were made throughout the year and no complaints were received. The premises were found to be in a satisfactory state of cleanliness.

Tripery.-

Tripe boiling is carried on at one place within the Borough and periodical inspections were made. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

Rag and Bone Dealer.-

Only one Rag and Bone Dealer is registered with the Council. A few people travel the streets collecting old rags and bones but they have no premises for the storage of such articles which are taken to the registered Dealer immediately after collection.

One contravention was found during the year as follows:-

During the course of the year a Rag and Bone Dealer was found to be distributing toys from a cart in exchange for rags to children. The Dealer was approached and admitted the offence, but pleaded ignorance of the law. Some of the children who had received toys were found to be under fourteen years of age.

The Dealers parents, although aware that their son was out collecting rags and bones, denied all knowledge of any toys he had for distribution.

This offence was reported to the Committee who decided to prosecute, but it was felt that in view of the offender's youth, a warning would suffice. No further offence has been reported.

(16) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

During the year, one of the two registered Lodging Houses was closed. Systematic inspection of the other was made during the year, and the business was found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.

(17) RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Periodic outbreaks of rat infestation were brought to our notice during the year. Poison baits were laid down on Corporation property at regular intervals, the total for the year being as follows:-

Poison baits laid	(a) Albion Depot	-	60.
	(b) Slaughterhouse	-	40.
	(c) Private Houses	-	12.
	(d) Miscellaneous	-	80.
	TOTAL		<u>192.</u>

S E C T I O N D.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

Housing construction was at a stand-still during the year but the work of the overcrowding department had to be continued. All essential repairs were carried out under the Public Health Act.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR, 1941.

Houses erected during the year.-

	<u>With State Assistance.</u>	<u>Unaided.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
(a) By Local Authority	-	-	} Nil.
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	-	-	

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.-

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	4.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	-	30.
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head(1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	-	Nil.
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	1.
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	Nil.

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	-	3.
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.-

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which "Notices" were served requiring repairs	-	Nil.
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -		
(a) By Owners	-	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	-	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.-

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - | 330. |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices - | | |
| (a) By Owners | - | 69. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | - | 1. |
| | - | 70. |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Acts, 1936.-

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | - | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | Nil. |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936.-

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit | - | Nil. |

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|--------|
| A. | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | - | 420. |
| | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | - | 420. |
| | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | - | 2,584. |
| B. | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | - | 187. |
| C. | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | - | 89. |
| | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | - | 518. |
| | (iii) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in houses owned by the Local Authority (included in C(i)) | - | 10. |
| | (iv) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in the course of Slum Clearance operations | - | Nil. |
| D. | Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | - | Nil. |
| E. | Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.- | | |

Where Holdings are situated.	No. of Holdings.	No. of O/C Holdings.	O/C Percentage of Total No. of Holdings.	O/C Percentage of No. of Holdings in each area (Col. 1).
In Municipal Houses	1869	58	.62	3.10
In Areas Scheduled for Slum Clearance	1001	155	1.65	15.44
In Houses other than the above	6513	207	2.2	3.17
TOTALS	9383	420	4.47	-

In the following Tables the whole of the Slum Clearance work to date is shown:-

Extract from Health Department Records showing progress of Slum Clearance, years 1933 to 1941, including Clearance Areas Nos. 1 to 41 inclusive.

Sum Totals 1933 to 31st December, 1941.

Clearance Areas No. 1 to 41.	Houses	Families.	Persons	Occupied Shops	Other Buildings.
TOTALS	1476	1601	6360	26	22
Excluded from Areas by Minister of Health -	45	50	190	10	6
Totals Affected	1431	1551	6170	16	16

Rehousing - Progress up-to-date.

Houses with number of Bedrooms						Total Number of Houses Built.	Rehoused.	
1	2	3	4	5	6		Families.	Persons.
26.	258.	360.	32.	22.	8.	706.	676.	2,799.

Overcrowding Survey - "Housing Act" 1936.
(SEE APPENDIX A.)

Report on Overcrowding Survey
(SEE APPENDIX B.)

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.

The number of milk producers and retailers in the Borough at the end of the year was as follows:-

Registered wholesale Traders and Producers	-	15.
(Total number of cows at the above - 160).		
Registered Farms and other premises as Dairies	-	17.
Registered retail purveyors of milk	-	45.
Registered milkshops	-	27.
(Selling milk in sealed and stoppered bottles only).		

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

One Dealer produces tuberculin-tested milk in the Borough. Three retailers in the district sell tuberculin-tested milk.

Systematic inspection of the one pasteurising plant in the Borough was carried out during the year. Most of the milk pasteurised is obtained from outside districts.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Fifty samples taken during the year were examined for Bacillus Coli and Tubercle Bacilli at the County Laboratory. The Analyst's report shows that 11 of the samples were not satisfactory as regards the B.Coli content. Of these 11, 7 samples were produced outside the Borough. The Local Authorities from whose districts the milk came were notified of the unsatisfactory reports. Regarding the four unsatisfactory samples produced in the Borough, visits were made to the farms during the process of milking and advice was given on the best practicable means for the production of clean milk. Further samples of those which were unsatisfactory were repeated at frequent intervals until the milk reached a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Five samples contained tubercle bacilli and the County Medical Officer was notified accordingly.

The undermentioned applications were received during the year:-

Applications for registration as Cowkeeper and Wholesale		
Trader	-	2.
Applications for registration as Cowkeeper and Retail		
Purveyor	-	1.
Applications for registration as Retail Purveyor	-	2.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Applications received for renewal of licence to sell retail, milk with the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	-	5.
Applications received for renewal of licence to sell retail, milk with the special designation "Pasteurised"	-	2.

One farmer in the district decided that he would commence the production of Milk. Upon inspection of his premises it was found that extensive alterations would be necessary to make the premises fit. Extensive alterations were carried out to the Cowhouse under the direction and supervision of the Health Department staff. For example, the old standings were removed, walls knocked down and one long Cowhouse, capable of housing 18 head of cattle, was constructed. New standings were built, windows and ventilators installed, and the drainage overhauled.

The work proposed to be done, which was not completed at the end of the year, should make this one of the most up-to-date Cowhouses in the Borough. It is hoped that, with the end of hostilities, the farmer will proceed with the erection of sterilizing plant as originally intended.

Perhaps it may be pointed out that, at present, there is only one farm in the Borough producing a designated milk. The dairy herds of such farms are regularly inspected by the County Veterinary Inspectors and the farm buildings and plant are under the constant supervision of the County as well as the Borough Inspectors.

In the interests of Public Health, farmers are encouraged to undertake the production of designated milks.

(2) MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Blyth is a slaughtering centre for the Ministry of Food. During the year, 9,917 animals were slaughtered and inspected as recommended by Memo.62/Foods. Carcasses and organs were not allowed to leave the slaughterhouses until a post-mortem examination had been made. This entailed much work, inspections having to be carried out late at night and during the week-ends.

Representatives of the Ministry of Food have paid visits to the slaughterhouses while slaughtering and inspection was in progress. All expressed their entire satisfaction with the work carried out there.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year 1941.-

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Total number of Animals slaughtered during the year, 1941.

Month.	Cattle Other than Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	TOTAL.
January	108	5	-	929	96	1,138.
February	109	3	-	481	64	657.
March	76	2	5	225	51	359.
April	42	8	14	490	140	694.
May	119	4	7	398	189	717.
June	106	5	-	193	51	355.
July) August)	173	28	-	1,451	3	1,655.
September	131	9	-	802	1	943.
October	141	9	-	940	-	1,090.
November	72	3	-	672	3	750.
December	92	4	-	1,438	25	1,559.
	1,169	80	26	8,019	623*	9,917.

*54 of these were "Cottagers" Pigs.

Following the inspection of the above, it was found necessary to condemn the following:-

EDIBLE ORGANS.	CATTLE.		SHEEP.		PIGS.	
	No.	Weight in lbs	No.	Weight in lbs	No.	Weight in lbs
<u>ON ACCOUNT OF.-</u>						
<u>Abscesses.-</u>						
Heads and Tongues	-	-	3	12	-	-
Intestines	4	60	9	27	1	4
Kidneys	1	4	-	-	-	-
Livers	27	293	5	15	-	-
Lungs	25	293	10	10	2	4
Mesentery Fats	4	40	6	12	1	6
Plucks	-	-	7	51	1	7
Reticulums	1	4	-	-	-	-
Stomachs	1	2	5	15	-	-
Sweetbreads	1	2	-	-	-	-
<u>Actinomycosis.-</u>						
Heads and Tongues	5	158	-	-	-	-
<u>Bad Bleeding.-</u>						
Caul Fat	-	-	3	-	-	-
Heads	-	-	1	-	-	-
Intestines	-	-	3	-	-	-
Mesentery Fats	-	-	3	-	-	-
Plucks	-	-	2	-	-	-
Stomachs	-	-	3	-	-	-
Trotters	-	-	12	-	-	-
<u>Cirrhosis.-</u>						
Livers	141	1,828	11	31	5	15
Parts of Livers	380	1,652	5	5	-	-
<u>Congestion.-</u>						
Lungs	-	-	3	4	-	-
<u>Cysts.-</u>						
Kidneys	1	5	-	-	2	2
Livers	-	-	2	4	-	-
Spleens	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>Cloudy Swelling.-</u>						
Liver	-	-	-	-	1	2
<u>Inflammation.-</u>						
Intestines	1	20	4	14	-	-
Lungs	-	-	2	2	4	8
Mesentery Fats	1	20	4	14	-	-
Stomachs	-	-	3	9	-	-
<u>Necrosis.-</u>						
Parts of Livers	2	7	-	-	-	-
<u>Pneumonia.-</u>						
Lungs	-	-	1	21	4	8
Plucks	-	-	1	6	-	-
<u>Strongylus Rufescens.-</u>						
Lungs	-	-	12	19	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis.-</u>						
Heads and tongues	68	2,216	-	-	35	482
Hearts	4	16	-	-	-	-
Intestines	52	780	-	-	26	273
Livers	35	493	-	-	3	12
Lungs	153	1,682	-	-	2	4
Mesentery Fats	52	520	-	-	26	183
Plucks	-	-	-	-	7	82
Spleens	2	8	-	-	1	1
Stomachs	4	110	-	-	-	-
Sweetbreads	2	1½	-	-	-	-
Udders	7½	132	-	-	-	-
		9,346½		272		1,094

29.

In addition, it was found necessary to condemn the following:-

Substance.	On Account of.-	Weight.
1 Whole beef carcasses	Generalised Tuberculosis	2,460 lbs.
1 " " carcass	Septic Metritis	608 "
1 " " "	Dropsy	425 "
2 " " carcasses	Septicaemia	1,064 "
Beef	Tuberculosis	242 "
Loose Beef Fat	"	40 "
Heels	"	40 "
Beef	Bruising	116 "
"	Inflammation	6 "
"	Abscess	4 "
1 Whole calf carcass	Decomposition	73 "
1 " sheep "	Bad Bleeding	50 "
1 " " "	Peritonitis	40 "
2 " " "	Moribund	145 "
4 " " "	Oedema	158 "
4 " " "	Emaciation	160 "
Mutton	Bruising	45 "
"	Oedema	25 "
"	Adhesions	5 "
"	Abscesses	22 "
1 Whole sheep carcass	Dropsy	56 "
3 " pig carcasses	Generalised Tuberculosis	140 "
1 Hindquarter of Pork	Tuberculosis	58 "
Pork	Congestion	101 1/2 "
"	Bruising	12 "
TOTAL - 7 tons. 9 cwt. 99 lbs.		

Inspection of Frozen and Chilled Meat.

The following tables show the amount of frozen or chilled meat which came into the Borough, and the amount condemned:-

Quarters of Beef	-	3,923.
Sheep Carcasses	-	11,647.
Pigs	-	171.
Pork	-	89 Bags.
Veal	-	33 "

Imported Foodstuff condemned.

14 Sheep Carcasses	- Mould and decomposition	- 560 lbs.
Argentine Beef	- Bone Taint	- 36 "
Frozen Beef	- Bruising	- 26 "
Pickled Pigs Feet	- Decomposition	- 140 "
Frozen Livers	- "	- 54 "

Inspection of other foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs, on inspection, were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

Substance.	On Account of.-	Quantity.
Beans (braised)	Blown tin	1 tin.
" (haricot)	" "	1 "
Beef Stew	" "	1 "
Brawn	" "	1 "
Chopped Meat	" "	2 tins.
Fish Balls	" "	1 tin.
Fish Rolls	" "	9 tins.
Ham and tongue Roll	" "	2 "
Herrings	" "	7 "
Lunch Tongue	" "	1 tin.
Mixed Vegetables	" "	1 "
Ox Cheek	" "	2 tins.
Pineapple	" "	8 "
Pork Sausage	" "	1 tin.
Pork Luncheon Meat	" "	4 tins.
Salmon	" "	1 tin.
Salmon Roll	" "	4 tins.
Shepherds Pic	" "	1 tin.
Stewed Steak	" "	2 tins.
Soup (Vegetable)	" "	1 tin.
" (Oxtail)	" "	1 "
Sausages	" "	1 "
"Freet"	" "	1 "
Milk (Condensed)	" "	4 tins.
" (Evaporated)	" "	190 "
TOTAL -		248 "
Bread (White)	Contaminated with salt water	32 lbs.
Bacon	Decomposition	151 "
Chicken and Ham Roll	"	3 "
Cheese	Mould	20 "
Eggs	Decomposition	8 dozen.
Mussels	"	7 cwt.
Raisins (Turkish)	Fermentation	28 lbs.
Sausages	Decomposition	17 "
TOTAL -		2 cwt. 42 lbs.

The following foodstuffs had to be condemned as a result of damage by enemy action:-

Substance.	Quantity.
Butter	7½ lbs.
Cooking Fat Compound	10 ozs.
Custard Powder	6 packets.
Flour	28 lbs.
Ice-cream	20 gallons.
Jam	3 lbs.
Lard	14 lbs.
Rice	1½ lbs.
Salt	1 packet.
Sauce	2 bottles.
Self raising Flour	4 lbs.
Sugar	11½ lbs.
Sweets	9½ lbs.
Yeast	1½ lbs.

(3) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

All food preparing premises have been regularly and systematically inspected during the year. The premises include slaughterhouses, butchers shops, ice-cream manufactories and fishmongers shops.

(4) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

At the Slaughterhouses owned by the Corporation, several repairs were necessary during the year. It was reported that no sanitary accommodation was available for the slaughtermen and staff continually employed there. Suitable accommodation was provided in due course and has been greatly appreciated by all employees.

It was felt, however, that in spite of repairs and additions, the buildings are not being utilised to the best advantage. Towards the end of the year, a scheme was recommended calculated to bring the existing premises into line with other slaughterhouses in the district. Further, since it is believed that centralised slaughtering has come to stay, that it is desirable to adapt the present place to enable a higher standard of hygiene to be reached.

The following is a resumé of the proposal:-

The existing buildings were built as individual slaughterhouses, with lairage and slaughtering hall housed under the same roof. It is proposed to take down the existing lairage space, which is totally inadequate, and convert in the following manner.-

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|---|
| No. 1. | Slaughterhouse | - Convert into slaughtering hall for sheep. |
| " 2. | " | - Convert into lairage for Sheep. |
| " 3. | " | - Convert into slaughtering hall for sheep. |
| " 4. | " | - Convert into cooling hall and weighing hall. |
| " 5. | " | - Convert into cooling hall. |
| " 6. | " | - Convert into central slaughtering hall for cattle. |
| " 7. | " | - Convert into lairage for cattle. |
| " 8. | " | - Convert into lairage for cattle. |
| " 9. | " | - Convert into slaughterhouses for either cattle or pigs. |
| " 10. | " | - Convert into lairage for pigs. |

Slaughterhouses Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, would be provided with intercommunicating doors. Nos. 5 and 7 and 8 would communicate with No. 6, and Nos. 8, 9, and 10, would intercommunicate.

The advantage of this intercommunication is that the animals would not be in the same slaughterhouse while slaughtering is being carried on, for, after slaughter, the carcasses would be hung in a cooling hall, away from the lairage and slaughtering hall, thus preventing the risk of contamination.

The following new buildings would be required:-

1. A sheep lairage built on to the existing No.1. Slaughterhouse and communicating with it by means of a door.
2. A group of buildings consisting of the following:-
 - (a) A manure shed in which the offal and manure carts would be housed.
 - (b) A gut scraping room.
 - (c) A room in which to hang fats.
 - (d) An office.
 - (e) A mess room for the personnel of the slaughterhouses - in which the slaughtermen could hang their clothes and in which they could have their meals.
 - (f) A condemned meat room.

At present the gut-scraping is done in the same slaughterhouse in which the fats are hung. A most unsatisfactory, unhygienic practice.

It is hoped that it will be possible for these essential improvements to be put in hand during 1942.

(5) FOOD SAMPLING.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector, County of Northumberland Weights and Measures Department, for the following particulars of samples taken in the Borough during 1941:-

A total of 78 samples was taken of which 52 were of milk. The remainder were made up as follows:-

Baking Powder,	Gin,
Barlova,	Lenex,
Beer,	Margarine,
Butter,	Onion Powder,
Coffee,	Pea Flour,
Cocoa,	Rice,
Custard Powder,	Sauce,
Chicken soup with rice,	Semolina,
Cod Liver Oil,	Tinned apple juice,
Egg substitute powder	Whisky,
Fish Cakes,	Lard.

Of the 52 milk samples, 7 were found to be deficient in Fatty Solids or Non-Fatty Solids. Three of the deficient samples were obtained from supplies of milk delivered to Blyth Schools. The remaining four deficient samples were taken from milk delivered the next day to the school supplier. "Appeal to Cow" samples showed that some of the deficiencies were natural, being due to some defect on the part of the cows.

After careful consideration, it was decided not to take legal proceedings and a caution was issued. The suppliers agreed to refund the cost of analyses of all the samples taken during this investigation. This amounted to £24.15.0d.

With regard to certain of the substitutes set out in the above list, action was not taken because these samples had been duplicated in another part of the County and proceedings were already pending.

At the request of H.M. Customs and Excise Officer, 3 samples of Sherry were sent for analysis. The results proved that the Sherry was contaminated with salt water and oil and was unfit for consumption.

(6) SHELLFISH, ETC.

During the year, 7 cwt. of Mussels which were intended for bait had to be condemned on account of advanced putrefaction.

There is only one place in the Borough which sells fresh fish. The fish are examined regularly at the time of arrival and the premises periodically inspected.

(7) SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Two main provisions are contained in this Act:-

1. All slaughtermen should be licensed.
2. All animals (with certain exceptions) must be stunned with a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter.

Sheep are exempt from the second provision unless included by resolution of the Local Authority. The Council have, however, a Bye-Law which forbids the slaughter of sheep without previous stunning. During the year, it was found that one butcher was contravening the provisions of this Bye-law. The Council decided to prosecute and a conviction was obtained against the butcher concerned.

Applications for licences to slaughter were granted during the year:-

Licences to Slaughter	- 3.
Renewal of Licences to Slaughter	- 45.

(8) PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924-35.

The main provisions of these regulations are designed to secure (a) more adequate inspection of animals slaughtered in this country, and (b) improvements in the handling of transport and distribution of meat.

Market stalls, butchers vans and other premises where food is slaughtered, stored or handled in any way, were regularly visited by the Inspectorial staff to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

For example, 54 cottagers pigs were killed during the year, some being slaughtered in the Corporation Slaughterhouse but the majority on farms and other premises. This added greatly to the work of the Meat Inspector, whose duty it is to ensure that hygienic methods of slaughter and storage were obtained.

C o n c l u s i o n :-

The visits made to, and the types of factories and workshops in the Borough are mentioned elsewhere in this report. It is sufficient to say that it is always the endeavour of the Health Department staff to secure adequate and better sanitary accommodation in workshops and factories in the town. Regular inspection is made and defects remedied as quickly as possible. Personal contact with the owners, and managers, upon these matters is most essential and I am happy to report that good relations exist between the Inspectorial staff and those responsible for running the businesses which fall within the scope of the Factory Act, 1937.

There are only two outworkers in the town and regular inspection is made of their premises. Investigation has proved that they have not been involved in any way with the prevalence of infectious disease in the Borough.

Bakehouses receive systematic inspection to ensure that food is being hygienically handled and to encourage the premises being kept in a cleanly state.

Offices now come within the scope of the Sanitary Inspectors duties and, although regularly visited, no cause for complaint was found during the year.

S E C T I O N F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL.

More cases of Diphtheria were notified in Blyth during 1941 than in any year on record. Whooping Cough was prevalent also and caused a number of deaths, especially among young children. The slightly higher incidence of those diseases known to be more prevalent in war-time will be noted from the next Table, e.g. Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Tuberculosis. The Table indicates the relative frequency of notifiable diseases in the period 1935-1941 inclusive:-

	1941.		1940.		1939.		1938.		1937.		1936.		1935.		
	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	No. Notified	No. Deaths.	
Smallpox	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	
Scarlet Fever	24	1	30	-	95	1	128	-	129	-	96	-	127	1	
Diphtheria	300	20	44	3	63	5	36	4	37	1	65	1	35	2	
Erysipelas	10	-	16	-	34	-	33	2	19	3	21	1	21	-	
Para or Typhoid fever	Nil	-	Nil	-	3	-	2	-	Nil	-	1	1	1	-	
Pneumonia	392	23	68	26	45	14	44	16	76	27	64	18	80	21	
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	9	2	7	-	7	1	10	2	8	-	7	-	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	7	1	3	-	Nil	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	2	1	
Acute Polio-Myelitis	Nil	-	1	-	1	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	1	-	Nil	-	
Acute Enceph: Letharg	Nil	-	Nil	-	1	2	1	1	1	2	-	2	1	2	
Dysentery	1	-	18	2	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	
Tuberculosis (Resp'y)	44	17	38	31	47	24	38	20	35	16	36	28	32	22	
" (Other)	13	3	11	4	15	7	10	5	14	6	14	8	14	7	
Malaria	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	1	-	Nil	-	
Whooping Cough	299	4	6	-	4	-	(Not Notifiable)							-	-
Measles	77	1	75	2	(Not Notifiable)							-	-		
Food Poisoning	8	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	

Age Incidence of Notifiable Diseases

1941.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	Over 65	Totals
Diphtheria	2	3	9	17	18	115	75	46	12	2	1	-	-	300.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	3	9	4	-	1	2	-	-	1	24.
Measles	8	12	11	16	11	15	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	77.
Whooping Cough	25	35	39	51	46	98	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	299.
T.B. (Pul.)	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	11	9	8	6	3	1	44.
" (Other)	1	-	-	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	-	1	-	13.
Pneumonia	4	2	3	1	2	6	3	5	-	9	3	1	-	39.
E.C.S.M.	1	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	7.
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	4	1	2	10.
Ophth. Neon.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.
Puer. Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	6.
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1.
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	8.
TOTALS	47	55	64	87	81	251	96	70	28	26	17	6	5	833.

DIPHTHERIA.

The behaviour of Diphtheria during recent years, so far as it concerns Blyth is indicated in the Table which follows:-

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
No. of Notifications	35	65	37	36	63	44	300
" " Deaths	2	1	1	4	5	3	20
Fatality Rate	5.7%	1.5%	2.7%	11.1%	7.9%	6.8%	6.7%

Although rather more cases than usual occurred during the first 21 weeks of 1941 (32 cases), the epidemic proper commenced in the twentysecond week with a primary phase lasting 9 weeks; 58 cases, of whom 8 died, were recorded, giving a Fatality Rate of 13.8% and Average Weekly Notifications of 6.4 for the period.

The Peak Period lasted for 11 weeks (31st - 41st inclusive) during which 113 cases and 5 deaths were notified, yielding a Fatality Rate of 4.4% and Average Weekly Notifications at 10.3.

The Third Phase extended into the next year, but from the 42nd to the 52nd weeks of 1941 produced in these 11 weeks 97 cases and 3 deaths - the Fatality Rate for this period falling to 3.1% with Average Weekly Notifications dropping to 8.8.

Age Groups.	No. of cases.	No. of Deaths.	Fatality Rate.
0-1 years	2	1	} (49 cases 8 deaths). 16.3%
1-2 "	3	0	
2-3 "	9	0	
3-4 "	17	5	
4-5 "	18	2	
5-10 "	115	7	6.1%
10-15 "	75	2	2.66%
Over 15 yrs.	61	3	4.9%
TOTAL.	300	20	6.66%

It will be noted that the 5-10 age group was most seriously affected. Fewer children under 5 years were attacked than other age groups up to school-leaving age, but the Fatality Rate was considerably greater among the younger children; facts which correspond closely with experience in other areas.

	Treated in Hospital.	Treated at Home.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria Cases	295	5	300.
Convalescent Carriers (VT+)	10	1	11.
Healthy Carriers (VT+)	35	1	36.

The general policy was to isolate in hospital all cases and virulent carriers, but where suitable conditions existed, a few patients were treated at home.

All close contacts below school-leaving age were urged to adopt a state of quarantine, school-children being excluded from school, until a negative report of their throat-swabs had been received. Where contacts over school-leaving age were discovered among those likely to spread the disease, e.g. assistants in food shops, dairy workers, cinema attendants, etc., these too were asked to observe a state of quarantine until negative reports were furnished. Whole classes of school-children were throat-swabbed when (a) a teacher was notified as a case and (b) when several cases from the same class were reported within a few days.

Convalescent patients under school-leaving age were subjected to special medical examinations soon after release from home isolation or within a few days of their discharge from hospital. They were not finally released from quarantine until another negative throat-swab was obtained, or returned to school until their general health justified it.

Throat-swabbing was, for the most part, limited to children, the members of the community most likely to spread the disease among susceptibles. Further, only the carriers (convalescent and healthy) whose throat swabs gave positive virulence reactions to biological tests were isolated. The following table classifies the results of throat-swabs taken by the Health Department and does not include any taken by family doctors.

	Of Contacts.		Of Conval- escents.		Of children attending Minor Ailments.		TOTAL.	
	VT+	Negative or VT-	VT+	Negative or VT-	VT+	Negative or VT-	VT+	Negative or VT-
	36	1,262	11	203	4	18	51	1,483
TOTALS	1,298.		214.		22.		1,534.	

At one time, the possibility of the spread of the infection by means of milk was considered, as most of the families affected were supplied by a single dairy; it was realised, however, that the firm supplied milk to the majority of homes in the area. Altogether 13 milk samples from a number of different vendors were examined bacteriologically and the throats of 30 dairy operatives were swabbed for the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli. In neither milk samples nor throat-swabs were the organisms found.

Commentary.-

Blyth always has a certain amount of Diphtheria, but the factor or factors leading to this more severe outbreak have not been found. It is not thought that war conditions are responsible to any great extent, since food supplies are adequate, and the nutritional state of the children is not unsatisfactory compared with other industrial towns. Lack of ventilation in homes due to "black-out" arrangements may have some influence. The old fashioned belief that bad smells cause Diphtheria still has a few adherents, but it can be discounted in the light of present-day knowledge.

"Shelter-life" as such does not exist in Blyth, nor can the temporary herding of people in communal shelters be incriminated, because "Alert" periods during the year were neither frequent enough nor of sufficient duration to justify such a conclusion.

In some measure, the spread of the infection must be attributed to parents ignoring the instructions repeatedly given concerning quarantine measures. On more than one occasion doctors complained that suspected cases were allowed visitors, or the patient himself had to be sought from a neighbour's home. The Sanitary Inspectors reported children, supposed to be in quarantine, playing freely in the streets with other children.

Some of the earlier deaths were unquestionably due to parents not realising the serious nature of their children's illnesses and thus failing to send sufficiently early for medical assistance.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK.

In June it was reported that five patients had been admitted to the Local Hospital with symptoms of Food Poisoning. Investigations revealed that of 47 guests attending a Wedding Tea, five suffered severely and other five developed mild symptoms only.

Cooked Tongue Sandwiches was the only item on the menu consumed by all patients. A number of other guests who ate tongue sandwiches too, and several who did not, were unaffected. On the other hand, three members of a family of five, having eaten for lunch on the same day, portions of the tongue from which the sandwiches were made, were already admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. A full account of the investigations made and the results of a number of bacteriological examinations appears elsewhere.

All the patients recovered, those in Hospital being discharged within one week of admission.

SCABIES.

Like many other industrial districts, Blyth produced very many cases of Scabies during 1941. It is not clearly understood why such a great increase should occur in towns, particularly since much of our previous knowledge of the spread of the disease has been found to be incorrect by the published findings of investigators working under the direction of the Medical Research Council. The infestation of several members of the same house-hold from a common source is readily appreciated but it is difficult to attach much importance to the probability of the condition being spread from one home to another through the medium of, say, school-children. Yet it seems to happen. Scabies was introduced into many households by Service members and War-workers returning on leave with the disease, and a few dirty families finding their way into the town added to the already existing reservoir. Lack of attention to matters of personal hygiene influences the development of the disease and indirectly may help it to spread. Herein lies the danger of too rigid a rationing of soap and too much stress being laid upon limiting bath water as a means of economising in fuel.

The Scabies Order, 1941, gave very full powers to Local Authorities. Unfortunately, in small places like Blyth, facilities are so limited that to apply the Order fully is impracticable. Our efforts have been restricted to the treatment of children, while anyone over school-leaving age has been advised to see their family Doctor. Baths and the application of a Benzyl Benzoate preparation are carried out at Wellington House and a system of home visiting by a Nurse and regular medical inspections of patients, was introduced. Earlier in this Report will be found an account of the amount of work done for pre-school children. The Annual Report of the School Medical Officer describes the activities of the Scabies Clinic in respect of school-children.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

State of Immunisation at the end of 1941.

	Estimated child population.	Number fully Immunised.	Percentage.
Under 5 years	2,559	590	23%
5-15 years	5,061	2,587	51.1%
TOTAL	7,620	3,177	41.7%

It is true that we should like to see a larger proportion of children immunised. Unfortunately much of the reluctance on the part of parents to have their children treated was due to the appearance in the local press of adverse comments by a former resident. Despite this antagonism, more children were protected against Diphtheria in 1941 than in previous years (See accompanying Graph). The figures given here take no account of the number of children treated by their own doctors, details of which are not available.

	Children under School age.	School children.
First Doses	652	947
Completed treatment	614	929

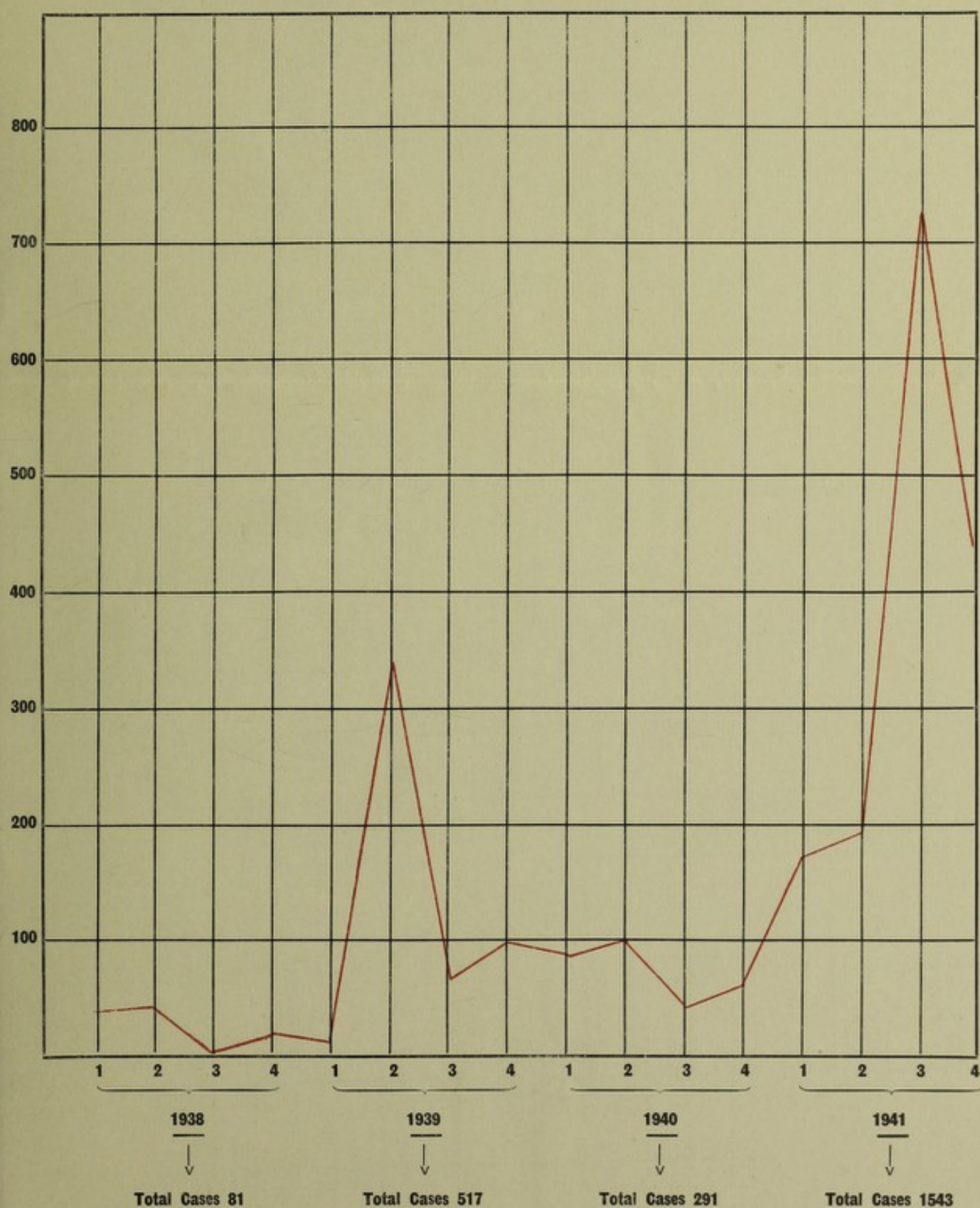
Number of children immunised during 1941 = 1,543.

The "two-shot" method has been used here for some years, 0.2 c.c. of Alum Precipitated Toxoid, provided by the Ministry of Health, at the first attendance, followed four weeks later by a dose of 0.5 c.c.

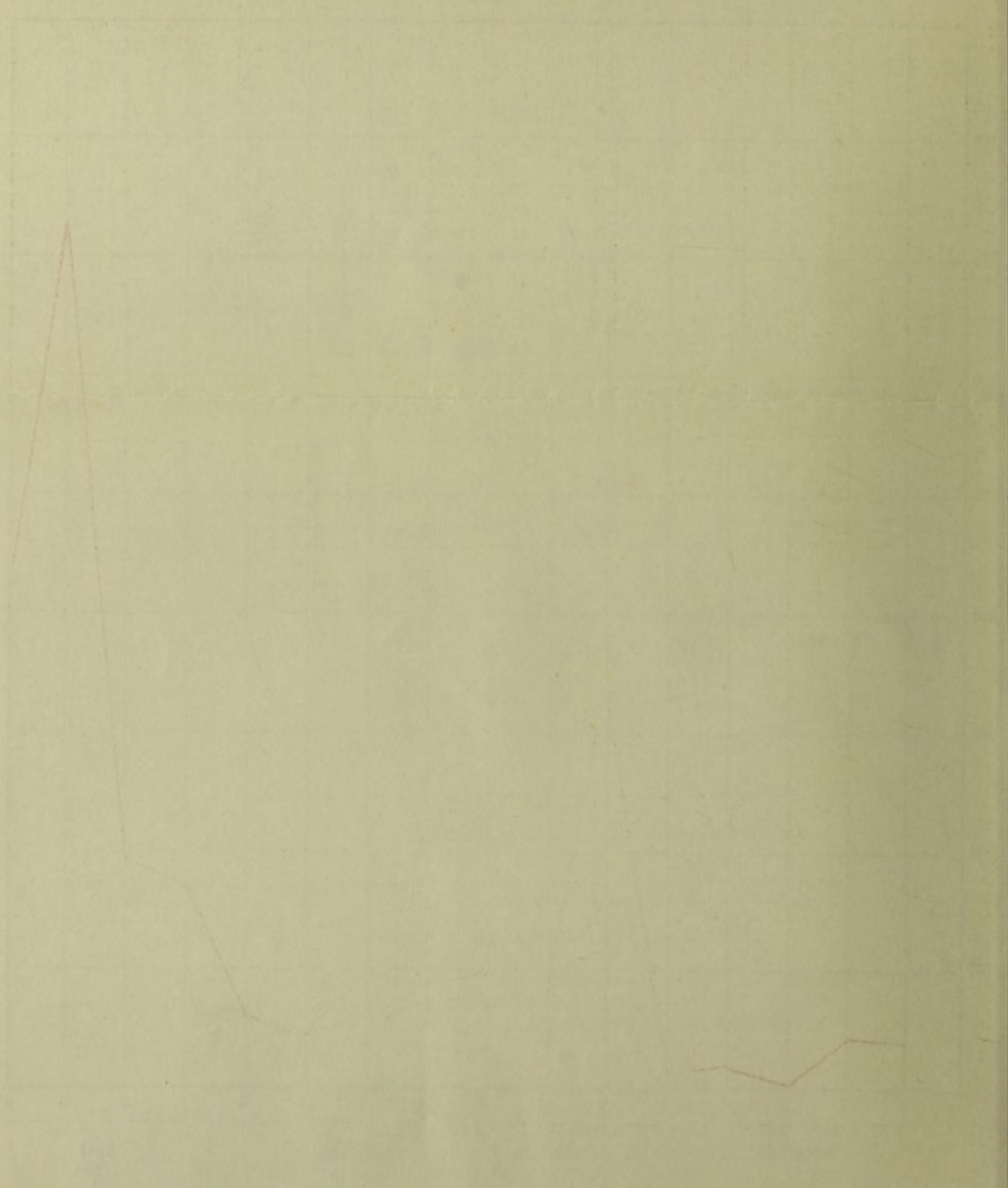
It is gratifying to be able to report that not a single child of more than 3,000 artificially immunised under the Authority's Scheme died during the epidemic of 1941, and only 20 fully immunised developed clinical symptoms, none of the patients becoming even seriously ill.

Propaganda - Full use is made of posters and pamphlets issued by the Central Council for Health Education. A short pamphlet from the Health Department was distributed too.

Children under 15 years immunized - i.e., Completed Treatment.



Collection made by J. H. ...



Posters are displayed:-

On the Empire Marketing Board's frame, transferred to a more centrally placed site.

In Clinics and various offices and waiting rooms of the Authority's offices.

In lounges of places of entertainment.

Pamphlets are distributed from:-

Schools, clinics and the counters of the Authority's offices.

Verbal advice is given:-

At Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics by Nurses and Doctors.

During home visits by Sanitary Inspectors and Nurses.

By Head Teachers, especially to parents of school entrants, by School Attendance Officers and the staff of the District Nursing Association.

Defaulting families are "followed up" by Health Visitors who bring to bear their greatest persuasive powers often with encouraging success.

TUBERCULOSIS.

We are grateful for the very helpful co-operation of the County Council's Tuberculosis Service, whose clinics are held every Tuesday morning at their Dispensary in Middleton Street.

Tuberculosis was more frequently notified than in most recent years but the number of deaths is fewer.

Tuberculosis - 1941.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	4	2	4	1	-	-	2	1
15-25	6	6	1	1	-	4	-	-
25-35	4	4	1	-	2	4*	-	-
35-45	7	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
45-55	3	3	-	-	2	2*	-	-
55-65	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	28.	16.	11.	2.	7.	10.	2.	1.

*Includes Non-Notified T.B. = 2 Deaths.

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION, DURING 1941:-

"Scabies treated by a Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion",
I.F.Mackenzie, M.B.,D.P.H.,D.T.M. & H.
1941 - British Medical Journal - 4211, page 403.

"Outbreak of Food Poisoning due to Cooked Tongue",
J.Stokoe, M.D.,B.Hy.,D.P.H. and A.I.Mosser, M.A.,M.B.,D.P.H.
1941 - The Medical Officer - LXVI. 10., page 77.

APPENDIX A.

OVERCROWDING SURVEY - "HOUSING ACT" 1936.

WARDS.-	BESSIDE		CROFT		DELAVAL		PLESSEY		RIDLEY		WATERLOO		WHOLE BOROUGH COUNCIL HOUSES WITHOUT OR CLEARANCE AREAS.		ALL COUNCIL HOUSES IN BOROUGH.		WHOLE BOROUGH	
	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%	Hold- ings.	%
O/C	43	7.77	65	5.24	7	2.26	27	2.97	26	1.48	39	2.24	207	3.18				
U/C	510	92.23	1175	94.76	304	97.74	882	97.03	1734	98.52	1701	97.76	6206	96.72				
TOTAL	553	100%	1240	100%	311	100%	909	100%	1760	100%	1740	100%	6513	100%				
ALL CLEARANCE AREA HOLDINGS IN BOROUGH.																		
O/C	58	16.86	25	15.92	10	12.99	27	21.09	19	13.01	16	10.74	155	15.48				
U/C	286	83.14	132	84.08	67	87.01	101	78.91	127	86.99	133	89.26	846	84.52				
TOTAL	344	100%	157	100%	77	100%	128	100%	146	100%	149	100%	1001	100%				
W.M.																		
O/C	3	7.31	20	5.46	-	-	35	3.27	-	-	-	-			58	3.1		
U/C	38	92.69	344	94.54	483	100.0	1041	96.73	-	-	5	100.0			1811	96.9		
TOTAL	41	100%	364	100%	483	100%	1076	100%	-	-	5	100%			1869	100%		
COUNCIL HOUSES SUM TOTAL.																		
O/C	104	11.08	110	6.24	17	2.2	89	4.89	45	2.37	55	2.9	362	4.82	58	3.1		
U/C	834	88.92	1651	93.76	754	97.8	2024	95.61	1861	97.63	1839	97.1	7152	95.18	1811	96.9		
TOTAL	938	100%	1761	100%	771	100%	2113	100%	1906	100%	1894	100%	7514	100%	1869	100%		
SUM TOTAL.																		
O/C	104	11.08	110	6.24	17	2.2	89	4.89	45	2.37	55	2.9	362	4.82	58	3.1	420	4.47
U/C	834	88.92	1651	93.76	754	97.8	2024	95.61	1861	97.63	1839	97.1	7152	95.18	1811	96.9	8963	95.53
TOTAL	938	100%	1761	100%	771	100%	2113	100%	1906	100%	1894	100%	7514	100%	1869	100%	9383	100%

KEY.- O/C = Overcrowded; U/C = Uncrowded;
B.S. = Bebside Slum; B.M. = Bebside Municipal.

FAMILIES HOUSED AT MINIMUM STANDARD = 406.

REPORT ON OVERCROWDING SURVEY - BOROUGH OF BLYTH 1941.

APPENDIX B.

FAMILIES	NUMBER OF FAMILIES CONTAINING THE EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF PERSONS SHOWN AT THE HEAD OF EACH COLUMN.													TOTAL	OVER-CROWDED	% OVER-CROWDED.	BORDERLINE CASES.
	Up to 1.	1½ and 2.	2½ and 3.	3½ and 4.	4½ and 5.	5½ and 6.	6½ and 7.	7½ and 8.	8½ and 9.	9½ and 10.	10½ and 11.	11½ and 12.	12½ and over				
NUMBER OF UNITS.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.					
TOTAL FAMILIES	622	2415	2912	1815	903	444	164	63	27	12	2	4	-	9383		4.47	Families housed at minimum standard 406.
No. of Overcrowded Families in the previous line.	-	1	20	126	58	113	52	27	17	5	1	-	-	420			
DWELLINGS.	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS WITH THE "PERMITTED NUMBER" SHOWN AT THE HEAD OF EACH COLUMN.																
PERMITTED NUMBERS	1.	1½ and 2.	2½ and 3.	3½ and 4.	4½ and 5.	5½ and 6.	6½ and 7.	7½ and 8.	8½ and 9.	9½ and 10.	10½ and 11.	11½ and 12.	12½ and over				
TOTAL DWELLINGS	2	156	1171	79	3162	962	992	1314	711	346	248	72	191	9303	420		Each "Holding" constitutes a "Dwelling".
No. of dwellings overcrowded in previous line.	1	22	187	1	130	45	20	10	3	1	-	-	-	-			

"Persons" means "Units" i.e.,
i.e. - Adults

Children under 10 years of age = 1 Unit.
Children under 12 months not counted. = ½ Unit.

TABLE SHOWING OVERCROWDING FIGURES FOR SUCCESSIVE YEARS.		
Year.	Number Over-Crowded.	% Over-Crowded.
1935	985	10.99.
1936	867	9.14.
1937	564	5.93.
1938	489	5.12.
1939	376	3.93.
1940	322	3.35.
1941	420	4.47.

