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BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1952

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"DINSDALE,"
MARINE TERRACE,
BLYTH,
NORTHUMBERLAND.





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ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Inspector

1911

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: ALDERMAN DONNACHIE.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR BARKER, G. W.

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN CURRY.

COUNCILLOR ALLISON.

„ BETHAM.

„ ELDER.

„ HEPPLE.

„ KAY.

„ KENNEDY.

„ LAING.

„ MARLEY.

COUNCILLOR RHODES.

„ ROBSON.

„ RUTHERFORD.

„ SHEPHERD.

„ SMITH.

„ STEEL.

„ SUMMERS.

„ TANSEY.

„ TWEDDLE.

„ WATSON.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1952

Medical Officer of HealthA. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary InspectorG. A. GILL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary InspectorN. F. GODFREY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary InspectorW. ALLAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Temporary ClerkC. FELLOWS.

Temporary Shorthand TypistB. I. REDBURN.

Rodent OfficerB. WADE.

BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1952

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1952.

The population was 34,010 which was a decrease of 100 from 1951.

The Birth Rate fell from 19.7 per 1,000 estimated population to 18.17. This was still considerably above the birth rate for the country which was 15.3 per thousand.

The Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under one year) was 17.8 per 1,000 live births. Not only is this a record low figure for Blyth but it must be one of the lowest figures in the country. There were 11 infant deaths—6 of these being under one month. It is hoped that this trend may be maintained but the figures are so exceptional it will be difficult to achieve this.

Tuberculosis continues to be the most worrying infectious disease in the Borough. This is discussed at length later in the report.

For the third successive year no cases of diptheria have been notified.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest during the year and to the Officials of the other Corporation departments for their co-operation and assistance.

The staff of the Health Department have again worked as a team and are to be congratulated for their unremitting efforts.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Blyth.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

POPULATION.—The registrar-general's estimated mid-1952 population was 34,010. It is disappointing that there has been no increase in population in a community which provides such a variety of occupations.

UNCORRECTED BIRTH RATE.—The birth rate fell from 19.7 per 1,000 population in 1951 to 18.17 in 1952.

CRUDE DEATH RATE.—The death rate fell from 13.28 per 1,000 population in 1951 to 10.3 per 1,000 estimated home population in 1952.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.—(Deaths of infants under 1 year). The very low incidence of infant mortality—a record in every sense—may have been a fortunate incident. I feel, however, that there must be contributory factors and I would like to think that some of these might be:—

The excellent maternity service and high degree of skill provided by the general practitioners in Blyth.

The facilities provided for ante natal examination at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and the care and interest of the midwives.

The intensive follow up of all infants and especially ailing ones by the Health Visitors.

I do not think that the opening of a maternity hospital in Blyth has any significance in reducing the infant mortality.

In a country with an ageing population it is of vital importance to preserve infant life.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE.—(Deaths of infants under 1 month). The neo-natal death rate of 9.7 per 1,000 births was also the lowest recorded in Blyth. There were 6 neo-natal deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—There were no maternal deaths in Blyth during 1952.

DEATHS.—Cardio-vascular disease was still the commonest cause of death—141 (40 per cent. of total deaths) made up of 84 males (41 per cent. of male deaths) and 57 females (38 per cent. of female deaths).

Cancer was the next commonest cause—77 deaths (21.8 per cent. of the total deaths) made up of 42 males and 35 females, there being 20.5 per cent. and 24 per cent. of the male and female deaths respectively.

Deaths from pulmonary causes, including pulmonary tuberculosis accounted for 33 deaths (9.3 per cent. of the total deaths).

The greatest number of deaths were recorded in January and the fewest in June.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—There was a considerable drop in the infectious disease notifications—measles and whooping cough again falling, there being 346 and 45 cases respectively.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications rose from 88 to 96.

There were no cases of typhoid, or diptheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 634 cases of infectious disease notified in Blyth during 1952—a decrease of 166 from 1951.

MEASLES.—This was the commonest infectious disease there being 346 cases. There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—There were 45 notifications of this disease and no deaths. This is the lowest figure in the last 10 years. Immunisation against this disease is stressed, for there is no doubt that the disease is less severe if it is not prevented. Whooping Cough is a most debilitating disease and everything possible should be done to prevent its occurrence.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 65 cases of scarlet fever. There were no deaths.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.—There were two cases of meningococcal infection with one death.

POLIOMYELITIS.—There was one case of this disease notified. There were no deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—There were three notifications of puerperal pyrexia. These were the first for two years.

FOOD POISONING.—There were twenty-four notifications of food poisoning. There were no deaths. The outbreaks are discussed in another part of the report.

DIPHTHERIA.—For the third year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria. This is due to the very high immunisation rate that exists in the Borough. Every effort will be made to maintain this.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 96 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis and 7 notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

At the end of 1952 there were 440 cases of tuberculosis on the register—391 pulmonary, 49 non-pulmonary.

There were 11 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary. This is a considerable reduction from 1951 when the figures were 19 and 4 respectively.

Tuberculosis in Blyth is far from satisfactory in spite of the increasing amount of work performed by the Chest Clinic. The staff there, are fully alive to the fact that Blyth is a black spot as far as this disease is concerned and this in spite of the regular routine examinations carried out on patients and contacts. A new feature in the campaign against this disease is the introduction of two sessions—one on Friday evenings and one on Saturday mornings when patients can be x-rayed by a miniature camera by request—either from their doctor, nurse, M.O.H., etc., without having to see or have an appointment with the chest physician and the patient's doctor is informed if there is any lesion present. It is a quick method of dealing with a population already tuberculosis conscious and it is an excellent method for dealing with organised groups like ambulance drivers, home helps, etc. I would like to see the Education Department make use of it especially for their staffs. I feel that adults who are in such close contact with large numbers of children should be 100 per cent. certain that they are free from disease. I cannot imagine that anyone who is sufficiently interested in children to become a teacher, would refuse to have x-ray examinations at regular intervals.

In spite of all that is being done to combat tuberculosis I am certain that there are undiscovered reservoirs of the disease in the community. Those undiscovered infected

pockets may well be responsible for the failure to make the same headway against the disease in Blyth as in other parts of the county.

I think that it is only just to include a word about the Blyth Tuberculosis After Care Committee. This Committee has done much to help unfortunate patients and families. It helps relatives with travelling expenses, patients with extra milk, clothing and bedding where their income has been considerably reduced. The Committee have taken an active interest in the Blyth patients in sanatoria and have done much to help in their re-habilitation. Their work will be needed for some considerable time to come.

Case Rate per 1,000 population:—

1947—8.1

1948—7.5

1949—8.1

1950—9.7

1951—10.2

1952—12.9

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948,
Section 47 and the NATIONAL ASSISTANCE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.**

In 1952 one person was removed to hospital under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. This was a woman, living alone in filthy, unhygienic conditions. She was in a state of semi-starvation and was suspected of having a malignant condition of her mouth.

She refused all offers of hospital accommodation and it was felt necessary to have her removed under a magistrates order for her own safety. She was seen by a magistrate who was satisfied that the request of her own doctor and the Medical Officer was reasonable and the order under the above Act was made.

The woman remained in hospital quite contented until her death 5 months later.

In response to requests by general practitioners many visits were made to aged persons and to chronic sick. Where there were relatives, every effort was made to get them to attend to the needs of the old people with the assistance of the County Nursing Services and the Home Help Service. Two persons were removed to Part III accommodation at the request of the Medical Officer—both single men living alone. Nine persons, two men and seven women were admitted to the chronic sick wards after they had been seen by the Medical Officer. They were all living alone or had reached a state, which was beyond the resources of the family and district nurse, and the only answer was admission to hospital. These were voluntary admissions.

FOOD POISONING

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in Blyth during 1952. One occurred in March and the other in July.

The Health Department was informed of an outbreak of gastro enteritis at Cowpen on 2nd March, 1952. Investigation revealed that a christening party had been held on that day and that 33 persons had eaten food at the party. Of these, 26 were affected with the signs and symptoms of food poisoning. Some of the cases showed marked prostration, shock, and severe diarrhoea.

The onset of symptoms varied from 3 to 16½ hours but the average time was 5-6 hours—indicating the probability of pre-formed toxin. The meal consisted of spam, jellied pork—both obtained from shops in Blyth—and pease pudding made at the house in question. Of the 33 persons at risk one person only ate spam, pork and pease pudding without ill effects. 26 persons ate pease pudding and were all affected. A baby aged 1 year ate some spam with no ill effects. One person ate pease pudding only and was affected.

Of the 7 not affected, 6 had no spam, pork or pease pudding—the other being the person unaffected in spite of eating the whole meal.

No other cases of food poisoning likely to be connected with the spam or pork were reported and careful investigations were made at the shops concerned. These establishments were completely exonerated. The presumptive evidence appeared to be that the pease pudding was the offending food.

As in many of these cases no spam or pork remained for investigation. Specimens of these from the shops concerned, however, produced no pathogens.

All stools of affected persons were negative on laboratory examination for food poisoning organisms.

A sample of the pease pudding was obtained and produced a mixed growth of Type I faecal coli, hæmolytic streptococci and micrococci.

The standard of hygiene in the home left much to be desired.

One fact that was discovered from the stool examinations was that 8 persons were affected with shigella sonnei.

On the 3rd July notification was received of suspected cases of food poisoning. Six cases were identified as having the signs and symptoms of this disease.

The cases occurred in three families and the common food was discovered to be pork pies. No-one in the families concerned was affected who had not eaten the pies.

The pies were made by a Glasgow firm on 24th June and despatched to Newcastle that night. They were delivered to the shop on the 25th. This was a holiday week and some of the pies were not sold until the 26th.

The outbreak was not confined to Blyth but occurred in other towns wherever this batch of pies had been delivered.

Salmonella Typhimurium was isolated from the stools of the patients. The Vi phage typing was 2c.

A pie was obtained in Bedlington where there was a similar outbreak and Salmonella Typhimurium was cultured from it. The Vi phage typing was 2c.

This was a most satisfactory conclusion to such an outbreak.

Later information revealed that the infection appeared to have originated from a worker in the bakery who was found to be a carrier of the disease.

SICK BENEFIT SCHEME

During the year 1952, 258 workmen lost work through sickness. Ninety-six were seen at the Health Department and most cases were seen on more than one occasion.

	1950	1951	1952
Number of workmen sick	129	197	258
Number of days lost by sickness (six day week)	3,672	4,635	7,403½
Number of workmen employed	255	440	491
Average length of time off sick	28½	24	28½
Percentage of workmen sick during the year	50%	44·8%	52·5%
Number of days lost per 100 workmen employed	1,400	1,053	1,508

Number of days off sick.	Number of workmen off sick for that period.		
	1950	1951	1952
1—3	9	15	13
4—7	14	29	32
8—14	26	32	44
15—21	20	35	39
22—28	12	18	22
29—35	13	13	21
36—42	5	9	19
43—49	3	10	8
50—56	5	5	9
57—63	2	7	5
64—70	6	8	7
71—77	5	1	5
78—84	8	3	5
85+	1	11	29
	<u>129</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>258</u>

The commonest period of absence is 2—3 weeks.

The commonest cause of absence was asthma and bronchitis. Intravertebral disc lesions, fibrositis, lumbago and sciatica was the next commonest group.

There can be no doubt that the sick benefit scheme must be giving rise to some anxiety. 1952 was not a year marked by any great influenza epidemic, yet the numbers of workmen sick rose alarmingly. The number of days lost increased by 2,700 while the men employed increased by only 51.

The number of days lost per 100 workmen employed fell in 1951 but rose to 1,508 in 1952.

The sick benefit scheme is an excellent one for the ordinary conscientious worker but it lays itself open to gross abuse by the unscrupulous worker.

Most of the workers reporting for examination at the Health Department were or had been genuinely sick. Some might have returned to work had they not been receiving benefits, but very few. A great number of men go sick for short periods when it is impossible to ascertain whether their incapacity is genuine or not—and they return to work immediately they are notified to attend for examination.

I would recommend the Council to consider the suggestion of not paying sick benefit for less than four days off work. This would mean that the worker would have to be seen by his own doctor in order to qualify for National Health Benefit. I am certain that this would cut out much of the abuse that exists.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

AREA.—No Change. ACREAGE.—6,487.

POPULATION.—Registrar-General's Estimate, 34,010.

RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1952).—£179,663.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (estimated).—£701.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Births 1.02 Deaths 1.15.

	1952	1951
The uncorrected birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	18.2	19.7
The standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	18.56	20.09
The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population ...	10.3	13.28
The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	11.84	15.27
The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	17.80	31.15
The Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (dying in 4 weeks) per 1,000 Births	9.70	14.83
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	17.48	17.4
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population ..	0.38	0.65
Maternal Mortality	Nil.	Nil.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Number of Births (Live) .	705	658	764	858	737	708	660	674	618
Number of Deaths	397	394	440	469	362	422	417	453	352
Number of Births in excess of Deaths	308	264	324	389	375	286	243	221	266

Infantile Deaths and Infantile Mortality Rates for Ten Year Period 1943-1952

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Deaths	39	50	38	48	45	40	28	31	21	11
Infant Mortality Rate	64.5	70.9	57.7	62.8	52.4	54.2	39.5	46.9	31.15	17.80

The principal causes of Infant Deaths were as follows:—

Gastro-Enteritis	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1
Birth Trauma	1 (Neo-Natal)..... 1
Lobar Pneumonia with new born ..	1 (Neo-Natal)..... 1
Broncho Pneumonia	2
Septicæmia of new born	1 (Neo-Natal)..... 1
Dehydration	1
Prematurity	2 (Neo-Natal)..... 2
Myelomeningocele	1 (Neo-Natal)..... 1
	6 (Neo-Natal)..... 11

Neo-Natal Deaths (Infants who died within 4 weeks).

INFANT DEATHS

POSSIBLY AVOIDABLE.		UNAVOIDABLE.	
Gastro-Enteritis	1	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1
Lobar Pneumonia	1	Birth Trauma	1
Broncho Pneumonia	2	Septicæmia of New born	1
Dehydration	1	Prematurity	2
		Myelomeningocele	1
	—		—
	5		6
	—		—

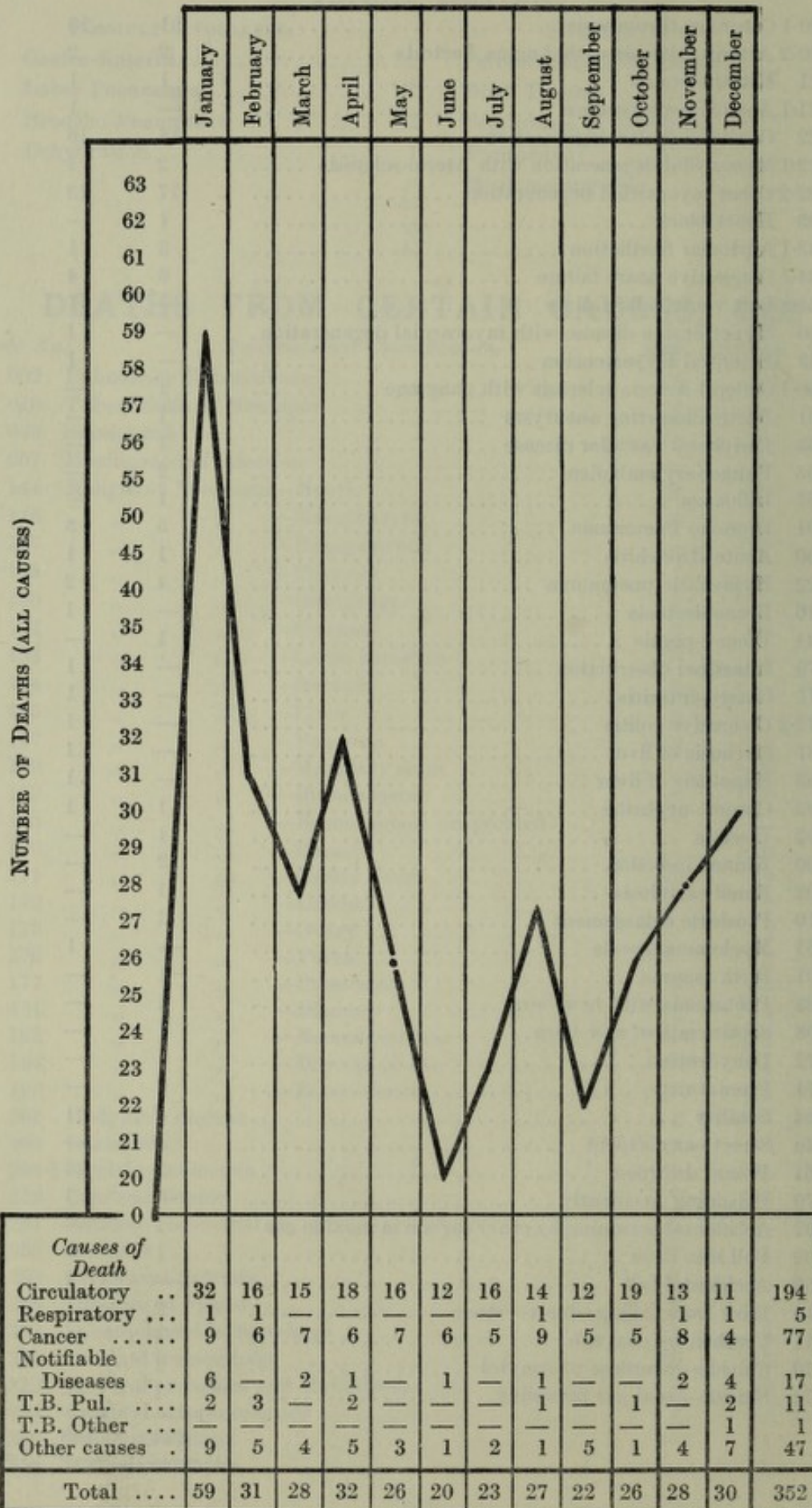
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1952

Code No.	International Classification.	Male.	Female.	Total.
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	2	11
010	Tuberculosis of Meninges	1	—	1
053	Septicæmia	—	1	1
057	Meningococcal infection	—	1	1
144	Malignant Neoplasm—Mouth	2	—	2
146	„ „ —Nasopharynx	1	—	1
147	„ „ —Hypopharynx	—	1	1
148	„ „ —Pharynx	1	—	1
150	„ „ —Oesophagus	1	2	3
151	„ „ —Stomach	7	6	13
153	„ „ —Large Intestine	6	5	11
154	„ „ —Rectum	4	—	4
155	„ „ —Liver	3	—	3
157	„ „ —Pancreas	4	1	5
160	„ „ —Maxillary sinus	—	1	1
162	„ „ —Bronchogenic	5	1	6
163	„ „ —Bronchogenic unspecified.....	1	—	1
170	„ „ —Breast	—	6	6
171	„ „ —Cervix Uteri	—	3	3
172	„ „ —Uterus	—	2	2
175	„ „ —Ovary	—	2	2
176	„ „ —Vulva	—	1	1
177	„ „ —Prostrate	5	—	5
181	„ „ —Bladder	2	1	3
193	„ „ —Neuroblastoma	—	1	1
194	„ „ —Thyroid gland	—	1	1
196	„ „ —Bone—femur	—	1	1
201	Hodgkin's disease	2	—	2
204	Leukæmia	2	—	2
204.1	Myeloid Leukæmia	1	—	1
223	Cerebral Tumor	1	—	1
241	Asthma—bronchial	1	—	1
260	Diabetes	1	1	2
290	Pernicious Anæmia	1	—	1
298	Diseases of Spleen	1	—	1
330	Subarachnoid hæmorrhage	1	3	4
331	Cerebral hæmorrhage	10	15	25
332	Cerebral embolism and thrombosis	8	10	18
334	Cerebral arterio sclerosis	1	—	1
350	Paralysis agitans	—	1	1
356	Muscular atrophy	—	1	1

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1952—continued.

<i>Code No.</i>	<i>International Classification.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
420-1	Coronary thrombosis	31	18	49
420-2	Arterio-sclerosis with Angina Pectoris	2	2	4
421	Mitral stenosis	1	1	2
421-1	Aortic incompetence	—	1	1
422	Cardio vascular degeneration	18	16	34
422-1	Myocardial degeneration with Arterio-sclerosis	2	1	3
422-2	Other myocardial degeneration	17	12	29
433	Heart block	1	—	1
433-1	Auricular fibrillation	3	1	4
434-1	Congestive heart-failure	6	4	10
434-2	Left ventricular failure	—	1	1
440	Hypertensive disease with myocardial degeneration	—	1	1
443	Essential Hypertension	—	1	1
450-1	General Arterio-sclerosis with gangrene	1	—	1
451	Aortic dissecting aneurysm	1	—	1
453	Peripheral vascular disease	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary embolism	2	—	2
481	Influenza	1	—	1
491	Broncho Pneumonia	5	5	10
500	Acute Bronchitis	1	1	2
522	Hypostatic pneumonia	4	2	6
526	Bronchiectosis	—	1	1
541	Ulcer—peptic	1	—	1
570	Intestinal obstruction	—	1	1
571	Gastro-enteritis	—	1	1
572-2	Ulcerative colitis	—	1	1
581	Cirrhosis of liver	—	1	1
583	Hepatitis of liver	—	1	1
592	Chronic nephritis	1	1	2
593	Uræmia	1	—	1
600	Kidney infection	2	—	2
602	Renal calculus	1	—	1
610	Prostatic enlargement	1	—	1
751	Myelomeningocele	—	1	1
761	Birth trauma	1	—	1
763	Pneumonia with new born	1	—	1
768	Septicæmia of new born	1	—	1
772	Dehydration	1	—	1
774	Prematurity	2	—	2
794	Senility	1	1	2
E.840	Street car accident	1	—	1
E.851	Found drowned	2	—	2
E.870	Poisoning Accidentally	—	1	1
E.892	Accidental poisoning by other carbon monoxide gas	1	—	1
E.902	Fall into dock	1	—	1
E.903	Accidental fall	—	1	1
E.910	Blow from falling object—stone	2	—	2
E.911	Crushed by coal tub	1	—	1
E.970	Suicide—overdose of Amytol	2	—	2
E.972	Suicide—coal gas poisoning	1	—	1
		<hr/> 204	<hr/> 148	<hr/> 352

DEATHS, 1952



Cancer Deaths for Five Years, 1948-1952

Year	Site	Under 45 yrs.	45- 55	56- 65	66- 75	Over 75yrs.	M.	F.	Total
1948	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
	(2) Digestive Tract	1	4	11	8	6	18	12	30
	(3) Respiratory System	—	1	3	2	1	5	2	7
	(4) Genito-Urinary System ..	1	—	3	3	1	2	6	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	2	3	2	1	—	8	8
		2	7	20	15	10	26	28	54
1949	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Digestive Tract	—	5	11	13	12	20	21	41
	(3) Respiratory System	—	1	5	3	—	7	2	9
	(4) Genito-Urinary System ..	—	—	6	4	—	5	5	10
	(5) Other Organs	1	—	3	3	3	4	6	10
		1	6	25	23	15	36	34	70
1950	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
	(2) Digestive Tract	2	5	6	11	11	20	15	35
	(3) Respiratory System	—	1	2	3	1	6	1	7
	(4) Genito-Urinary System ..	1	—	2	3	2	3	5	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	—	2	6	2	5	5	10
		3	6	13	23	16	35	26	61
1951	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Digestive Tract	2	2	8	11	7	15	15	30
	(3) Respiratory System	1	3	2	1	1	6	2	8
	(4) Genito-Urinary System ..	—	1	3	2	2	5	3	8
	(5) Other Organs	1	2	5	4	3	4	11	15
		4	8	18	18	13	30	31	61
1952	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Digestive Tract	—	6	9	14	15	29	15	44
	(3) Respiratory System	—	2	1	4	—	6	1	7
	(4) Genito-Urinary System ..	—	3	1	3	3	7	3	10
	(5) Other Organs	3	2	2	5	4	—	16	16
		3	13	13	26	22	42	35	77

CANCER MORTALITY, 1952

Situation of Disease and Age Groups, in Years

Site	Under 45 Yrs.		45-55 Yrs.		56-65 Yrs.		66-75 Yrs.		Over 75 Yrs.		Totals		Grand Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<i>Digestive Tract</i>													
Colon & Cæcum .	—	—	1	3	2	2	3	—	—	—	6	5	11
Rectum	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	4
Liver	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	3
Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	4	3	7	6	13
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	3
Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2
Pharynx	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1	3
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	4	1	5
<i>Respiratory System</i>													
Bronchi	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	6	1	7
<i>Genito-Urinary System</i>													
Uterus	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	5	—	5
Bladder	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	3
<i>Other Organs</i>													
Breast	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	6	6
Ovaries	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Vulva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Maxillary Gland .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Left Femur	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cervix	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	3
Thyroid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Neuroblastoma . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	—	3	5	8	8	5	15	11	14	8	42	35	77

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1952

Statistics of the Borough of Blyth for the last Ten Years

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infantile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate	No. Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified							
									Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Acute Polio- myelitis	Bowel Complaints	Tuberculosis	
																Pul.	Non- Pul.
1943	30,590	403	11.9	604	18.1	39	64.5	39.7	80	123	90	98	—	4	57	8
1944	30,540	397	13.0	705	23.1	50	70.9	27.9	723	116	156	116	—	2	57	17
1945	31,080	394	12.6	658	21.2	38	57.7	22.8	87	69	79	108	—	11	56	8
1946	33,020	440	13.3	764	23.1	48	62.8	22.9	641	44	67	51	1	2	55	7
1947	33,920	469	13.8	858	25.2	45	52.4	33.4	256	29	122	23	1	—	47	11
1948	33,980	362	10.6	737	21.7	40	54.2	20.8	673	89	182	10	1	3	57	19
1949	35,300	422	11.9	708	20.0	28	39.5	24.0	352	39	98	1	1	—	72	12
1950	35,280	417	11.8	660	18.8	31	46.9	31.8	652	44	282	—	4	5	84	8
1951	34,110	453	13.2	674	19.7	21	31.1	14.8	490	57	93	—	—	1	88	2
1952	34,010	352	10.3	618	18.2	11	17.80	9.7	346	65	45	—	1	6	96	7

Annual Returns for Ten Years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Malaria	Para. Typhoid Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning
1943	123	98	13	82	6	1	4	2	57	8	90	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944	116	116	12	39	3	1	2	—	57	17	156	723	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	69	108	6	35	3	9	10	3	56	8	79	87	1	1	—	—	—	—
1946	44	51	13	58	2	3	1	—	55	7	67	641	2	1	1	—	—	—
1947	29	23	13	50	1	8	—	2	47	11	122	256	1	—	1	—	—	—
1948	89	10	18	32	2	3	—	—	57	19	182	673	—	3	1	—	—	—
1949	39	1	6	27	3	1	—	—	72	12	98	352	—	—	1	—	—	1
1950	44	—	17	58	—	5	5	—	84	8	282	652	1	—	3	1	1	—
1951	57	—	10	54	—	5	1	—	88	2	93	490	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	65	—	10	29	3	2	6	—	96	7	45	346	—	—	1	—	—	24

Diphtheria

Year	Cases	Deaths	Remarks
1941.....	300	20	Not Immunised
1942.....	145	5	" "
1943.....	98	3	" "
1944.....	116	6	" "
1945.....	108	3	1 Immunised, Dec., 1942
1946.....	51	1	Not Immunised
1947.....	23	Nil.	
1948.....	10	Nil.	
1949.....	1	Nil.	
1950.....	Nil.	Nil.	
1951.....	Nil.	Nil.	
1952.....	Nil.	Nil.	

Diphtheria Immunisation

Year ended 31st December, 1952

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Percentage of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952:—

Children immunised 0-15 years = 81.0 %

TUBERCULOSIS, 1944-1952

Table showing the number of **Pulmonary Tuberculosis** cases notified in the respective years, and the number of deaths which have occurred, and the time elapsed from notification to death:—

Year	No. of Notifications	No. of Deaths	Period within which death occurred						
			Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	7-8 yrs.
1952	96	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	88	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	84	10	7	3	—	—	—	—	—
1949	72	13	5	3	5	—	—	—	—
1948	56	19	7	8	3	1	—	—	—
1947	47	23	6	12	3	1	1	—	—
1946	55	26	21	2	2	—	—	1	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—
1944	58	25	5	5	6	7	1	—	1
Totals	614	146	72	40	20	9	2	2	1

Tuberculosis, 1952

	Notifications				Deaths			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Totals .	45	4	51	3	10	1	*2	Nil.
„ .	49		54		11		2	
Grand Totals .	103				13			

* Includes Non-Notified T.B. Cases—1 Death.

Tuberculosis, 1940-1952

Year	All forms of Tuberculosis Notifications per year	Number of Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1940.....	49	30	0.86
1941.....	57	20	0.53
1942.....	48	31	0.98
1943.....	65	20	0.65
1944.....	74	30	0.98
1945.....	64	24	0.77
1946.....	62	38	1.1
1947.....	58	37	1.1
1948.....	76	35	1.0
1949.....	84	27	0.76
1950.....	92	17	0.48
1951.....	90	23	0.65
1952.....	103	13	0.38

Tuberculosis, 1952

Statement of Tuberculosis (as per Register).

	Males		Females		Totals
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year	177	22	148	22	369
(b) Number of new cases notified under the "Regulations of 1930" for the first time during the year	45	4	51	3	103
(c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed previous to 1952	7	1	2	—	10
(d) Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	3	1	1	—	5
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	32	3	11	1	47
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year....	200	25	191	24	440

Tuberculosis, 1952

Summary of information extracted from Records Department relating to cases removed from the Tuberculosis Register of the Borough during 1952.

	DEATHS				Grand Total	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	Males	Females	Males	Females		
	10	1	1	—		
Total	11		1		12	
	RECOVERED					
	10	3	1	—		
	13		1			14
		REMOVED FROM DISTRICT				
8		6	1	1		
14		2		16		
				42		

Tuberculosis, 1952

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-1...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-15...	7	4	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-25...	14	19	1	1	2	—	—	—
25-35...	4	16	—	1	—	1	—	—
35-45...	7	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
45-55...	7	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
55-65...	3	3	—	—	2	—	1	—
Over 65	2	2	—	—	1	1*	—	—
Totals .	45	51	4	3	10	2	1	—
Grand Totals .	96		7		12		1	

* Includes Non-notified T. B. case—1 Death.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION—1952

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		M.	F.
					M.	F.	M.	F.		
Numbers originally notified.										
Total (all ages)	31	35	23	23	—	1	—	—	169	175
Final numbers after correction—										
Under 1 year	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	11	10
1-2 years	3	1	3	8	—	—	—	—	30	45
3-4 years	4	10	7	7	—	—	—	—	51	45
5-9 years	17	21	10	6	—	—	—	—	76	74
10-14 years	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
15-24 years	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (all ages) . . .	30	35	23	22	—	1	—	—	170	176
	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Acute Encephalitis				Food Poisoning.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Infective		Post Infectious		M.	F.
					M.	F.	M.	F.		
Numbers originally notified.										
Total (all ages) . . .	16	13	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	18
Final numbers after correction—										
Under 5 years	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
5-14 years	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	4
15-44 years	8	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	10
45-64 years	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
65 and over	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total (all ages)	16	13	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	18
	Erysipilas		Menin- gococcal Infection		Other notifiable dis's.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Original		Final		M.	F.
					M.	F.	M.	F.		
Numbers originally notified										
TOTAL (all ages) . . .	5	5	1	1	—	3	—	3		
Final numbers after correction										
Under 5 years	—	—	—	1						
5-14 years	—	—	1	—						
15-44 years	2	—	—	—						
45-64 years	2	3	—	—						
65 and over	1	2	—	—						
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—						
TOTAL (all ages)	5	5	1	1						

CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS
1 Whooping Cough to Measles.
1 Scarlet Fever to Measles.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1952—AGE DISTRIBUTION

DISEASES	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65 years	Totals
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	4	6	8	38	6	2	—	1	—	—	—	65
Whooping Cough.....	3	3	8	4	10	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	45
Measles	21	40	35	37	58	151	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	346
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	3	6	3	2	5	29
Dysentery.....	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	6
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	3	10
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	3	4	6	1	3	1	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	—	2	—	—	—	7	5	31	21	12	8	6	4	96
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	7
	29	45	49	47	78	224	17	44	32	27	13	16	13	634

LABORATORY FACILITIES

BACTERIOLOGICAL

(The Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital,
Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne).

A. Pathological

(1) Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs

Corynebacterium	Diphtheria : Present	Nil
	Not found	14—14
Hæmolytic Streptococci	Present	25
	Not found	76—101
Vincent's	Present	Nil
	Not found	6—6

(2) Sputum

B. Tuberculosis	Present	130
	Not found	485—615
„ „ (Culture)	Present 32	
„ „ „	Not found 138	

(3) Faeces

B. Tuberculosis	Present	Nil
	Not found	1
	No pathogens isolated	6—7
„ „ (Culture)	Present 1	

(4) Pleural Fluid

Ziehl Nielson—B. Tuberculosis	Present	1
	Not found	3—4
„ „ (Culture)	Not found 3	

(5) Pus (Swabs)

5

B. Water, Milk, etc.

(1) Water Samples

(a) Bacteriological	69
---------------------------	----

(2) Milk Samples

(a) For B. Tuberculosis	45
(b) For Methylene Blue	45
(c) Pasteurised Milk—	
Methylene Blue	12
Phosphatase Test	12
Turbidity Test	1
(d) Sterility test on Milk Bottles	72

(3) Ice Cream

(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue Test	27
---	----

(4) Other Foods

(a) Bacteriological—Pork Pie.	
Pressed Pork.	
Pork Luncheon Meat.	
Pease Pudding.	

(5) Other Specimens

(a) Bacteriological—Drinking Glasses (Swabs)	6
Faeces Specimens	37

Chemical

- (a) Glass-like substance.
- (b) Boiled Sweets (Bottle) Chocolate Eclairs.
- (c) „ „ (Packet) „ „
- (d) Foreign substance in teacake.
- (e) Teacake.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH, 1952

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious
Diseases in the Year 1952. Provisional figures based on
Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) Rates per 1,000 Home Population	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administra- tive County
BIRTHS—				
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still Births	{ 0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	{ 22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	19.2 (a)
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and paratyphoid...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis)—				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87 (a)	23.94 (a)	10.22 (a)	30.77 (a)
DEATHS—				
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44	
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, child-birth and the puerperium	61	0.09	—	
A116 {	Abortion with toxæmia ..	13	0.02	1
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	—
A117 Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	59	0.09	—	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia....	31	0.04	3	
A119 Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	5	
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	—	

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

RE-HOUSING

Number of Families granted Council Houses, 1952, as
per lists received from Rates Department.

FROM WARDS

	B	C	D	P	R	W	From outside Borough	Totals
<i>By Points Scheme</i>								
To Cowpen Road Estate	22	26	5	21	13	33	6	126
„ Cowpen Road Estate T.B. Cases.	6	7	1	4	4	8	—	30
„ Newsham Road Estate	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	4
„ North Farm Estate	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
„ Bebside Estate	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
„ Pre-fabs	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
„ Other Council Schemes	1	4	1	4	2	5	—	17
„ Other Council Schemes T.B. cases	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Totals	29	39	9	31	20	49	6	183
<i>By Slum Clearance and Demolition Orders—</i>								
To Cowpen Road Estate	30	2	—	52	3	2	—	89
„ Cowpen Road Estate, T.B. cases.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
„ Newsham Road Estate	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
„ North Farm Estate T.B. cases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ Bebside Estate	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
„ New Delaval Estate	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
„ Pre-fabs.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
„ Other Council Schemes	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Totals	34	2	—	61	4	2	—	103

B—Bebside. C—Croft. D—Delaval. P—Plessey. R—Ridley. W—Waterloo.
32 T.B. cases were re-housed in Council Estates from houses not in Clearance Areas
or houses subject to Demolition Orders.

HOUSING REPORT—1952

Houses completed in 1952.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	179
„ „ —Contractors	66

Houses in Progress, 31st December, 1952.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	79
„ „ —Contractors	22

*Houses approved by Ministry of Health but not commenced 31st
December, 1952* 250

Houses completed Post-war.

Traditional	1,128
Pre-fabs—Tarran	44
„ —Aluminary Temporary	106
„ —Aluminary Permanent	59
„ —B.I.S.F. Permanent	72
	1,409

PART II—ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, 1952

Resumé of work carried out by the Health Department.

Public Health Act, 1936

NUISANCES.—A total of 2,859 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1952, arising out of nuisances and general complaints by the public.

Owing to consistently rising costs of house repair it becomes increasingly difficult to persuade owners to carry out other than the minimum of work and the bare schedule of visits and list of repairs carried out as shown on Page 49 gives little indication of the amount of time and energy spent in correspondence and interviews with tenants, owners and builders in an effort to solve by amicable means, the various problems which arise, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS.—Periodic inspections of the spoilbanks in the district are made in order that the remedial measures as outlined in the Annual Report for 1951 be maintained.

Particular attention was paid to the New Delaval Colliery spoilbank where tipping at an increased level over the existing layer had caused spontaneous combustion and after consultation with the National Coal Board a pipe range of some 1,200 yards was laid, together with branch sprays along the whole of the face.

Initially a twenty-four hour spraying of the spoilbank was made for a period of several weeks which resulted in greatly minimising the nuisance and at the present moment approximately a sixteen hour spraying is carried out per day.

Attention is also being given to the Horton Grange Colliery where consolidation by bulldozing followed by water spraying is being maintained.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.—There is only one licensed site in the Borough, being on the Links Road facing the fore-shore, where camping is permitted during the period 1st April to 30th September. A high standard is maintained both by the owner and by the persons using the site with regard to hygiene and vehicles and no complaints were received during the year.

The existing site would appear to fill the needs of holiday makers who wish to either park their caravans during the whole of the summer period, for week-end visits or for a limited holiday period only, but from time to time requests have been made for parking facilities for persons residing in the Borough for business reasons who are unable to obtain accommodation.

Although such requests have not been numerous, consideration might be given to the establishment by the Council of what might be termed a "residential" site, which could be utilised as a "holiday" site when the need for permanent residence no longer arose. The establishment of such a site would largely overcome the sporadic and unauthorised camping which occurs in the Borough from time to time and overcome the difficulty of having to deal with such cases individually as they arise.

LICENSED PREMISES.—There are 43 licensed houses, 16 licensed clubs and one licensed dance hall in the district and regular inspections of these are carried out. During 1950 and 1951, alterations and improvements were carried out to forty of these premises at the request of either the Licensing Magistrates or the Health Department and during 1952 improvements were effected to a further six premises.

As these works are listed in the half-yearly reports to the Health Committee it is not proposed to outline them here.

Further alterations and improvements are at present being contemplated or are in progress.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Routine work under the Acts was carried out during the year and in conjunction with H.M. Inspector of Factories a revised schedule of the factories in the area was compiled.

During the year the entire sanitary accommodation of the Blyth Dry Docks and Shipbuilding Co., was overhauled after several consultations with the management and the various improvements as suggested by the Health Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories were carried out.

Although the number of visits shown was not large, the majority of these premises are visited regularly throughout the year under other powers such as the Public Health Act, the Food and Drugs Act, etc., so that a much greater degree of supervision is given than that shown by visits specifically under the Factories Acts themselves. See Pages 53/55.

OUTWORKERS.—There were eight outworkers on the Register at the end of the year, these being employed by Rema Ltd., Bedlington, on glove manufacture. All these premises were inspected and found satisfactory and no infectious diseases occurred at the homes during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Regular inspections are made with regard to the provisions of the Act in relation to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation and the provision of washing facilities and the figures given under this heading can be coupled with those shown as inspection of food premises, so that a comprehensive survey of practically all shop premises can be accepted as a part of the routine work of the Department.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are only two persons licensed to carry on the business of a Pet Shop in the Borough and on inspection the premises were found to be satisfactory in all respects.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

As shown by the schedule of treatments on Page 59, the Rodent Officer has carried out his duties in a very able manner and on only one occasion was it found necessary to have recourse to formal action, the treatment being carried out by agreement immediately upon service of the notice.

From the figures shown it will be noted that the primary sources of rat infestation are in the sewers, refuse tips, farms, allotments, piggeries and stables, but these are only recurrent infestations and are not of a major type. A regular service is provided to all these premises, and recovery charges when due amounted to £109 14s. 7d.

As always, particular attention is paid to food premises and in general the traders are aware of the service provided

by the Health Department and are most anxious that treatments should be carried out where required.

In addition to the treatments shown, regular survey work of the Borough is carried out.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no registered or licensed premises in the Borough, only two traders using filling materials for the purpose of the re-conditioning of upholstery.

In both cases the materials used are those which satisfy the British Standards Institution Mark Scheme.

Atmospheric Pollution

The primary sources of atmospheric pollution in the Borough arise from the discharge of coal for export from the coaling staiths on the river, the discharge of coal from open cast production for dispatch by rail from the Plessey Road Site and from the Colliery Spoilbanks which are dealt with on Page 30 of the Report.

When it is realised that some five and a half million tons of coal are shipped annually, some idea of the pollution of the atmosphere might be gleaned.

In these days of modern engineering skill, surely it is not too much to expect that some form of dustless loading could be devised. If the value to the country of the coal so exported is taken into account, the economics of providing such equipment should not be unbearable although the general discomfort to the residents of the Borough over a period of many years may well be so.

Public Cleansing

In March, 1949, a Sub-Committee of the Health Committee considered the question of the inauguration of a Municipal Dust Bin Scheme for the Borough when it was recommended that having regard to the circumstances no alteration be made in the present arrangements regarding the provision of dustbins.

Since that time a considerable number of appeals on the vexed question of whether the Owner or the Occupier should provide a dustbin have been held in various parts

of the country and no standard decision has been arrived at, findings having been given for and against the Local Authorities, dependent on circumstances.

Existing legislation permits the Local Authority to serve notice requiring the provision of a dustbin on either the Owner or the Occupier and following the request of an Agent for the Owner of property within the Borough, the Council in December, 1951, re-iterated their decision that notice be continued to be served on the Owner.

As the largest single owner of property the Council are already providing bins to approximately one-third of the occupied dwellings in the Borough and the Borough Engineer and I feel that further consideration might now be given to this question.

The benefits derived may be summarised briefly as follows:—

- (1) It eliminates the use of dilapidated containers and reduces risks of accidents to workers.
- (2) It avoids the possibility of litigation between the owners, occupiers and the Local Authority with the consequent delay in the provision of a proper receptacle.
- (3) It assists collection by the standardisation of dustbins.
- (4) By bulk buying of bins a saving in costs can be effected.
- (5) In my opinion the principle benefit to the ratepayers is derived from the fact that the anomalous position whereby the Local Authority provide staff, vehicles, street cleansing and refuse tips but fails to provide one of the most essential services, i.e. the provision of a proper container to collect the refuse at its source, is removed.

One intolerable nuisance which has continued for far too long a period is the indiscriminate tipping by the National Coal Board of concessionary coal for miners.

This constitutes not only a nuisance from the point of view of the pollution of the atmosphere, but also from the contamination of public highways, the chokage of street

channels and street gullies and the deposit of stone and other waste materials on any patch of vacant ground in the vicinity.

There is also a grave risk to life and limb by the obstruction of footpaths and highways during the hours of darkness and the possible danger to vehicles.

Strenuous efforts should now be made to induce the National Coal Board to supply only "bagged" coal to their employees.

Privy Conversions

Formal Consent was received from the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the borrowing by the Council of £592 being one half the cost of the privy conversions of the Railway Cottages, Bebside, including the sewer connection.

Public Conveniences

During the year the Borough Engineer submitted plans and detailed estimates amounting to £3,884 in connection with the erection of public conveniences at the following sites.

- (1) Beach Road at its junction with Links Road.
- (2) Cowpen Cemetery.
- (3) Broadway east side (between Kingsway and Plessey Road).

The plans and estimates were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consideration pending formal application for a loan but a reply was received that in view of the economic situation and shortage of controlled materials, the Minister was unable to consider schemes of this nature and asking the Council to defer their proposals.

In view of this information it was recommended that no further action be taken at that time but that provision be made in the estimates for 1953/54 for the erection of a public convenience out of revenue.

Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three sources and the total amount consumed during the year was as follows:—

Source of Supply:	Gallons Consumed:
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co....	335,107,000
Tynemouth Corporation	6,454,000
Hepscott (Barmoor)	45,469,000

Bacteriological Analysis: 69 samples were taken of the principal water supplies to the Borough of which 59 proved to be satisfactory.

The principle cause of the 10 which proved to be unsatisfactory was the contamination existing at the Hepscott Reservoir which, in the opinion of the Public Health Laboratory would always exist in an open reservoir of this type. Additional precautions were taken by the installation of a reserve chlorinator at the Bebside Waterworks and no organisms have been isolated from the water as supplied to the public. See Page 58.

General

Appended is a schedule of some of the miscellaneous services provided by the Health Department during the year.

No. of houses treated for the eradication of insect pests	187
No. of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious disease	52
No. of houses disinfected by request	42
No. of items of bedding and clothing disinfected by request	43
No. of items of bedding and clothing destroyed by request	253
No. of dogs humanely destroyed	320
No. of cats humanely destroyed... ..	224

Legal Proceedings

Following the service of notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, regarding the provision of dust bins, appeals were lodged by an owner in respect of two properties in the Borough against the requirements of the Borough Council that he should provide the dust bins.

The case was heard before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Solicitor for the Owner basing his arguments on the question of the exercise of discretion by the Council with regard to the service of the notices on the Owner or the Tenants and on the question of increased cost of maintenance with regard to the properties generally.

In one case the appeal was dismissed, the other being adjourned for one month for submission by the Owner of individual figures for revenue and expenditure. The adjourned appeal was later withdrawn by the Owner.

HOUSING

Housing Act, 1936

SLUM CLEARANCE—Following the re-housing of the the occupiers, a total of 67 houses were demolished during the year, being principally those situated in the Bebside No. 1 (Front Street) and Cowpen No. 2 (Dixon Terrace) Clearance Areas.

Of the pre-war slum clearance areas there now remains for demolition the practically vacated Quayside Area and the Cowpen Colliery and Cowpen Road Clearance Areas where the National Coal Board are boarding up the houses on vacation, pending eventual demolition.

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING :

SECTION 11—DEMOLITION—52 Individual unfit houses were the subject of representation during the year, these being situate principally in the Kitty Brewster, Grainger Street and Coomassie Road areas.

In addition to this, some 76 houses were demolished, principally situate in the Phoenix Street and Coomassie Road areas, some 298 persons being re-housed.

SECTION 12—CLOSING—28 Individual unfit houses being parts of buildings were the subject of representation for Closing during the year, these being situate principally in the Bowes Street area.

Following the re-housing of some 23 persons, 5 houses were closed during the year.

SECTION 9—REPAIRS—Notice was served in respect of one house only under the Act, but no action had been taken by the owner at the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1949

SECTION 3—PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION—

No orders were made during the year.

SECTION 20—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—One application was received during the year in respect of the conversion of Seaton Lodge into three dwellings. It was recommended by the Housing Committee that this be not granted as the dwellings would not conform to the requirements of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with respect to their construction and physical condition.

Re-Housing

In conjunction with the Housing Department the Health Department have been inundated during the past years with enquiries relating to overcrowding and the letting of Council houses. Owing to the nature of his duties, the Sanitary Inspector is the local government officer most in daily contact with the public, who visits the homes of the people and who, by investigation of the personal circumstances of the applicants, has the opportunity of seeing and understanding the social problems which arise from overcrowding and bad housing. It is pleasing to note, therefore, the sustained and rapid progress made in the alleviation of these social evils by the provision of 1,409 new houses and the clearance and demolition of 738 unfit dwellings since the end of the war.

For a considerable period it has been the desire of the Department that additional information should be supplied to the Estates Committee with regard to applicants, other

than that the selected applicants for interview had the requisite number of points according to their applications. In consultation with the Housing Manager it was agreed that the lists of all applicants according to points grouping and in strict rotational order according to year of application should be supplied and in every case pre-investigation is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and detailed information regarding the applicant and housing conditions provided to the Estates Committee. Full co-operation between the Departments is ensured by the return by the Housing Manager of a completed list of approved or disapproved applicants, following interview.

MAINTENANCE.—The position is rapidly being reached where certain groups of houses cannot be made fit in relation to their value. In such cases the following action can be taken by the Council:—

- (1) To clear the areas by means of slum Clearance Orders.
- (2) To demolish individual unfit houses with the probability of leaving unsightly gaps.
- (3) The Council could purchase and renovate although there is naturally a limit to the amount of work of this type which could be done.
- (4) Assistance could be given by means of Improvements Grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

There appears to be one major difficulty in applying the last named method, in that under the present legislation individual applications can be approved under certain regulated conditions, which might create "islands" of improved properties amongst areas that must eventually be cleared. Alternatively, applications could be invited from all the owners in selected areas to submit applications for Improvement Grants, with no guarantee that the owners would agree to proceed with such a scheme.

In my opinion the only satisfactory method in which this could be successfully achieved would be by the amendment of existing legislation so that such work could be done by **compulsory** action in approved areas, subject to right of appeal by the owners concerned. Alternatively a reduced standard of fitness to qualify for grant will have to be accepted.

Typical examples of the problems facing the local authority with regard to the maintenance of privately owned properties are given below.

(1) A survey of two streets was recently carried out and a provisional estimate of one side of both streets gave the the following figures:—

		No. of houses.
Street No. 1	Unfit	10
	Incapable of repair at reasonable expense	9
	Capable of repair at reasonable expense	1
	Owner/Occupied	4
Street No. 2	Unfit	8
	Incapable of repair at reasonable expense	2
	Capable of repair at reasonable expense	3
	Owner/Occupied	5

(2) A certain house was the subject of an informal notice under section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. Tenders were invited by the Owner with the following results:—

Tender No. 1 £143 8s. 0d.

Tender No. 2 £167 0s. 0d.

Tender No. 3 Contractor declined to give estimate but offered to carry out the work on a time and material basis.

It will be seen, therefore, that a very considerable problem exists and as the proportion of privately owned property to Council houses is in the ratio of two to one, that a task of some magnitude confronts the Council and the Health Department if any substantial progress is to be made.

POLICY.—Arising out of the foregoing paragraphs, I would repeat the suggestion made in the Annual Report for 1950, that consideration might be given to the question of a new and comprehensive social survey of the Borough,

in order that some real assessment might be made of the actual overcrowding needs and a reasonable picture be given of the types of dwellings, amenities or lack of them and probable life of various properties.

As the previous survey which dealt with overcrowding solely was carried out in 1936, an up-to-date survey would be of great value to the Council in formulating their future housing policy and of value to the Department in presenting an overall picture of the Borough, so that decisions could be reached as to whether certain areas were to be provisionally scheduled for future clearance, re-development or repair.

Problem Families

In continuance of the policy of the Health Department as outlined in the Annual Report for 1951, regular attention was given to the question of "Problem Families" within the Borough and in conjunction with all health and ancillary services, every effort was made to improve the home conditions of these families.

At first glance this would appear to be an insurmountable task but patient effort, although accompanied by many setbacks, will undoubtedly have its effect in minimising the problem.

There still remains, however, a "hardcore" of such cases where the family history over a period of years is one of squalor, laziness and indifference, which is frequently accompanied by marital differences between the husband and wife. When one considers the cost to the community of the provision of public services to these people it would appear to be a waste of public monies, but the first care of all concerned must be for the children.

Several tenants residing in Council houses were called before the Estates Committee and severely warned that unless improvement was effected drastic action would be taken. In one such case possession was obtained and in another the tenant voluntarily vacated the house. There remain, however, other cases, often with a considerable number of children, where eviction cannot readily be contemplated except as a last resort.

In view of the cost of construction of the average Council house together with its maintenance which, in the

cases in question is often greatly aggravated by wilful damage, and the number of citizens of good repute living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions it would appear reasonable for the Council to refuse to re-house any more of these families.

Food and Drugs Acts 1938 to 1950

Following the improvements to food premises in the Borough as outlined in the Annual Reports for 1950 and 1951, it was anticipated that there would be some curtailment of this type of work but progress was maintained and it would appear that although the initial enthusiasm generated by the clean food campaign has waned, it has been replaced by an increased awareness of the traders and the public in food hygiene generally.

Regular inspections and assistance and advice are available at all times and a total of 1,957 visits and inspections were made during the year to food premises.

Appended are details of premises improved.

1.	New premises constructed and equipped:					
	Bakeries	...	...	...	...	2
2.	Premises completely refitted and redecorated:					
	Bakery and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	4
	Grocery	...	...	...	...	2
	Restaurants	...	...	...	...	2
	Fish and Chip	...	...	...	...	1
	Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	1
3.	Premises redecorated internally and externally: (Not including premises completely refitted).					
	Grocery	...	...	...	...	2
	Canteen	...	...	...	...	1
4.	Premises redecorated internally:					
	Bakery	...	...	...	...	1
	Restaurant	...	...	...	...	1
	Canteen	...	...	...	...	1
	Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	2
	Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	1

5. New equipment provided:

Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	1
Fish and Chip	...	...	...	...	2
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	1
Grocery	...	...	...	...	1
6. Wash-up sinks installed	...	...	...	...	8
7. Wash-basins installed	...	...	...	...	8
8. Gas heaters provided	...	...	...	...	8

Further improvements were either contemplated or in progress at the end of the year.

BAKERIES: Worthy of special comment was the official opening on the 23rd August, 1952, of the Blyth Co-operative Society's new Bakery at Newcastle Road, Newsham, and I am indebted to the General Manager of the Company for the following description of the structure and equipment.

The building is a two storied ferro-concrete and brick structure. The top floor comprises Offices, Flour and Sundries store and Dough Room. Flour is conveyed from street level to the Flour store by automatic sack elevator and other merchandise by lift. ...

The Dough room has tiled walls throughout, the flooring being of steel tiles. This room houses (1) Viennora Kneader (2) Automatic Water Tempering, Measuring and Mixing Machine. The Kneader Pans with dough are lifted by the latest Elevo Pan Tilting Machine and dough deposited into hopper of dough dividing machine, serving the Automatic Loaf Making Plant on the floor below.

The first floor houses all the automatic loaf making plant which is the most modern in the United Kingdom and is comprised of one Dough Dividing Machine; one conical table Handing-up Machine; one automatic Eight Piece Prover designed to prove 1,200-2 lb. or 1,860-1 lb. pieces per hour; one conical table Moulding Machine; one Multi-spindle Moulder; one Drum Moulder; one all purpose Final Prover; one swinging tray single lap Travelling Oven.

All the above machinery is interlinked by conveyors, while the final baked loaf passes by conveyors to the cir-

culating table on the ground floor, then to the Bread Wrapping and Slicing Machine. Bread is then stored for despatch at street level.

On the first floor two double decked peel ovens are erected to cater for small bread and confectionery trade. These are also gas fired and the latest of their type.

On both ground and first floors, walls and pillars are tiled white, the floor tiled red, with all corners and bases rounded. Rest rooms for male and female with ample toilet accommodation, plus shower baths for males, have been provided.

The building is thermostatically controlled throughout by steam heating provided by two automatically stoked boilers.

This building can be claimed to be one of the finest in the North of England, the finished products being made under the most hygienic conditions possible at the present moment.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952

Owing to the inclement weather of 1952, there was a decline in the manufacture of ice cream in the Borough, this being in the main prepared for the week-end trade, which interfered considerably with the collection of samples and transmission to the Public Health Laboratory within the time limit of preferably two but not more than six hours.

As a result of this, samples taken at the place of manufacture showed generally a Grade I result, but samples of bulk ice-cream collected at a later date were not up to standard due, no doubt, to the constant opening of the refrigerated containers and exposure of the contents to the dust and dirt of the atmosphere; whilst samples taken of pre-packed ice cream showed, as formerly, a consistently high standard.

Until all ice-cream is retailed in a sealed sterile container as despatched from the factory, I am of the opinion that the hygienic measures taken at the source will continue to be largely negated by the action of the itinerant vendors.

There are five manufacturers of ice cream and 70 retailers selling pre-packed ice cream in the Borough. See Page 51.

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950

The milk supply to the Borough is provided by the Co-operative Society's High Temperature, Short-Time Pasteurising Plant, plus five dairymen retailing bottled pasteurised milk from Coast Creameries Ltd., of whom four in addition retail tuberculin-tested pasteurised milk and 36 shops retailing sterilised milk.

Samples of pasteurised milk are taken regularly for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests, raw milk prior to pasteurisation for Bacillus Tuberculosis and milk bottles for sterility.

There were no positive samples of B. Tuberculosis recorded during the year which is extremely gratifying. See Page 50.

Slaughter of Animals

Further improvements to the Abattoir were carried out during the year in the following form; electrification of hand winches; the beast and sheep lairages constructed in 1951 were sheeted in; new lighting was installed in the cattle and pig slaughtering halls and the hanging room; feeding racks and water troughs were provided for all lairages and a considerable section of the sett paved yard was concreted. In addition a new Mess Room was constructed for the slaughtermen.

Only limited improvements can now be contemplated as the existing building and site do not lend themselves to expansion.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 9,074, an increase of 1,531 over the 1951 figures. A proportion of this increase was due to the installation of the new pig slaughtering equipment which has resulted in the figures rising as follows—1950: 56; 1951: 394; 1952: 996 pigs slaughtered.

As before, the quality of animals slaughtered was of a high standard, the condemnation of carcasses being only five out of 1,602 cattle slaughtered (0.31%); ten out of 6,467 sheep slaughtered (0.15%); and one out of 996 pigs slaughtered (0.1%).

Of the 1,457 cattle **excluding** cows slaughtered, none

were condemned as being unfit, the five carcasses condemned being out of the 145 cows slaughtered. See Pages 56/57.

Transport of Meat

There are two authorised meat carriers for the Borough and they are now provided with approved types of insulated hygienic vans for the purpose.

Regular inspections are carried out and the vehicles have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Meat Inspection

On the 16th March, 1922, the Ministry of Health issued a Memorandum on a system of Meat Inspection known as Memo. 62 Foods, together with Circular 282.

For the past thirty years the meat inspection of the country has been carried out on the lines laid down in this Memo. but in the light of experience gained over this period, the Minister of Food set up an Interdepartmental Committee on Meat Inspection, who issued a report and recommendations in February, 1951.

Arising out of this report and recommendations the Memorandum on Meat Inspection, Memo. 3/Meat has been prepared and issued together with Circular M.F. 14/52, which the Minister recommended should be adopted by the 1st February, 1953.

Part I of the Memorandum is new and the provisions are designed to safeguard public health against the very real dangers associated with the consumption of meat or offal which were diseased or suffering from an infective condition.

Specific attention is directed to the fact that all carcasses, organs and viscera of animals for human consumption should be inspected, preferably at the time of slaughter.

Unsound Food

Complaint was received during the year from a person resident outside the Borough that particles of glass-like substance had been found in sweets produced by a manufacturer in the Borough.

Detailed investigations were made and samples of sweets and the particles complained of were submitted for analysis.

No further glass was discovered in any of the sweets submitted although the particles were confirmed by the Public Analyst as being glass.

The sweets complained of together with the glass were taken before a Justice of the Peace and a certificate of condemnation under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was obtained.

Further investigations were carried out at the factory regarding the methods of preparation and it was discovered that at some previous date the thick glass base of a thermometer used in the manufacture had been fractured but had been immediately reported and withdrawn from use. On examination it appeared to be a clean break with no pieces missing but on touching the fracture lightly a number of fine splinters of glass were dislodged.

The hygiene and manufacturing methods of the Company which had been long established are of a high standard and it was recommended by the Health Committee that no action be taken.

Since that time precautions have been taken that in the event of a similar occurrence, the mix will be immediately withdrawn and destroyed.

Legal Proceedings

Proceedings under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were taken during the year against two manufacturers in respect of the selling of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption.

In the first case a fine of £10 plus £2 2s. 0d. costs was imposed and in the second case a fine of £10 was imposed.

Administration

Since the end of the war the volume of administrative work has steadily increased for all local government departments and this is one aspect of the work for which no figures can be given and which is little understood.

During the course of any one year the man-hours spent on annual reports, monthly committee reports, correspondence, interviews, telephone calls and the keeping of all types of detailed records by every department is phenomenal and I should like to pay a tribute in general to the co-operation of the officials of the Council and the staff of the Health Department in particular for their ready and willing assistance for which I am greatly indebted.

SANITARY SECTION, 1952

Public Health Act, 1936

Summary of Notices Served

Number of Informal Notices served during the year :—

WARDS						Total
Bebside	Croft	Waterloo	Plessey	Ridley	Delaval	
15	67	58	38	40	5	223

Number of Informal Notices complied during the year :—

WARDS						Total
Bebside	Croft	Waterloo	Plessey	Ridley	Delaval	
13	37	35	23	20	3	131

Number of Statutory Notices served during the year :—

Wards	Sec. 39	Sec. 44	Sec. 45	Sec. 56	Sec. 75	Sec. 93	Sec. 138	Food & Drugs Act, Sec. 13	Totals
Bebside	3	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	8
Croft	11	2	9	—	3	26	—	—	51
Waterloo.....	10	—	4	1	10	23	—	5	53
Ridley	6	—	7	1	4	16	—	—	34
Plessey	9	—	5	—	1	18	—	—	33
Delaval	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Totals	39	2	25	2	18	90	1	5	182

Number of Statutory Notices complied during the year :—

Wards	Sec. 39	Sec. 45	Sec. 56	Sec. 75	Sec. 93	Sec. 138	Totals
Bebside	1	—	—	—	3	—	4
Croft	10	10	—	3	25	—	48
Waterloo.....	11	7	2	15	27	—	62
Ridley	6	9	—	8	13	—	36
Plessey	8	4	—	1	13	—	26
Delaval	—	—	—	—	2	9	11
Totals	36	30	2	27	83	9	187

Schedule of Defects remedied during the Year, 1952

DEFECT.	Informal.	Statutory.	Total.
Chimney Stacks.....	4	1	5
Main Roofs.....	13	20	33
Drainage—			
Eavesgutters and Downspouts	37	45	82
Choked Drains	81	5	86
External Walls	6	11	17
Yards	—	2	2
Ceilings	3	4	7
Internal Walls—Plaster	9	21	30
Dampness	32	29	61
Floors	17	22	39
Windows.....	11	31	42
Staircases	2	1	3
Doors	11	9	20
Fireplaces	15	21	36
Sanitary Conveniences—Insufficient	—	—	—
Defective	33	39	72
Outbuildings—			
Coal Houses	6	17	23
Washhouses	1	6	7
Set Pots	3	6	9
Dust Bins	37	23	60
Ashpits	—	—	—
Water Supply—Insufficient.....	6	9	15
Unsatisfactory.....	—	—	—
Food Stores	2	3	5
Smoke Nuisances.....	2	—	2
Offensive Accumulations	2	—	2
Dirty Conditions	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	6	4	10
Totals	339	329	668

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1950

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Details of Samples Taken

Samples of Raw Milk from Producers Outside the Borough:—

METHYLENE BLUE		BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS			Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Positive	Negative	Tests not carried out	
23	21 1 Bottle broken	Nil	43	1 Animal died 1 Bottle broken	45

Pasteurised Milk from a Producer/Retailer Inside the Borough:—

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
<i>By Borough</i> 11	1 (Test Void)	11	1 (Test Void)	12
<i>By County Council</i> 30	3 (Tests Void)	31	2	33

Sterilised Milk from a Producer/Retailer Outside the Borough:—

Turbidity Test. 1 Sample. Satisfactory.

Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility:—

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
52	1	19	72

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Details of Analyst's Reports **ICE CREAM.**

Manufacturer	BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS			Samples taken from
	No. of Sample	Methylene Blue Test	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	
No. 1	1	Grade 1	4½ hrs.	Room in factory
	2	" 1	4½ "	Container on loading platform
	3	" 3	4½ "	Churn on loading bay in factory
	1	" 1	4½ "	Refrigerated container in shop
	2	" 1	4½ "	" "
No. 2	3	" 3	1 "	Storage refrigerator
	4	" 3	1½ "	" "
	5	" 3	1 "	" "
	1	" 4	0 "	Container on pedal tri-cycle
	2	" 3	1 "	Storage refrigerator in shop
No. 3	3	" 1	4½ "	Continuous freezer in factory
	1	" 1	4½ "	Continuous freezer in factory
	2	" 1	4½ "	Storage refrigerator
	1	" 3	1 "	Storage refrigerator in factory
	2	" 4	0 "	" "
No. 4	3	" 3	1½ "	Machine—after heating prior to commencement of cooling
	1	" 3	3½ "	From plant through outlet valve after cooling to 60° F.
	2	" 3	3½ "	after 2½ hours
	3	" 3	3½ "	From churn in cold room prior to freezing
	4	" 2	3½ "	Container in storage refrigerator in shop
No. 5	5	Test incomplete		" "
	6	" "		Refrigerated container in shop
	7	Grade 3	4½ "	" "
	1	" 1	4½ "	Carton—Storage refrigerator in shop
	1	" 1	4½ "	" "
No. 6†	1	" 1	4½ "	" "
	1	" 1	4½ "	" "
	1	" 1	4½ "	" "
	1	" 1	4½ "	" "
	1	" 1	4½ "	" "

† Pre-packed Ice Cream

INGREDIENTS.

Manufacturer

- No. 5. Margarine (unsalted)
 Creamilla Ice-cream Powder
 Sugar
 Milk

Result of Analysis

Satisfactory

"

Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests—Satisfactory

OTHER FOODS CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Glass-like Substance and Sweets

Sample

1. Glass-like substance
2. Chocolate Eclairs in bottle
3. " " packet
4. " " "
5. Foreign substance in Teacake
6. Whole and half Teacake

Analyst's Report

Glass particles
 No glass particles present

" " "

" " "

Horse Dung—Re-action for Indole or Skatole—Positive
 No foreign substance present

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Result

No pathogens isolated

"

No pathogens isolated, but profuse growth Type I (faecal) coliform bacilli,
 Hæmolytic Streptococci and Micrococci
 No pathogens isolated

Other Specimens

1. Drinking glasses (7)
2. Faeces specimens

23

14

These specimens were all considered Sterile

No pathogens isolated
 Sh. sonnei isolated

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	24	68	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	103	149	3	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	2	8	..	..	3
TOTALS .....	..	129	225	3	..	..

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	M/c line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were institu- ted	M/c line No
		Found	Reme- died	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1).....	4	1	1	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4).....	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	11	11	—	7	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTALS	60	13	12	—	8	—	60

Part VIII of the Act
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	SECTION 110			SECTION 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel making, etc.....	13	5	—	—	—	—	—	13

Factories, 1952

	<i>With Mechanical Power.</i>	<i>No Mechanical Power.</i>
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage	9	—
Dairies	2	—
Ice Cream	6	—
Plastics	—	1
Boot and Shoe Repairer	5	—
Plumbers	1	2
Joinery	7	5
Radio and Electric Repairs	3	3
Printing	2	—
Bakeries	17	—
Soft Drinks and Bottling	1	—
Clothing Alterations	—	4
Upholstery	1	1
Garage and Battery Charging	12	—
Shipbuilding and Repairs	1	—
Foundry	2	—
Clothing Manufacturers	4	—
Weaving	1	—
Sculptor	1	—
Potato Crisps	1	—
Corn Grinders	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding	1	—
Transformer Stations	1	—
Saddlery and Harness	—	1
Car Spraying and Coachwork	3	—
Timber Merchants	6	—
Electro-Plating	1	—
Engineering	5	—
Signwriting	—	3
Marine Store and Timber	1	—
Sugar Confectionery	1	—
Boiler Sealing	1	—
Gas Works	1	—
Blacksmith	1	—
Coppersmiths	1	—
Polishing	—	1
Cabinetmaking	—	2
Slaters and Tilers	—	1
Dry Cleaners	2	—
	103	24

Meat Inspection—Animals Slaughtered

Month	Bulls	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Sheep	Pigs	Total
January	—	55	35	6	335	13	444
February	—	33	36	8	481	21	579
March	—	57	15	10	498	165	745
April	—	123	13	1	385	200	722
May	1	58	28	2	281	86	456
June	—	3	34	4	412	70	523
July	—	5	157	8	285	103	558
August	—	60	144	15	533	43	795
September	—	141	76	17	818	1	1053
October	—	99	112	27	1228	58	1524
November	—	46	45	33	718	94	936
December	—	24	57	14	502	142	739
Totals	1	704	752	145	6476	996	9074

It was found necessary to condemn the following carcasses, flesh and organs:—

<i>On account of:—</i>	<i>Weight in lbs. of Carcase.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs. of Offal.</i>	<i>Total Weight in lbs.</i>
Septic Mastitis Cow No. 1...	423	173	596
Generalised Tuberculosis... „ No. 1...	584	134	718
„ No. 2...	711	100	811
„ No. 3.	567	116	683
„ No. 4...	505	134	639
Total—5 Cows	2,790	657	3,447
Septic Pneumonia Lamb	43	16	59
Emaciation Sheep	36	20	56
Emaciation and Multiple Abscesses Sheep No. 1.	23	92	263
„ No. 2.	54		
„ No. 3.	37		
„ No. 4.	57		
Dropsy and Emaciation—4 Sheep	138	80	218
Totals—9 Sheep and 1 Lamb....	388	208	596
Septic Peritonitis Pig	50	11	61

The following part carcasses and organs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption:—

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Cattle : Part carcasses and/or organs.....	998	10,212
Sheep : „ „ „	56	202
Pigs : „ „ „	16	114
Beef : Hindquarters	10	1,170
„ „ (Parts).....	4	337
„ Forequarters (Parts).....	1	39
„ Trimmings.....	—	462
Mutton :	—	103
Pork :	—	92
Pigs' Heads :	8	132

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937

The following imported meats were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Beef: Hindquarters	169
„ Boneless	124
Veal:	78
Lamb:	7

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,457	145	6,476	996
Number inspected	1,457	145	6,476	996
All diseases except Tuberculosis:				
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	10	1
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	773	71	72	8
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	53.05	49.1	1.26	0.9
Tuberculosis only:				
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	—	4	—	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	44	32	—	14
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.2	24.8	—	1.4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 to 1950

Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were treated as follows:—

Meat	Tins—Destroyed	600	Licorice		
Fish	" "	57	Whirls	Boxes—Destroyed	155
Vegetables	" "	675			(1,085 lbs.)
Chicken	" "	11	Custard Powder..	Packets	60
Milk	" "	166	Cake Powder	" "	24
Fruit.....	" "	532	Corn Flour	" "	24
Ham	" "	74	Puffed Wheat ...	" "	17
Soup	" "	16	All Bran	" "	15
Tomatoes	" "	1,067	Shredded Wheat .	" "	28
Pudding	" "	3	Quick Oats	" "	24
Jellied Veal	" "	46	Corn Flakes	" "	20
Preserves	" "	9	Semolina	" "	18
Meat Paste	" "	4	Biscuits	" "	75
Rabbit	" "	5	Side Bacon	" "	12 lbs.
Salad	" "	4	Ham	" "	25½ "
Nescafe	" "	3	Pork Sausage ...	" "	117 "
Syrup	" "	5	Beef	" "	47 "
Morfat	" "	2	Chickens	" "	31 "
Mince	" "	1	Turkey	" "	13 "
Stewed Steak ...	" "	15	Black Pudding...	" "	10 "
Jellied Pork.....	" "	18	Currants	" "	56 "
Cottage Pie	" "	3	Cherry Cake	" "	4½ "
Spread	" "	2	Swiss Rolls	" "	216 "
Cheese	Boxes	8	Chocolate Rolls ..	" "	48
Chocolate Eclairs	Jars	1	Fish Cakes	" "	48
Fruit Juice	Bottles	8	Pork Pies	" "	17
Cheese & Biscuits	Packets	1,368	Eggs	" "	228
			Rabbits	" "	76
			Butter	" "	16 lbs.
			Sultanas	" "	30 "
			Cheese	" "	8½ "

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year for analysis:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL				Number of Samples	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1.	Newcastle Water.....			11	—
2.	Hepscott Water before Chlorination			9	1
3.	Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle Water after Chlorination			11	1
4.	Tynemouth Water			10	—
5.	Barmoor Colliery Water after sand filtration.....			5	1
6.	" " " before " "			—	1
7.	" " " direct from Barmoor Colliery				
	before treatment			—	2
8.	" " " Inlet pipe, Hepscott Reservoir			4	—
9.	" " " Hepscott Reservoir			1	4
10.	" " " Sump at Shaft Bottom			1	—
11.	" " " Second dip in pit.....			1	—
12.	" " " Tap at head of shaft, pumping				
	from shaft bottom			4	—
13.	" " " Tap at head of shaft, pumping				
	from second dip in pit.....			2	—

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During 1952, the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer:—

Type of Premises	No.	Baits laid	Traps laid	Ozs. Poison baits taken	No. of Bodies		Est. Kill Rats	No. of Visits
					Rats	Mice		
Dwelling Houses..	121	1179	8	66	11	99	27	325
Food Shops	40	547	102	39	—	188	—	122
Bakeries	15	374	29	40½	—	61	2	73
Bakers' Shops	3	50	6	6½	—	5	—	9
Other Shops	25	524	31	25¼	—	103	—	74
Clothing Factories..	2	167	—	5¾	—	6	—	6
Refuse Tips	9	400	—	105½	55	—	261	36
Garages	6	66	—	17	10	—	31	31
Gardens	17	122	—	23½	19	—	61	87
Engine Shed.....	1	50	—	3½	—	7	—	3
Schools	5	504	—	118	8	21	47	25
Wine and Spirit Stores	1	8	—	1½	—	—	3	5
Slaughter Houses .	1	36	—	5¼	1	—	10	7
Greengrocers Shops	4	44	4	10	—	14	—	10
Canteens	5	73	8	13¼	3	21	17	23
Cinemas	4	368	24	90	—	89	—	14
Sweet Factory ...	2	87	—	6	—	6	—	7
Corn Store	1	43	—	20	—	14	—	3
Farms	8	363	—	93¾	51	—	259	37
Piggeries	7	103	—	31½	20	—	76	31
Stables	4	66	—	23¾	19	—	58	25
Workshop & Stores	3	114	—	16½	—	13	—	8
Offices	1	16	—	1½	—	—	—	2
Factories.....	1	5	—	3	2	—	7	5
Shipyards	1	1026	10	46	15	23	100	21
Ship Stores	2	60	—	16	—	4	17	8
Lecture Hall	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	2
Allotments	22	234	—	113¾	39	—	225	109
Waterworks	1	31	—	9	5	—	27	5
Hotels and Clubs..	4	76	3	17¾	2	3	8	17
Chapel	1	10	—	3	1	—	7	4
Dairies	1	20	—	¾	—	—	—	3
Boys' Club	1	40	—	2¼	—	—	—	3
Cafes	2	42	—	¾	—	4	—	5
Poultry Farm	3	58	1	32½	6	—	80	16
Destructor	2	30	—	1	—	—	2	8
Open Sewers	1	120	—	29	15	—	72	4
Sewers	—	362	—	31	2	—	76	1005* Baiting Points
TOTALS	228	7423	226	1071½	284	681	1473	1173 1005* Baiting Points

Cats and Dogs Destruction

During the year the following animals were humanely destroyed:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Dogs</i>	<i>Cats</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	29	11	40
February	30	16	46
March	27	12	39
April	27	17	44
May	18	27	45
June	17	32	49
July	26	16	42
August	29	28	57
September	26	16	42
October	35	21	56
November	27	12	39
December	29	16	45
	320	224	544

The electric lethal chamber at the Albion Yard Depot continues to provide a very useful service as shown by the number of animals humanely destroyed.

The service is available from 2-0 to 3-0 p.m. Wednesday and Friday of each week. A charge of 2/6d. for each dog and 1/- for each cat is made, the amount derived during the year being £51 4s. 0d.

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspection

Number of Inspections made during the year 1952	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
<i>(a) Public Health Act, 1936</i>														
Inspections following complaints in general . . .	34	54	60	51	50	90	66	51	49	42	69	29	645	
Re-inspections <i>re</i> outstanding notices	116	139	147	141	156	147	143	107	108	99	108	115	1526	
Dirty and verminous premises	8	33	31	41	18	7	20	19	10	17	7	2	213	
Drainage	18	22	18	5	6	7	12	16	28	20	9	10	171	
Keeping of Animals	1	2	4	3	1	4	2	3	1	1	5	1	28	
Licensed Premises	43	1	—	1	7	4	18	4	3	13	4	4	102	
Moveable Dwellings	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—	2	3	—	—	14	
Offensive Trades	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Piggeries	4	1	7	15	11	2	4	4	2	1	3	—	54	
Places of Public Entertainment	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	
Spoilbanks	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	6	13	
Water Supplies	12	2	—	—	3	3	6	2	—	13	1	7	49	
Workplaces	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	2	1	—	11	
Smoke nuisances	1	2	2	2	2	2	—	2	6	5	2	2	28	
													2,859	2,859
<i>(b) Housing Act, 1936</i>														
Investigations <i>re</i> Overcrowding	4	5	9	2	3	29	5	7	17	10	9	15	115	
Houses in Clearance Areas	8	4	6	7	—	4	9	4	9	3	—	—	54	
Squatters' Camps	2	1	4	—	—	3	—	2	3	5	4	2	26	
Corporation Houses	7	39	35	25	17	5	25	14	18	22	6	21	234	
Inspections prior to Estates Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	20	27	52	26	24	179	
Special Survey of Borough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	—	—	—	—	60	
Part II. H.A. 1936														
Inspection of Houses—														
Section 5—Survey of District	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18	
„ 9—Repairs	2	3	3	3	8	5	4	4	2	1	3	3	41	
„ 11—Demolition Orders	—	—	—	—	26	22	20	12	9	30	11	5	135	
„ 12—Closing Orders	3	—	1	—	3	—	21	6	4	16	7	1	62	
													924	3,783

SANITARY DETAILS.—Details of Inspection.—continued.

Number of Inspections made during the year 1952	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(c) <i>Factories Act, 1937</i>														
Inspections of Factories (a) Mechanical power . .	2	10	6	8	4	3	12	6	4	5	6	2	68	
(b) No mechanical power	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	8	
(c) Outworkers' Dwellings	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
(d) <i>Shops Act, 1950</i>														3,862
Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	5	13	17	1	30	13	5	5	6	29	5	—	129	3,991
(e) <i>Pests Act, 1948</i>														
Inspections of Allotments	—	—	—	6	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	11	
" Dwelling Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	6	1	1	—	18	
" Other Properties	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	9	—	—	1	—	16	
" Council Properties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	6	
" Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
(f) <i>Infectious Diseases (Notifications) Acts</i>														4,043
Investigations made	5	9	11	21	6	15	13	26	10	20	27	15	178	
Food Poisoning Investigations	—	—	61	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	65	
Investigations made <i>re</i> Food and Drugs Act, 1938	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	
(g) <i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938 to 1950</i>														4,295
Abattoir—Meat Inspection	22	24	30	30	24	30	30	27	16	30	36	26	325	
Cottagers' Pigs	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	
Examination of Unsound Foodstuffs	5	12	14	35	11	22	22	25	11	14	8	5	184	
Bakehouses	6	8	4	16	7	6	10	10	7	3	4	6	87	
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	4	3	3	7	4	3	5	4	6	4	3	5	51	
Butchers' Shops	3	2	1	8	12	8	7	7	6	5	3	7	69	

Fish and Chip Shops	7	14	10	6	4	9	5	4	5	6	3	76
General Dealers' Shops	8	3	—	2	5	3	6	3	2	13	1	49
Grocery and Provision Shops	10	2	10	5	10	13	9	12	7	7	5	95
Greengrocers' Shops	2	—	—	1	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	17
Preserved Food Premises	1	—	—	1	2	2	6	7	5	1	1	28
Wet Fish Shops	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	3	2	3	17
Food Manufacturing Premises	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	2	3	10
Ice Cream Premises (a) Manufacturing	1	3	—	5	7	10	9	8	3	—	1	49
Ice Cream Premises (b) Retail	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	8	—	2	1	17
Restaurants and Cafes	7	8	14	3	6	4	11	6	1	4	—	65
Market Stalls	31	32	42	36	43	65	46	46	38	47	29	482
Food Vehicles	3	6	9	8	18	12	8	12	9	9	15	111
												1,738
												6,033
(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949												
Inspections of Dairies and Equipment	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	5
Heat Treatment Plant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Milk Shops	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	37	44
(i) Miscellaneous												
Number of Visits in connection with water												
Samples	4	4	4	4	6	6	4	7	8	7	8	69
Number of Visits in connection with Milk												
Samples	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	4	60
Number of Visits in connection with Ice Cream												
Samples	—	—	—	4	3	4	12	4	—	—	—	27
Number of Visits in connection with other Foods												
Samples	—	—	4	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	11
Miscellaneous Inspections	34	33	35	25	32	12	16	18	15	12	5	241
Interviews	23	36	24	31	41	36	29	21	21	59	36	388
												796
												6,881

