

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Blyth Borough.

Contributors

Blyth (Northumberland, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

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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

1955

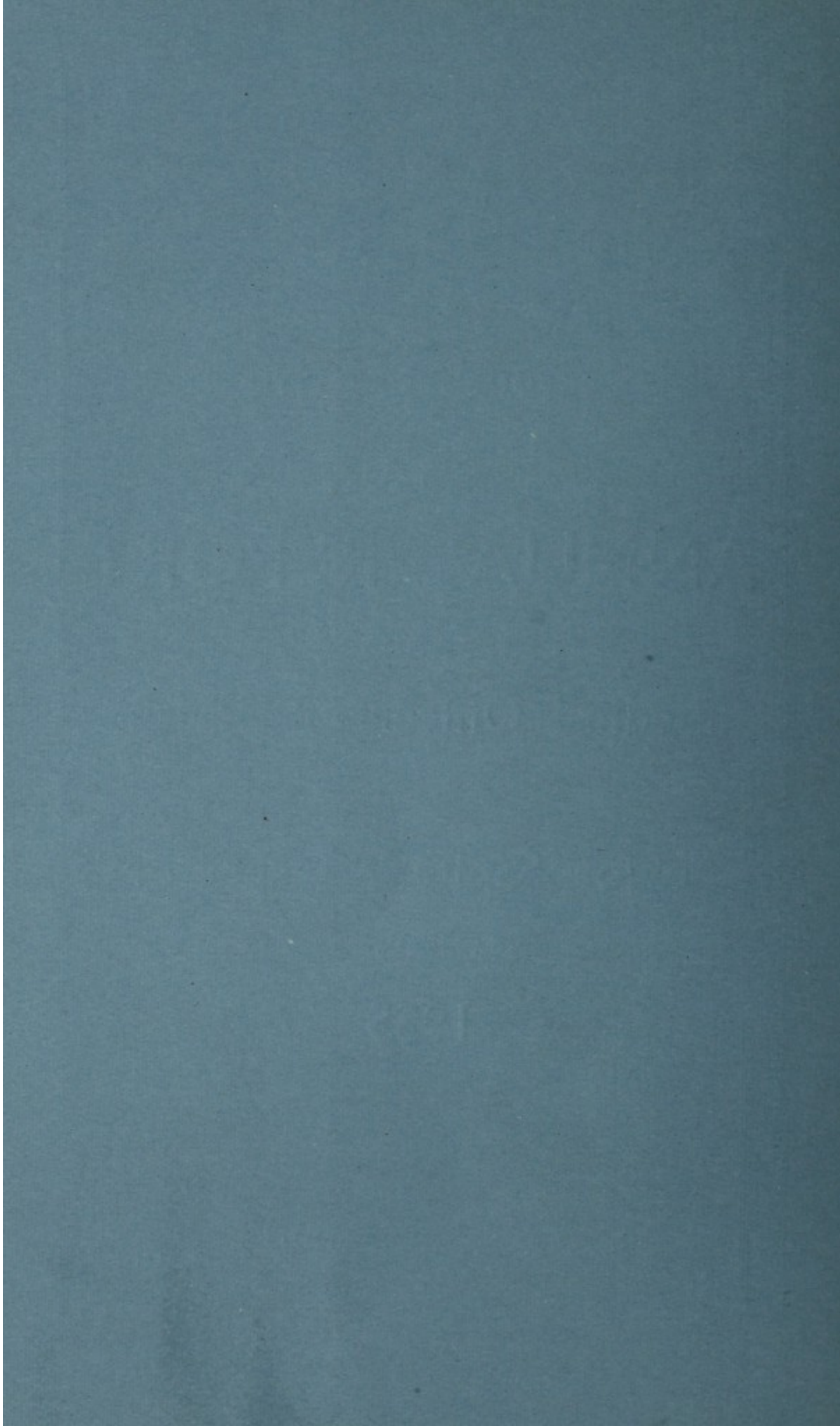
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : COUNCILLOR ROBSON.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR GILHESPY.

THE MAYOR		COUNCILLOR MARLEY.
ALDERMAN	TANSEY.	„ MOLE.
„	THOMPSON.	„ POTTS.
COUNCILLOR	BARKER.	„ RHODES.
„	BELL.	„ RUTHERFORD.
„	BETHAM.	„ SMITH.
„	BREADIN.	„ STAFFORD.
„	DARGUE.	„ SOULSBY.
„	ELDER.	„ SUMMERS.
„	KELLY.	„ TURNBULL.
„	KENNEDY.	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1955

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	...	A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	G. A. GILL, M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	N. F. GODFREY, M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	W. ALLAN, M.S.I.A.
<i>Temporary Clerk</i>		C. FELLOWS.
<i>Temporary Shorthand Typist</i>	...	B. I. REDBURN.
<i>Rodent Officer</i>		B. WADE.

BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

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 1955.

The population increased by 50 to 34,420. The Birth Rate has fallen from the very high figure of 1954 to 16.9 per 1,000 population. This is still above the National average. The number of births fell by 53 to 585 for the year.

It is regrettable to have to report a sharp rise in the Infant Mortality Rate and it is hoped that this is transitory. The number of infant deaths increased to 21 during 1955.

The number of tuberculosis notifications rose by 25 over 1954 figures. It should be remembered, however, that a vigorous campaign against this disease was carried on during the early summer of last year when 60% of the population over five years of age were x-rayed. It would have been strange if new cases had not been brought to light and disappointing also.

Much work remains to be done to improve the housing standards of the town. There are still many sub-standard houses to be dealt with and it is hoped that the Council will pursue a strong policy to rid the Borough of these buildings. In this respect it is essential to have the closest co-operation with the Housing Committee and the other Council Departments.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee for their support during 1955 and the Health Department staff for their hard work and loyalty.

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-1955 population was 34,420. This is an increase of 50 over 1954.

UNCORRECTED BIRTH RATE

The uncorrected birth rate was 16.9 per 1,000 population. This is a decrease of 2.9 per 1,000. The number of births fell from 638 in 1954 to 585 in 1955.

CRUDE DEATH RATE

The crude death rate was 10.3 per 1,000 population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

This index rose from the record low figure of 17.2 per 1,000 live births in 1954 to 35.8 per 1,000 live births in 1955. There were 21 infant deaths compared with 11 last year. There were 15 deaths under four weeks ; seven were due to congenital defects and eight to prematurity. This is the highest rate since 1950 and it is to be hoped that it is only a deviation in the downward trend.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

There was one maternal death during 1955 giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.6 per 1,000 live and still births.

DEATHS

There were 357 deaths in the Borough during 1955 which is an increase of three over 1954.

The commonest cause of death was again cardio vascular disease which accounted for 108 male and 89 female deaths, a total of 197 or 55%.

Cancer was the next commonest cause. There were 71 cancer deaths, 12 fewer than last year (19.8% of the total deaths).

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1955 **Statistics for 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. of Cases of Infectious Disease Notified							
									Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Acute Polymy- celitis	Bowell Complaints Dysentery, etc.	Tuberculosis	
															Pul.	Non- Pul.
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	17.8	9.7	346	65	45	—	1	6	96	7
1953	34,270	335	9.7	618	18.0	18	29.1	14.5	747	83	190	—	—	3	62	11
1954	34,370	354	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1	50	34	73	—	1	24	44	5
1955	34,420	357	10.3	585	16.9	21	35.8	25.6	853	11	65	—	3	108	69	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1955

There was a large increase in the notifications of infectious diseases during 1955. This was due to the biennial epidemic of measles and a brisk epidemic of dysentery. It should be remembered that there was severe weather until April, then an excellent hot dry summer occurred which lasted well into the autumn.

MEASLES

There were 853 notifications of this disease. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 65 notifications compared with 73 in 1954. There were no deaths.

DYSENTERY

There were 108 notifications of this disease, due to the sonne type of infection. This epidemic started in the second week in March, reached its height at the end of March and ended at the beginning of May. Its highly infectious nature was demonstrated by the number of families involved—there were 20 families where more than one infection occurred, with a total of 61 notifications. There were 73 notifications under the age of 15 years and 35 over this age, two cases being over the age of 65 years.

This disease is a nuisance more than anything else—it is not a killer but it can cause the loss of many working or school hours. Most anxiety is felt when food handlers are involved. Its control depends on scrupulous attention to cleanliness and hygienic precautions. Handwashing before handling food and on each occasion after using the toilet could prevent 90% of the cases.

Time spent on educating infants in the elementary rules of hygiene would pay dividends. The subject *can* be made interesting and school children are more likely to remember rules of hygiene than adults who have very fixed habits.

SCARLET FEVER

There were 11 notifications of this disease in 1955, the lowest figure in fifteen years. There were no deaths.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

There were three cases of this disease notified during 1955. Two of the cases were children and one was an adult. There were no deaths. It is hoped that the vaccine that has become available will be successful in eradicating the disease in the same way as diphtheria.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION

There were two cases notified during 1955. Both were the fulminating type and both children died.

DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth successive year, no cases of this disease were notified in the Borough. Ten years ago there were 108 cases and three deaths; fourteen years ago there were 300 cases and twenty deaths. It may be that the very absence of this disease will cause young parents who have never experienced the disease to have a false sense of security. More than ever it is essential for all children to be immunised against this disease.

FOOD POISONING

There were eight cases of this disease notified during 1955. There was an outbreak in one family involving three persons. The cause was unidentified. The other cases were isolated ones.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

No action was taken during 1955 under the above Acts.

Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Malaria	Para Typhoid Fever	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning
1946	44	51	13	58	2	3	1	—	55	7	67	641	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
1953	83	—	8	16	6	1	1	—	62	11	190	747	—	2	—	—	—	5
1954	34	—	10	14	—	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12
1955	11	—	11	24	2	2	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	3	—	—	8

Diphtheria, 1941-55

Year	Cases	Deaths	Remarks
1941	300	20	Not Immunised
1942	145	5	" "
1943	98	3	" "
1944	116	6	" "
1945	108	3	1—Immunised, 1942
1946	51	1	Not Immunised
1947	23	Nil	
1948	10	Nil	
1949	1	Nil	
1950	Nil	Nil	
1951	Nil	Nil	
1952	Nil	Nil	
1953	Nil	Nil	
1954	Nil	Nil	
1955	Nil	Nil	

Infectious Diseases and Age Distribution, 1955

	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)	8	3	32	33	1	2	—	—	419	434
Final numbers after correction :										
Under 1 year	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	16	17
1-2 years	3	—	9	6	1	1	—	—	105	110
3-4 „	2	—	13	12	—	—	—	—	128	132
5-9 „	1	2	9	12	—	—	—	—	167	169
10-14 „	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
15-24 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	8	3	32	33	1	2	—	—	419	434
	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :										
Total (all ages)	9	15	61	46	7	4	1	2	5	4
Final numbers after correction :										
Under 5 years	2	3	20	17	—	—	—	1	—	—
5-14 years	1	—	22	12	—	1	1	—	—	—
15-44 „	4	5	13	15	—	1	—	—	2	3
45-64 „	1	3	5	2	6	1	—	—	3	—
65 and over	1	4	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	9	15	61	47	7	4	1	1	5	3
	Tuberculosis						Other notifiable Diseases			
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Original		Final	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :							Puerperal Pyrexia			
Total (all ages)	23	46	—	1	3	6	—	2	—	2
Under 5 years	1	1	—	—	—	1				
5-14 years	2	7	—	1	1	—				
15-24 „	8	12	—	—	—	3				
25-44 „	2	23	—	—	—	1				
45-64 „	9	3	—	—	2	1				
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—				
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	23	46	—	1	3	6				

One Case of Food Poisoning rediagnosed as Dysentery.

One case of Meningococcal Infection rediagnosed as Hypertension,

Notifiable Diseases, 1955—Age Distribution

DISEASE.	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	6—10	11—15	16—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	K.N.	Totals
Measles ...	32	102	112	130	131	167	171	5	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	853
Dysentery ...	6	8	6	14	4	10	17	8	7	13	6	3	4	2	—	108
Tuberculosis Pul.	1	—	—	1	—	1	5	7	17	12	12	10	2	1	—	69
Tuberculosis Non-Pul.	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	2	1	—	—	10
Whooping Cough ...	4	9	6	17	7	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	2	2	5	—	24
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	2	—	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	6	2	1	—	11
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	2	1	—	—	8
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	46	122	128	164	144	195	207	22	33	32	25	25	13	9	1	1166

TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

The notifications of all types of tuberculosis in 1955 was 79. This is an increase of 30 over 1954 and at first sight could easily be interpreted as a retrogression in the fight against this disease. This is especially so as in 1954 and 1953 there was a successive decline in the cases notified.

The following table is interesting:—

Cases Notified under Quarterly Returns

			1955			1954		
			Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
First quarter	...	...	11	2	13	13	—	13
Second quarter	...	...	42	3	45	9	2	11
Third quarter	...	...	11	4	15	12	2	14
Fourth quarter	...	...	5	1	6	10	1	11
Totals	...	...	69	10	79	44	5	49

It shows that in the pulmonary cases notified there is an actual reduction in the first, third, and fourth quarters of 1955 as compared with 1954 and an overwhelming increase in the second quarter of 1955.

The reason for this is that in May and June, 1955, a campaign against tuberculosis was organised. This took the form of an attempt to X-ray the whole population of Blyth over the age of five years.

For this purpose three mass X-ray units were brought into the town for seven weeks—from the 2nd May to the 18th June.

The campaign was organised by the Regional Hospital Board, the Local Health Authority, and the District Authority. Excellent co-operation was obtained. The chest physicians, school medical officers, mass radiography teams, health visitors, health department personnel, etc., worked together as a single unit.

In addition a skin test was offered to every person X-rayed and this was made possible by training nursing staff in the technique of using the Heaf vaccinator. They were assisted by St. John's Ambulance Brigade personnel.

The campaign started in the schools and industry and then the X-ray units were taken to the people in every district.

60% of the population over the age of five years were examined—a total of some 20,900.

Forty cases of active tuberculosis were discovered and in addition sixty-five cases of probable inactive disease were booked for follow-up examination.

It will be seen, then, that of the 42 cases notified in the second quarter of 1955 many came to light as a result of the campaign. Many of these would have remained undiagnosed for a longer period and would have been a potential source for the spread of infection. These cases were admitted to sanatorium immediately and by this action were removed as sources of infection. It will be interesting to follow the notification figures for 1956 and 1957 to see what effect this has had on the tuberculosis trend in Blyth.

During 1955 there were 69 pulmonary cases and 10 non-pulmonary cases notified.

At the end of 1955 there were 525 cases on the tuberculosis register—471 pulmonary and 54 non-pulmonary. This is an increase of 48 over 1954.

During the year the Chest Clinic vaccinated 157 persons against tuberculosis. The majority were child contacts. In the schools in Blyth 308 children were vaccinated.

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during 1955 was six, the lowest ever recorded.

The progress made against this disease could have been greatly increased by according the chest clinics and Health Department staffs greater powers. Mass radiography of the public by voluntary methods has had some success in detecting cases of tuberculosis, earlier than in the normal course of events. The stage has been reached, however, where there is a section of the public who will resist all efforts made to persuade them to be X-rayed. This "hard-core" must contain a high percentage of cases of open tuberculosis that are more than a potential danger to the public at large.

Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, allows court action to be taken against a person "known to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, in an infectious state, and where proper precautions are not being taken to prevent

the spread of infection and serious risk of infection is caused, thereby, to others."

It is impossible to operate this section unless the patient has had a sputum specimen proved positive or a recent X-ray showing active disease. The result of a successful action is that the patient is ordered to a sanatorium.

Unfortunately this is not the whole picture. Chest Clinics have their defaulters against whom it is difficult, if not impossible, to take action under section 172. It is in the interests of the patients and the public, however, that regular attendance at the chest clinic be maintained and I think that the time is overdue for legislation towards this.

It should be possible to compel a notified case of pulmonary tuberculosis to attend for regular examination. There is no interference with personal liberty and very little time is wasted as far as employment is concerned.

There is a good case to be made out for compulsory mass X-ray of the public as well. It would be extremely useful to be able to X-ray every person in a certain block of property about whom the authorities were suspicious. It is the only method where 100% attendance would be achieved.

The chronic nature of some forms of pulmonary tuberculosis makes it a most difficult disease to control unless co-operation between patient and doctor is obtained.

Compulsory X-ray of the chest would be of great benefit in dealing with industry and commerce, and tracing contacts would be made much easier.

Although we have reached the stage in the fight against tuberculosis where it would appear the disease is being conquered, legislation of the kind suggested above would speed up the drive towards this victory more than anything else. It would benefit the population medically and financially.

Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
8.1	7.5	8.1	9.7	10.2	12.9	14.2	13.9	15.2

Tuberculosis, 1944-1955

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	Number of Notifications	Number of Deaths	Period within which death occurred							
			Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	Over 10 yrs.
1955	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	62	8	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1952	96	9	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
1951	88	14	7	—	2	3	2	—	—	—
1950	84	11	7	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
1949	72	14	5	3	5	1	—	—	—	—
1948	56	19	7	8	3	1	—	—	—	—
1947	47	25	6	12	3	1	1	1	1	—
1946	55	26	21	2	2	—	—	1	—	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—	—
1944	58	26	5	5	6	7	1	—	1	1
	787	173	81	41	27	13	5	3	2	1

Tuberculosis, 1946-1955

Year			All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
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	0.56
1952	...	...	103	13	0.38
1953	...	...	73	14	0.40
1954	...	...	49	8	0.23
1955	...	...	79	6	0.17

Tuberculosis, 1955

				Notifications				Deaths			
				Males		Females		Males		Females	
				Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Totals	...	...	...	23	3	46	7	5	—	1	—
Totals	...	...	...	26		53		5		1	
Grand Totals	...	...		79				6			

Tuberculosis, 1955

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	221	19	208	29	477
(b) Number of new cases notified under "Regulations of 1930" for the first time during the year	24	3	45	7	79
(c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed previous to 1955	—	—	1	—	1
(d) Number of cases added to the Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	1	—	3	1	5
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year ...	19	3	13	2	37
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	227	19	244	35	525

Tuberculosis, 1955

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	2	8	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25	8	11	—	3	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	13	—	1	—	1	—	—
35-45	2	10	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	6	3	—	1	2	—	—	—
55-65	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	23	46	3	7	5	1	—	—
Grand Totals	69		10		6		—	

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area.—No change.

Acreage.—6,487.

Population.—(Registrar-General's Estimate) .. 34,420

Rate Value.—(1st April, 1955) £193,031

Product of a Penny Rate (estimated) £762

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor.—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.18.

	1954	1955
The uncorrected birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population	19.8	16.9
The standardised birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population	19.8	16.9
The crude death rate per 1,000 estimated home population	10.2	10.3
The standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated home population	12.0	12.1
The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	17.2	35.8
The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.1	25.6
The still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	24.4	31.4
The tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 estimated home population	0.23	0.17
The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	1.6

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of live births...	764	858	737	708	660	674	618	618	638	585
No. of deaths ...	440	469	362	422	417	453	352	335	354	357
Excess of births over deaths...	324	389	375	286	243	221	266	283	284	228

Infantile Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1946-1955

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ...	48	45	40	28	31	21	11	18	11	21
Infant Mortality Rate...	62.8	52.4	54.2	39.5	46.9	31.1	17.8	29.1	17.2	35.8

Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Age	Avoidable or not
1	Spina Bifida	F	1 Week	Not
2	Volvulus	M	1 Month	Not
3	Suffocation	M	2 Months	Yes
4	Haemorrhagic disease of newborn	M	2 Days	Not
5	Gastro-enteritis	M	6 Months	Yes
6	Atelectasis	M	5 Hours	Not
7	Birth Injury	F	17 Hours	Not
8	Broncho-pneumonia	F	2 Months	Yes
9	Prematurity (twin)	M	1 Hour	Not
10	Prematurity (twin)	M	12 Hours	Not
11	Prematurity	M	21 Hours	Not
12	Congenital Heart Disease	F	4 Days	Not
13	Haemorrhagic disease of newborn	M	6 Days	Not
14	Prematurity	F	21 Hours	Not
15	Prematurity	M	4 Hours	Not
16	Spina Bifida	M	24 Hours	Not
17	Prematurity	M	4 Hours	Not
18	Meningococcal Infection	F	11 Months	Yes
19	Prematurity	F	15 Hours	Not
20	Broncho-pneumonia	F	2 Months	Yes
21	Prematurity	M	1 Hour	Not

Infant Deaths

<i>Possibly Avoidable</i>			<i>Unavoidable</i>		
Suffocation	1		Spina Bifida	2	
Gastro-enteritis	1		Volvulus	1	
Broncho-pneumonia	2		Haemorrhagic Disease		
Meningococcal Infec-			of newborn	2	
tion	1		Atelectasis	1	
			Birth Injury	1	
			Prematurity	8	
			Congenital Heart		
			disease	1	
	5			16	

Causes of Death, 1955

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	1	6
023	Other cardio-vascular Syphilis	1	—	1
057	Meningococcal Infection	—	2	2
150	Malignant Neoplasm—Oesophagus	2	1	3
151	„ „ —Stomach	10	8	18
153	„ „ —Large Intestine	5	2	7
154	„ „ —Rectum	—	3	3
155	„ „ —Liver	—	1	1
157	„ „ —Pancreas	2	3	5
162	„ „ —Bronchogenic- Primary	13	2	15
170	„ „ —Breast	—	3	3
171	„ „ —Cervix Uteri	—	4	4
175	„ „ —Ovary	—	4	4
176	„ „ —Other Female Genital Organs	—	1	1
180	„ „ —Kidney	—	1	1
181	„ „ —Bladder	2	—	2
193	„ „ —Spinal Cord	—	1	1
199	„ „ —Other sites	1	1	2
200	Lymphosarcoma	1	—	1
204	Acute Leukaemia	—	1	1
330	Subarachnoid haemorrhage	2	1	3
331	Cerebral haemorrhage	13	19	32
332	Cerebral Thrombosis	11	9	20
345	Multiple Sclerosis	1	—	1
401	Rheumatic Fever	—	1	1
420	Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease	—	1	1
420-1	Coronary Thrombosis	31	23	54
421-0	Mitral Stenosis	1	2	3
422	Cardio-vascular Degeneration	16	7	23
422-1	Myocardial Degeneration with Arterio- sclerosis	6	1	7
422-2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility	9	11	20
431	Acute Myocarditis	—	1	1
433-1	Auricular Fibrillation	2	1	3
434-1	Congestive Heart Failure	5	8	13
434-2	Left Ventricular Failure	6	1	7
434-3	Cor Pulmone	2	—	2
440	Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1	1
442	Hypertensive Heart Disease with arteriolar nephrosclerosis	1	—	1
445	Malignant Hypertension	—	1	1
450-1	Arteriosclerosis with gangrene	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism	1	1	2
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	—	1
491	Broncho-Pneumonia	5	6	11
501	Bronchitis	2	—	2
502	Chronic Bronchitis	3	—	3
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia	1	2	3
541	Duodenal Ulcer	1	—	1
541-1	Duodenal Ulcer with perforation	3	1	4
543	Gastritis	1	—	1
550-1	Acute appendicitis with peritonitis	—	1	1
561-1	Femoral Hernia—strangulated	—	1	1
561-2	Umbilical Hernia	—	1	1
570-2	Mesenteric Infarction	1	—	1
570-3	Volvulus	1	—	1
572-1	Diverticulitis	1	—	1
581	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2	3
584	Cholelithiasis	—	1	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	—	2	2

Causes of Death, 1955—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
593	Nephritis	1	—	1
600	Kidney Infection	1	—	1
672	Delivery complicated by other postpartum haemorrhage	—	1	1
722	Rheumatoid Arthritis and allied conditions	—	1	1
751	Spina bifida	1	2	3
754-1	Congenital Heart Disease	—	1	1
760-5	Intracranial and spinal injury at birth, with immaturity	1	—	1
761	Other birth injury	—	1	1
762-5	Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis with immaturity	2	—	2
763	Pneumonia of newborn	—	1	1
770	Haemolytic disease of newborn	1	—	1
771-5	Haemorrhagic disease of newborn with immaturity	1	—	1
774	Prematurity	3	1	4
776	Prematurity unqualified	1	1	2
794	Senility	1	1	2
E 800	Railway accident involving railroad em- ployee	2	—	2
E 812	Motor vehicle accident to pedestrian ...	1	—	1
E 815	Motor vehicle accident to rider or passenger	2	—	2
E 816	Other motor vehicle accident	1	—	1
E 840	Street car accident to pedestrian	1	—	1
E 857	Accident—ship heeled over in drydock ...	1	—	1
E 902	Accidental fall into tank of a ship	1	—	1
E 903	Accidental fall	2	—	2
E 910	Crush by fall of earth	2	—	2
E 929	Accidental drowning... ..	1	—	1
E 972	Suicide—coal gas poisoning... ..	1	2	3
N 991	Asphyxiation by bedclothes	1	—	1
		200	157	357

CANCER

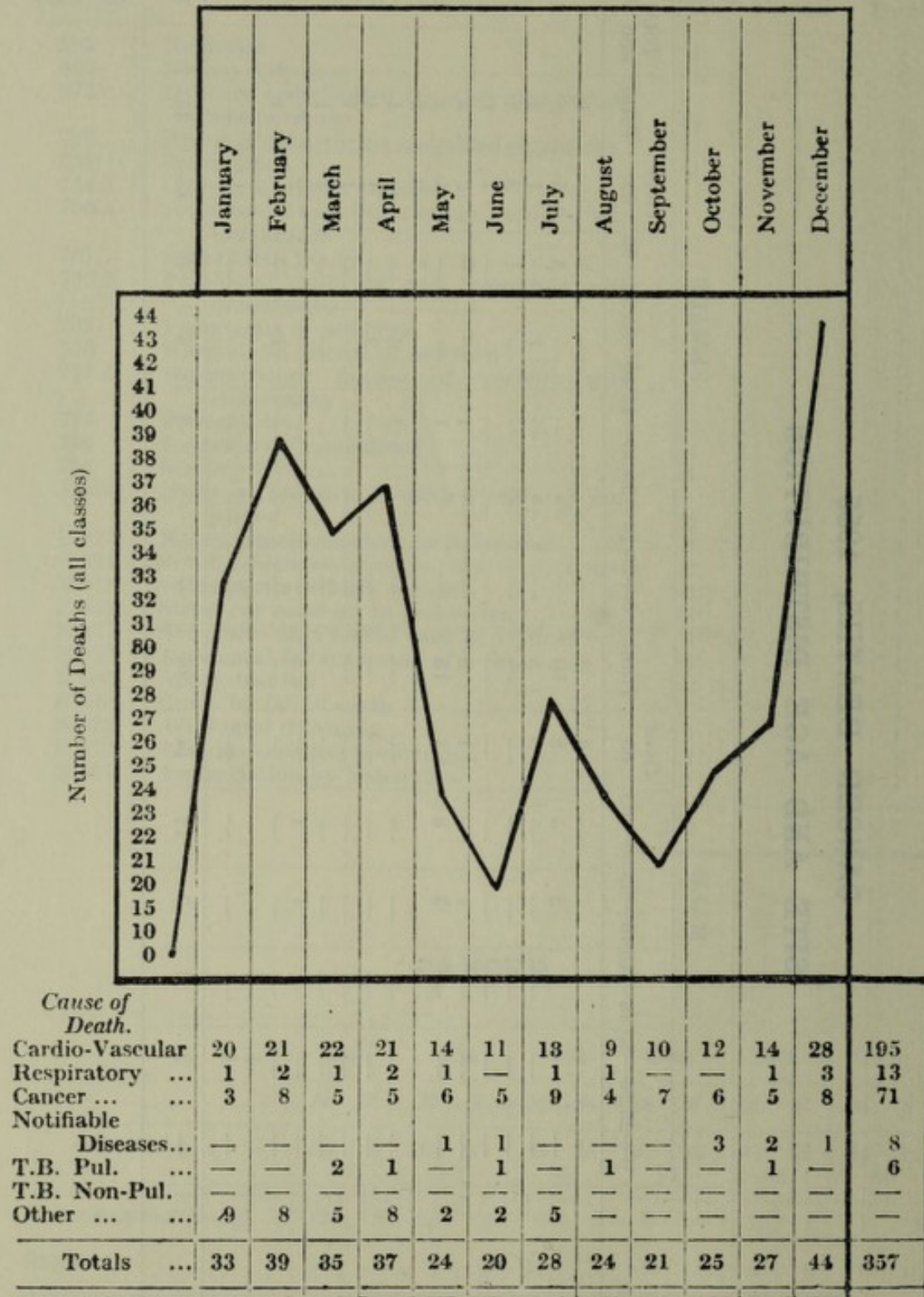
Type	1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All causes	36	35	48	35	33	28	42	35	31	32	34	32
	71		83		61		77		63		66	
Bronchogenic (Lung) ...	13	2	12	3	9	1	6	1	5	1	1	1
Stomach	10	7	7	5	13	9	7	6	9	9	9	10
Intestine	5	5	8	5	3	2	10	5	2	4	9	4
Female Organs	—	11	—	16	—	9	—	14	—	11	—	10

There were 71 deaths from cancer during 1955—a decrease of 12 from 1954.

CANCER DEATHS, 1955 SITE AND AGE DISTRIBUTION

SITE OF DISEASE	MALE							FEMALE							
	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total	Total Male and Female
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Stomach	—	—	1	2	5	2	10	—	—	—	—	3	5	8	18
Large Intestine	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	7
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Pancreas	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	5
Bronchogenic	—	—	—	3	6	4	13	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	15
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3
Cervix Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	4	4
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	4	4
Vulva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Bladder	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Spinal Cord	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Other Sites	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lymphosarcoma	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	2	1	7	12	14	36	—	3	8	6	18	35	71	

DEATHS, 1955



	Male	Female	Total
Deaths over 65 years of age :—	110	93	203

HOUSING

Considerable progress has been made in this field over the last few years. Housing estates continue to rise on the surrounding agricultural land!!

During 1955 thirty-five families with pulmonary tuberculosis were re-housed, and the waiting list for such cases, although never cleared, has been reduced to reasonable proportions.

Overcrowding still exists but it is no longer an insoluble problem. The cases that come to light are usually ones where the families have been sub-tenants and a natural increase has occurred. There is always the family that cannot get on with in-laws or the landlord, who are continually on the move, and who are liable to become overcrowded tenants. There are also the incomers who have no residential qualifications. In spite of these, the situation is considerably more favourable than it was in 1945.

If the overcrowding problem has eased, the problem of slum property remains. There is a great deal of property in Blyth which is beyond saving, in spite of improvement grants, etc. Private owners find that the cost of initial repairs are too great. The property must, of course, be in good repair before improvement grants can be considered. The Council, themselves, too, have investigated several properties with the idea of purchasing them, repairing and improving them, only to find that the eventual rent would not be an economic one.

A great deal of this kind of property will have to be dealt with by clearance or the demolition of individual houses. Much of it is close to the centre of the town and the sites could well be used for re-building. I strongly recommend the building of houses and flats in the town proper. The blocks of single persons' dwellings on the housing estates are admirable in themselves, but they are really best suited for young persons. It is not uncommon to be told by an old person that the new house is "wonderful" but how they wish it was nearer the town. It is quite a trial for many of these aged persons to take a trip into the shopping centres and many of them prefer to have someone do their shopping for them. This is not a good thing. Retired persons remain young only when they have interests and when they are

able to keep active. In these estates they are often away from their old environment, their neighbours and relatives. The new house may mean isolation in an unfriendly district, very clean, very new, but without the social warmth necessary in old age. In many cases sons and daughters find it further to travel to visit and often this means that the number of visits are reduced, bringing an added feeling of loneliness.

A further point against re-housing old people, especially in housing estates outside the centre of the town, is the cost of travelling for them into the town. Although they may have shopping facilities reasonably close by on the housing estates, many of them prefer to continue dealing with the establishments they have known all their lives. Apart from that there are visits to relatives and friends and when this is balanced against the income of an old age pensioner it becomes of considerable importance. How much better off they would be if their flats were relatively close to their former habitations.

Surely the cleared sites with all the services on the spot could be used more advantageously.

SICK BENEFIT SCHEME

During 1955, 231 workmen lost work through sickness and injury (126 Maintenance workers, 105 Direct Labour workers).

One hundred and sixty-eight attended the health department—most cases more than once.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of workmen sick	129	197	258	279	296	231
Number of days lost by sickness (6-day week) ...	3,672	4,635	7,403½	6,836	6,811	5,438
Number of days lost by sickness (Maintenance Staff)	—	—	—	—	—	3,071
Number of days lost by sickness (Direct Labour Staff)	—	—	—	—	—	2,367
Number of Maintenance workers	—	—	—	—	273	240
Number of Direct Labour workers	—	—	—	—	214	151
Total persons employed ...	255	440	491	504	487	391
Average length of time off sick (days)	28½	24	28½	25	23	23½
Percentage of workmen sick during the year:—						
Total	50%	44.8%	52.5%	55.3%	60.7%	59 %
Maintenance ...	—	—	—	—	60.8%	52.5%
Direct Labour ...	—	—	—	—	47.6%	69.5%
Number of days lost per 100 workmen employed	1,400	1,053	1,508	1,356	1,398	1,390

<i>Number of days off sick</i>			<i>Number of workmen off sick during that period</i>					
			1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
1—3	...	...	9	15	13	24	22	35
4—7	...	...	14	29	32	31	41	17
8—14	...	...	26	32	44	56	52	40
15—21	...	...	20	35	39	43	49	30
22—28	...	...	12	18	22	23	36	24
29—35	...	...	13	13	21	19	21	16
36—42	...	...	5	9	19	20	14	18
43—49	...	...	3	10	8	12	13	14
50—56	...	...	5	5	9	13	15	10
57—63	...	...	2	7	5	8	9	3
64—70	...	...	6	8	7	5	5	3
71—77	...	...	5	1	5	3	2	6
78—84	...	...	8	3	5	2	4	6
84+	...	...	1	11	29	20	13	9
			129	196	258	279	296	231

The commonest period of absence was 1-2 weeks.

The commonest causes of absence were Fibrositis and allied conditions and Bronchitis followed by Influenza and Injury.

LABORATORY SPECIMENS, 1955

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

A. PATHOLOGICAL.

(1) *Throat and Nose swabs.*

Corynebacterium	Diphtheria	Present	...	Nil	
		Not found	...	3	3
Haemolytic Streptococci		Present	...	13	
		Not found	...	25	38
Growth of Staphylococcus Aureus Coagulase		Positive	...		5
Vincent's Organisms		Not found	...		1

(2) *Sputum.*

B. Tuberculosis		Present	...	34	
		Not found	...	613	647
Pleural Fluid		Not found	...	1	1

(3) *Faeces.*

Sh. Sonnei isolated	...	...	...	...	...	165	
Para-typhoid B. isolated	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Salmon. give isolated	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Salmon. Typhimurium isolated	...	...	...	...	...	9	
B. Tuberculosis not found	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Ziehl Neelson—Acid fast bacilli not found	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Organisms of enteric, dysentery and food poisoning group					Not found	8	
No Pathogens isolated	...	...	...	...	...	285	478

(4) *Blood Culture.*

Specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(5) *Other Specimens* 23

B. WATER, MILK, ETC.

(1) *Water Samples.*

(a) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
(b) Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

(2) *Milk Samples.*

(a) For B. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	27
(b) For Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	27
(c) For Pasteurised Milk						
Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	42
Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	...	42

(3) *Sterility of Milk Bottles.*

(a) Satisfactory	(b) Fairly Satisfactory	(c) Unsatisfactory	
52	14	18	84

(4) *Ice-Cream.*

(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue	...	...	...	31
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

(5) *Other Specimens—Bacteriological :*

(a) Luncheon meat sandwich	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Luncheon meat	...	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Water Sampling

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

CHEMICAL

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Result</i>
Newcastle and Gateshead Water :		
296, Plessey Road, Blyth		? Mains
(Sub floor and standpipe)	2	Leakage
Trimmers' Cabin (Bates Wharf)		
(Tap over wash-up sink)	1	Satisfactory
Front Street, Bebside		
(Standpipe)	1	Satisfactory
Hepscott Water—Barmoor Pit—Unchlorinated		
from inlet pipe and before sand filtration at		
Bebside Water Works	1	Satisfactory
Newcastle and Tynemouth Water		
Fountain Head Cafe, Seaton Sluice	1	Satisfactory

BACTERIOLOGICAL

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Un- satisfactory
1. Newcastle & Gateshead Water	16	13	2	1
2. Hepscott Water before chlorination	13	12	—	1
3. Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle Water after chlorination	15	15	—	—
4. Newcastle & Tynemouth Water... ..	12	11	1	—
5. Barmoor Water—Inlet well, first filter bed ...	1	—	1	—
	57	51	4	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1950

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN 1955

Samples of Raw Milk from Producers outside the Borough :—

METHYLENE BLUE		BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS			Total Samples.
Satisfactory.	Unsatis- factory.	Positive.	Negative.	Tests not carried out.	
16	11	—	25	2 Animal died. Result inconclusive	54

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

METHYLENE BLUE.		PHOSPHATASE TEST.		Total Samples.
Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	
By Borough 12	2	14	—	28
By County Council 28	—	28	—	56

Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility.

Satisfactory.	Fairly Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.
52	14	18	84

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950

Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.

	Tins	Lbs.	Miscellaneous
Butter, Margarine, etc. ...	—	132	
Cereals	22	28	—
Cheese	—	57	—
Chicken	18	36½	—
Chestnuts	—	110	—
Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, etc. ...	—	209½	328 Eggs
Fruit	1301	—	—
Fish and Shellfish	115	—	—
Milk	851	—	—
Meat (Uncooked)	—	200½	—
„ (Cooked)	826	3¼	—
Preserves, etc.	27	—	169 Puddings
Soups, etc.	54	—	—
Vegetables	2161	—	
Miscellaneous	—	—	22 Boxes—Spreads 5 Cakes

Meat Inspection, 1955

Animals Slaughtered :—

Month.	Bulls.	Bull- ocks.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total, 1955.
January ...	2	102	38	18	1	296	354	811
February ...	1	88	37	27	—	286	403	842
March ...	—	103	29	11	3	266	486	898
April ...	—	82	21	11	2	242	357	715
May ...	—	93	26	7	—	227	378	731
June ...	—	69	50	5	—	273	351	748
July ...	—	32	76	5	—	267	235	615
August ...	—	46	115	5	1	449	291	907
September ...	1	50	91	3	3	505	253	906
October ...	—	77	85	4	13	584	293	1,056
November ...	—	80	86	7	3	531	271	978
December ...	—	58	54	12	—	345	452	921
Totals ...	4	880	708	115	26	4,271	4,124	10,128
1,733								
Totals, 1954 ...	4	823	750	126	32	5,136	5,103	11,974
1,735								

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

		Weight in lbs. of Carcase	Weight in lbs. of Offal	Total Weight in lbs.
On account of :				
Generalised Tuberculosis	Cow No. 1	538	150	688
Emaciation and Oedema	Sheep No. 1	34	—	34
" " "	Sheep No. 2	50	—	50
Oedema	Sheep No. 3	65	—	65
		149	—	149
Generalised Tuberculosis	Pig No. 1	206	26	232
" "	Pig No. 2	276	36	312
Miliary Tuberculosis	Pig No. 3	274	30	304
Tuberculosis and Pyrexia	Pig No. 4	157	22	179
" "	Pig No. 5	137	20	157
Pneumonia and Urticaria	Pig No. 6	129	22	151
Moribund	Pig No. 7	180	20	200
Imperfect bleeding and Septic condition	Pig No. 8	554	30	584
		1913	206	2119

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

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Cattle : Part carcasses and/or organs	398	5,806
Sheep : Part carcasses and/or organs	11	59
Pigs : Part carcasses and/or organs	177	2,110
Beef : Hindquarters	4	554
Hindquarters (Parts)	2	101
Forequarters (Parts)	1	63
Trimming and Bones	—	94
Pork : Legs	3	36
Pig Fat and Trimmings	—	30
Leg of Lamb	—	3½

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937

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

	No. of Tins	Weight in lbs.
Corned Beef	138	1,050½
Hindquarters of Beef	3	334
Boneless Beef	—	50½

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,592	115	26	4,271	4,124
Number inspected	1,592	115	26	4,271	4,124
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	3	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	227	10	—	13	97
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.2	8.7	—	0.3	2.3
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	70	18	—	—	78
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	4.2	16.6	—	—	2.01
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspections

Number of inspections made during the year 1955	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—														
general	33	64	37	57	59	57	49	52	32	74	44	42	600	
Re-inspections re Outstanding Notices	115	100	106	106	136	116	131	122	109	114	127	92	1374	
Dirty or Verminous Premises ...	18	6	5	22	24	14	18	8	3	12	11	5	146	
Drainage	21	16	16	3	8	17	4	14	7	7	8	7	128	
Keeping of Animals	5	2	2	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	15	
Licensed Premises	2	3	—	—	3	—	12	2	1	2	—	2	27	
Moveable Dwellings	—	—	2	1	—	1	12	—	—	5	—	—	20	
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	10	8	3	2	—	26	
Piggeries	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	8	14	
Places of Public Entertainment ...	2	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	9	
Spoilbanks	3	—	9	5	5	7	4	5	—	7	3	2	50	
Smoke Nuisances	3	3	2	—	1	2	2	—	2	9	3	3	30	
Sanitary Conveniences	—	—	—	—	—	12	6	2	—	—	—	—	20	
Refuse Tips	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Water Supplies	4	5	5	3	—	6	4	2	5	2	7	—	43	
Mortuary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	
													2,509	2,509
<i>(b) Housing Act, 1936.</i>														
Investigations re Overcrowding	13	4	10	4	8	10	7	16	7	10	9	6	104	
Houses in Clearance Areas ...	—	1	—	16	13	—	32	—	7	1	2	1	73	
Squatters' Camps	3	2	—	1	—	1	7	14	2	5	2	—	37	
Corporation Houses	7	10	6	33	26	25	19	10	26	14	20	31	227	
Inspections prior to Estates Cttee. ...	16	16	17	32	19	—	12	13	55	14	22	30	246	
Housing Surveys	—	5	61	20	40	46	14	14	5	12	17	33	267	

Number of inspections made during the year 1955		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
PART II HOUSING ACT, 1936 :															
Section 9—Repairs ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Section 11—Demolition Orders ...	...	6	20	6	11	1	4	—	1	7	10	1	—	67	67
Section 12—Closing Orders ...	...	—	5	7	4	2	12	3	1	12	8	17	3	74	74
PART III HOUSING ACT, 1936 :															
Section 34—															
Proposed Redevelopment Area ...	...	—	5	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14
HOUSING ACT, 1949 :															
Applications re Improvement Grant	...	2	1	11	5	4	7	3	19	17	16	4	1	90	90
Interviews re Improvement Grant ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	16	4	44	44
RENT AND REPAIRS ACT, 1954 :															
Rent Restrictions ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2
Applications for Cert. of Disrepair	...	1	—	5	4	6	6	1	—	2	—	2	—	27	27
Interview re Cert. of Disrepair	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	4
														1,276	3,785
(c) Factories Act, 1937.															
Mechanical Power ...	...	1	5	—	5	1	6	4	8	1	—	1	7	39	39
No Mechanical Power...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Outworkers ...	...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
														43	3,828
(d) Shops Act, 1950.															
Sanitary and other arrangements in	...														
Shops ...	...	2	13	4	10	6	5	8	7	6	9	2	2	74	3,902
(e) Pests Act, 1948.															
Allotments ...	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Dwelling Houses	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	8
Other Properties	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	1	8	8
Council Properties	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
														23	3,925

Number of inspections made during the year 1955		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(f) <i>Pet Animals Act, 1951.</i>															
Applications for renewal of Licences		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	3,929
(g) <i>Infectious Diseases (Notifications) Acts</i>															
Investigations made		16	29	147	143	44	60	51	22	9	23	12	1	557	4,486
(h) <i>Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 and 1950.</i>															
Abattoir—Meat Inspection		64	62	51	62	58	54	49	56	65	49	55	68	693	
Cottagers' Pigs		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	
Examination of Unsound Foodstuffs		3	9	5	5	7	7	10	15	14	7	16	16	114	
Bakehouses		1	2	1	—	1	2	5	9	—	5	12	7	45	
Bakery and Confectionery Shops		3	—	2	—	—	—	1	5	—	3	9	—	23	
Butchers' Shops		5	5	1	—	6	18	8	9	6	7	14	16	95	
Fish and Chip Shops		1	8	2	4	1	1	4	2	2	1	9	2	35	
General Dealer Shops		1	1	1	—	10	4	5	4	—	5	8	—	41	
Grocery and Provision Shops		1	7	2	2	11	5	10	7	5	7	6	9	72	
Greengrocery Shops		—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	6	
Preserved Food Premises		—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	6	
Wet Fish Shops		—	—	1	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	8	
Food Manufacturing Premises		—	1	—	1	—	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	9	
Ice-cream Premises		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(a) Manufacturing		2	1	1	3	6	12	21	8	—	—	—	—	54	
(b) Retail		—	—	—	—	—	8	3	7	2	—	—	—	20	
Restaurants and Cafes		—	6	1	5	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	—	32	
Market Stalls		36	20	21	37	53	46	53	14	30	32	28	41	411	
Food Vehicles		10	10	8	6	4	6	11	5	14	17	7	4	102	
(i) <i>Milk and Dairies Orders.</i>															
Dairies and Equipment		2	2	1	5	5	1	6	2	—	3	4	—	31	
Heat Treatment Plant		1	1	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Milk Shops		—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	82	—	85	
														1,893	6,379

Number of inspections made during the year 1955		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
<i>(j) Miscellaneous.</i>															
Inspections ...	...	5	9	7	10	8	33	16	14	14	10	15	12	153	
Interviews ...	...	9	49	54	72	42	112	51	80	51	57	92	50	719	
No. of houses treated for the Eradica- tion of Insect Pests ...	...	26	12	15	33	40	34	42	24	30	38	37	22	353	
No. of houses disinfected after Infec- tious Diseases ...	...	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
No. of houses disinfected by request ...	...	3	2	4	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	14	
No. of items of Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected by request ...	...	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	
No. of items of Bedding, Clothing, etc., destroyed by request ...	...	18	19	35	32	33	54	32	40	23	24	34	19	363	
Choked drains cleansed ...	...	8	10	9	5	2	5	5	9	5	7	10	8	83	
														1,699	8,078
<i>Sampling : Chemical</i>															
(a) Water ...	...	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
<i>Bacteriological</i>															
(a) Milk ...	...	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	2	2	2	2	2	80	
(b) Milk Bottles ...	...	6	6	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6	6	6	84	
(c) Water ...	...	4	4	4	4	4	8	6	4	4	5	4	4	55	
(d) Ice-cream ...	...	—	—	—	3	3	7	14	4	—	—	—	—	31	
														256	8,334
<i>No. of visits in connection with :—</i>															
(a) Milk Samples ...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	14	
(b) Water Samples ...	...	4	4	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	5	4	4	52	
(c) Ice-cream Samples ...	...	—	—	—	3	3	3	5	4	—	—	—	—	18	
														84	8,418
No. of Informal Notices Served ...	...	9	26	5	20	15	27	9	20	11	16	16	6	180	
No. of Statutory Notices Served ...	...	5	25	15	5	26	—	38	1	19	22	23	15	194	
														374	8,792

ANNUAL REPORT, 1955

Part II—Environmental Hygiene

Resume of work carried out by the Health Department

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Part III—Nuisances

Investigations of complaints and general inspections with regard to public health matters involved 2,520 visits by the Sanitary Inspectors. This figure, which does not take into account work under the Housing and Food & Drugs Acts, requires a great deal of time and involves considerable administrative work in connection with correspondence, interviews, notices and reports to the Health Committee, much of which is difficult to appreciate by the public when inevitable time occurs between the lodging of the complaint and the completion of desired work, especially when it is necessary to overcome the natural reluctance of Owners to spend more than the minimum on the repair of properties.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

Progress in the control and treatment of spoilbanks was made during the year and contact maintained between the National Coal Board, H.M. Inspector of Alkali etc. Works, and the Council, as to the most efficacious methods of dealing with the problem.

The following summary briefly indicates the progress :—

Horton Grange—Continued deposit of spoil, but regular control measures by consolidation carried out.

New Delaval Colliery—Major improvement achieved by the cessation of tipping and very extensive levelling and consolidation work which continued throughout the year with the object of bringing these vast deposits to the lowest possible level.

Isabella Colliery—In this case the position is not as satisfactory as was anticipated, as the proposed barging to sea as outlined in my report for 1954 has not yet come into operation although all the necessary equipment is now available. In the interim period the spoilbank has now achieved formidable proportions.

The continued spoilage of the coal producing areas by the vast deposits of waste material is a menace from both the

public health and aesthetic viewpoint and one which should ultimately be considered as a national and not purely a local problem. As coal production is the lifeblood of the nation's economy, then the country as a whole should be responsible for the problems which arise and I submit that a Royal Commission should be set up to consider ways and means by which this waste might be utilised or disposed of.

Three methods which spring readily to mind in the Blyth area are :—

1. Barging to sea.
2. Coastal protection works.
3. Infilling after open-cast production and prior to soiling over.

Part IV—Water Supply

During the year the Hepscoth Reservoir which was the source of previous unsatisfactory samples was discontinued and of fifty-seven samples taken only two were unsatisfactory, in both cases being obtained from the reservoir prior to closing.

1955 saw the inauguration of the new three million gallon reservoir at North Moor Farm, Plessey, following the laying of an eighteen inch pipe-line over a distance of three and a half miles, the entire scheme, the result of negotiations between the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and the Council, costing £122,000.

The sources of water supply to the Borough are :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Gallons Consumed</i>
Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co. ..	336,849,000
Tynemouth Corporation	5,997,000
Hepscoth (Barmoor)	52,938,000

Bacteriological Analysis—See page 27.

Chemical Analysis—See page 27.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary was used on forty-two occasions during the year, details being—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Post-Mortems</i>
Borough of Blyth	27	12
Bedlington U.D. Council ..	12	11
River Blyth Port Health Authority	3	—

A member of the Health Department Staff is responsible for general cleansing and maintenance of equipment and on occasions has assisted during post-mortems.

Part XI—Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.—The licensed caravan site on the Links continues to be run in a very orderly manner with no cause for complaint, but it was necessary to make several investigations with regard to unauthorised camping at the Links Garage and Pottery Field, Newsham, details of these being forwarded to the County Planning Authority. It is a matter for regret that no obvious improvement has yet occurred.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

SHOPS ACT, 1950

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Routine supervision is maintained with regard to all premises in accordance with the above Acts and conditions generally are satisfactory.

General Matters

Appended are some of the incidental services carried out by the Department.

No. of houses treated for insect pests	353
No. of houses disinfected after infectious disease	5
No. of houses disinfected by request	14
No. of items of bedding and clothing disinfected by request	9
No. of items of bedding and clothing destroyed by request	361
No. of dogs humanely destroyed	256
No. of cats humanely destroyed	148
Obstructed drains cleared	83

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950

It is gratifying to report that it was not found necessary to deal with any complaints regarding unsound food during

the year and the small number of food poisoning notifications were all of isolated cases and were not attributable to any specific organism or lack of care on the part of the food trader.

Whilst there is always room for continued improvement in premises and equipment the Blyth traders are to be commended for their co-operative attitude to the Health Department.

The introduction of the new Food and Drugs Act and Food Hygiene Regulations on the 1st January, 1956, marked another forward step in food hygiene and it is hoped that the traders will again endeavour to meet these advanced requirements to the full without the Council having recourse to the legal powers contained therein.

As pointed out in the report for 1954 it is the policy of the Department to cancel registrations where applicable on the cessation or change of occupier of a business and in this connection the following licences were cancelled.

Fish and Chip Shops	..	..	..	5
Butchers	..	..	..	2
Ice-cream Manufacturer	..	..	1	
Dairy	..	..	..	1

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

Record of Ice-Cream Bacteriological Analysis 1953-55

PERCENTAGE OF GRADES

Manufacturer	Year	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Remarks
No. 1	1953	50.0	—	25.0	25.0	
	1954	66.6	16.6	—	16.6	
	1955	37.5	25.0	12.5	25.0	
No. 2	1953	—	40.0	—	60.0	
	1954	50.0	12.5	37.5	—	
	1955	40.0	20.0	30.0	10.0	
No. 3	1953	—	—	—	100.0	
	1954	66.1	11.1	—	22.2	
	1955	42.9	14.3	14.3	28.5	
No. 4	1955	One sample Grade II		One sample Grade IV		
No. 5	1955	One sample Grade III				Pre-Packed
No. 6	1955	One sample Grade IV				Pre-packed

Routine sampling of ice-cream revealed a slight diminution in the standard of clean production during the year but it is difficult to obtain a constant Grade I standard when some slight contamination at any point of the production processes can result in a Grade III or IV sample.

It should be pointed out, however, that a Grade IV standard does not necessarily mean that the product is unsatisfactory, as even the presence of non-pathogenic bacteria can influence the result, but it does indicate a need for greater care in the sterilisation of all equipment. In such cases further samples are obtained by the Department and advice given.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

SUPPLY.—The only change of note during the year was the cessation of supplies by churn to the Co-operative Society's Dairy, all milk for pasteurisation being now delivered by tanker. As a result it is no longer possible to sample individual supplies for B. Tuberculosis, this now being done at the Collecting Centres.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.—See pages 27/28.

MILK BOTTLES.—A new bottle-washing plant of modern design has now been installed at the Co-operative Society's Dairy which has resulted in a much improved standard of bottle sterility.

SUPPLIERS.—One High-temperature, Short-time Pasteurising Plant; Five dairymen retailing bottled pasteurised milk from Coast Creameries Ltd.; Ninety-seven retailers of sterilised milk in bottles only.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

MEAT INSPECTION.—Slaughtering took place on 259 days during 1955, necessitating 693 visits to the abattoir by the Inspectors. Details of the 10,128 animals slaughtered and of condemnations are shown in the tables (see pages 27/28)

Out of this total of animals inspected only one cow, three sheep and eight pigs were condemned, which is evidence of the high quality of animal being purchased by the meat traders.

SLAUGHTERMEN.—At the end of 1955 there were 16 licensed slaughtermen on the register.

TRANSPORT.—Inspections of vehicles used for meat transport revealed no cause for complaint.

POLICY.—In July, 1955, the Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Slaughter-houses (England and Wales) was presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to Parliament.

This Committee was appointed in February, 1953, with the following terms of reference :—

To prepare a plan recommending in what localities, subject to a policy of concentration, slaughter-houses (other than bacon factories) should be sited for the slaughter in England and Wales of cattle, sheep and pigs ; to recommend an order of priority for new works and major reconstructions ; to make recommendations on the general principles of siting and the facilities that should be provided in these slaughter-houses ; and to report on the changes that may be necessary in existing legislation to secure the central regulation of siting and design of slaughter-houses.

The principal recommendations so far as Blyth is concerned are that paragraph 58 of the report favours the location of Slaughter-houses in the consuming areas and paragraph 115 which considers that the slaughter-house for each area might be located as shown at the head of each group of local authority districts, refers to Group 3 in Appendix VI as follows :—

SITING PLAN—NORTH EAST ENGLAND

<i>Local Authority Districts</i>		<i>Population</i>
Morpeth	Borough	10,500
Blyth	"	34,500
Alnwick	Urban District	7,500
Amble	"	5,000
Ashington	"	28,500
Bedlingtonshire	"	29,000
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	"	10,000
Alnwick	Rural District	12,000
Morpeth	"	18,000
Rothbury	"	5,500
		160,500

Appendix IV shows the Estimated capital and operational costs of slaughter-houses of various sizes and the cost to serve a population of 130/150,000 is given as £71,400 (excluding the cost of land) with Annual loan charges as £5,150 and an inclusive charge for each cattle unit for use of premises and slaughtering to make the slaughter-house self-supporting, as £1 3s. 8d.

The report is still under consideration.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

Notification was received by the Department of a suspected case of Swine Fever at Water Mill Piggery, Holywell Dene, Seaton Sluice, but this was not confirmed.

HOUSING

Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

SLUM CLEARANCE

Proposals in accordance with Sec. 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and provisional approval was obtained in August, 1955, to the following programme :—

Estimated number of unfit houses in accordance with Sec. 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action in accordance with Sec. 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Clearance)	344
Number of houses in operative clearance areas (Cowpen Colliery and Cowpen Road)	139
Number of houses to be demolished within five years as a result of action in accordance with Sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Demolition) ..	52
Total ..	535

During the year the Seaton Sluice and Harper and Marlow Street Areas involving some 74 separate dwellings were inspected prior to representation by the Medical Officer of Health as being the first year's programme, excluding individual demolition orders.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES :

Sec. 11 Housing Act, 1936

Twenty-two houses were demolished and eighty-two persons re-housed as a result of individual treatment primarily in the Tweedy Street area.

Sec. 12 Housing Act, 1936

Six houses were closed and thirty-two persons re-housed.

Secs. 10 (1) and 11 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Sixteen houses were closed and fifty-five persons re-housed principally situate in Bridge Street, Bowes Street and Wanley Street.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Sixteen applications were received during the year for Certificates of Disrepair, eleven of which were approved and five refused.

Six certificates of revocation were issued. Seven applications for revocation were refused in respect of 1954 and one in respect of a 1955 Certificate of Disrepair.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Following approval by the Council to the principle of making improvement grants the undermentioned information is given.

1955

Properties Surveyed and advice given	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Refused	Applications Approved	COMPLETED
54	25	5	19	Nil

At the time of preparation of the report five houses had been improved.

A very considerable amount of time and effort was expended by the Health and Borough Engineer's Departments in inspecting properties and advising and assisting applicants in every possible way to make the scheme a success, but the results are, to say the least, disappointing.

After a year's working of the scheme it appears to me that the principle obstacles are :—

- (a) The overall cost of improving the dwelling, which is frequently far in excess of what the applicant expected.
- (b) The high cost of the proportion to be spent on repairs for which no grant is available.
- (c) The deletion of excessive items of expenditure and/or the cost of certain repair work from the estimates submitted by Architects and Builders to a standard cost approved by the Borough Engineer, which frequently considerably reduces the amount of grant the applicant expects and results in a grant more approximately 30% of the overall cost than the 50% anticipated, estimates submitted amounting to £9,974 and grants approved amounting to £3,319.

IMPROVEMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

So far the approval of grants have been in isolated cases with the result that " Islands " of improved property may arise in blocks of property which may eventually require to be dealt with by future clearance or re-development—see page 39 of the Annual Report for 1952.

I would, therefore, particularly draw to the attention of the Council Circular 90/1945 relating to the Housing Act, 1949—Appendix III, para. 14, which states : " Operations to be carried out by the local authority should form part of an ordered plan and should not be a series of improvisations. . . . The most fruitful field for the operations of the local authority seems likely to lie in the acquisition and improvement of groups of houses where satisfactory improvement calls for the treatment of the group as a whole and would be hampered, even if it were not precluded, by the multiple ownership of property. . . . "

This policy, if the Council so desire, might well be applied to many houses in the Borough which could provide suitable accommodation for many years to come but are at present lacking amenities such as working kitchen, bathroom, hot and cold internal water supply, etc., and which, by reason of small rentals and cost of improvement works, prevent Owners from carrying out modernisation.

The main obstacle at the present moment to this policy is that the Act provides for a contribution by the Exchequer of a sum equal to three-quarters of the annual loss, the remaining 25% contributed by the Council. This is workable in relation to houses which are in good repair but where the Council desire to acquire houses in a poor state of repair to prevent further deterioration, the cost of the repair work falls on the Local Authority. This obviously negatives the prospect of improving the very type of house which it is most necessary to save.

Unless some amendment is made to the method of making grants to Local Authorities, I can see no alternative to the continued deterioration of sub-standard houses and their ultimate replacement by the Council.

HOUSING REPORT, 1955

Houses completed in 1955

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	...	...	...	...	174
Permanent Traditional—Contractors	...	...	...	...	15
Houses in Progress 31st December, 1955—					
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	...	...	...	...	124
Permanent Traditional—Contractors	...	...	...	...	41
Houses approved by Ministry of Housing and Local Government—					
Not commenced 31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	42
Permanent Houses completed by Private Enterprise, 1955	...	...	...	...	36

Houses completed Post-War

Permanent Traditional	...	...	...	...	...	1,736
Permanent Non-Traditional (Wimpey)	...	...	...	...	...	100
Pre-fabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F.	...	...	...	...	...	72
Pre-fabricated—Permanent Tarren	...	...	...	...	...	44
Pre-fabricated—Permanent Aluminium	...	...	...	...	...	59
Permanent Houses completed by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	75
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	12

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	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 unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Wearing apparel making, etc. ...	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories, 1955

	Mechanical Power.	No Mechanical Power.
Bakeries	14	—
Blacksmith	1	—
Boiler Scaling	1	—
Boot and Shoe Repairers	5	—
Cabinet Making	—	1
Car Spraying and Coach Work	4	—
Clothing Alterations	—	4
Clothing Repairs	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers	6	—
Coppersmiths	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations	1	—
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage	11	—
Corn Grinders	1	—
Dairies	1	—
Dry Cleaners	2	—
Electrical Engineers	1	—
Electro Plating	1	—
Engineering	4	—
Foundry	2	—
Garage and Battery Charging	15	—
Gas Works	1	—
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	6	—
Joinery, Stone-crushing, Est.	8	4
Marine Store and Timber	1	—
Plastics	1	—
Plumbers	1	1
Polishing	—	2
Potato Crisps	1	—
Printing	3	—
Radio and Electrical Repairs	—	4
Saddlery and Harness	—	1
Sculptor	1	—
Ship Building and Repairs	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding	1	—
Sign Writing	—	1
Slaters and Tilers	—	1
Soft Drinks and Bottling	1	—
Spring Mattresses	1	—
Sugar Confectionery	1	—
Timber Impregnation	1	—
Timber Merchants	6	—
Transformer Stations	1	—
Tyre Retreading	1	—
Upholstery	2	—
Weaving	1	—
	111	20

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Form 572 (Revised)

Part I of the Act

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

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	20	21	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	111	143	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	2	4	—	—
Total ...	133	168	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	To H.M. Inspector. (4)	By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2			
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	5	5			
(c) Not separate for Sexes...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...					
Total ...	7	7	Nil	Nil	Nil

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956

Form PDP/R6

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ...	30	10,460	1,234	—	34
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification ...	5	126	36	167	2
(b) Survey under the Act ...	25	57	384	466	32
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	3,930	833	4,763	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	83	4,113	1,418	5,614	111
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats { Major ...	5	—	4	16	5
{ Minor ...	3	20	12	35	9
(b) Mice { Major ...	2	—	1	3	3
{ Minor ...	4	116	54	174	—
V. No. of infested properties (In Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sec. IV) ...	14	136	71	228	14
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	25	140	73	238	15
VII. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural Work (i.e., proofing) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Legal Proceedings (See overleaf) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	2	4	4	10	1



