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BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1960



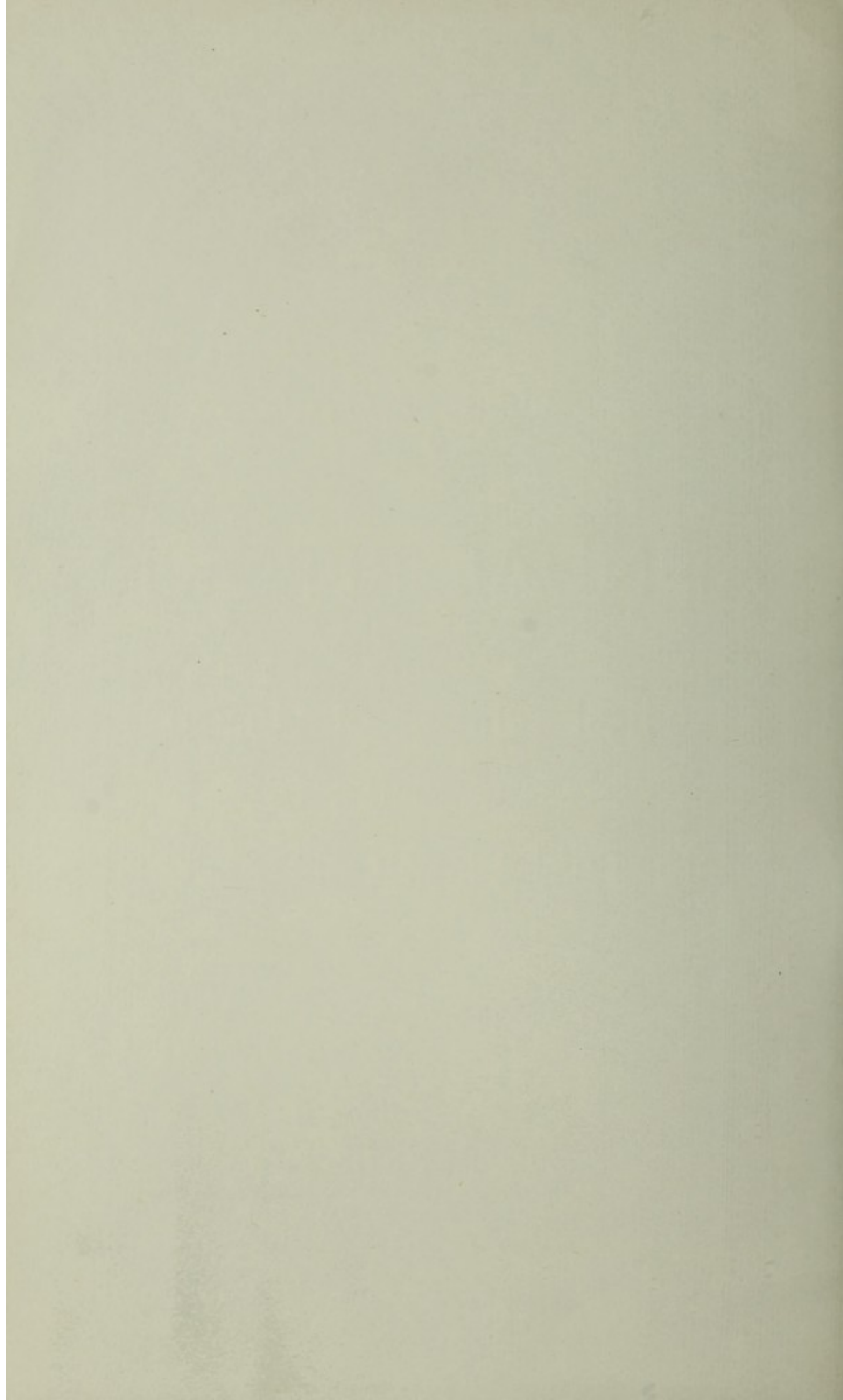
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : COUNCILLOR RUTHERFORD

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR BREADIN

THE MAYOR		COUNCILLOR RODDOM	
COUNCILLOR	DONOHUE	„	SMITH
„	ELDER	„	SUMMERS
„	HUDSPITH	„	TWEDDLE
„	KENNEDY	„	WATTS
„	PURVES	„	WOOLFREY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1960

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	...	A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i>	G. A. GILL, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.	
<i>Additional Public Health Insp.</i>	W. ALLAN, M.A.P.H.I.	
<i>Additional Public Health Insp.</i>	R. CHEETHAM, M.A.P.H.I.	(appointed June 1960)
<i>Clerk</i>	C. FELLOWS
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BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1960

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 1960.

The population of the Borough has increased by 290 to 35,050. The number of live births fell, however, by 85 to 627. It should be remembered that the 1959 births seemed excessively high, and the present figure is the highest since 1954 apart from last year. The uncorrected birth rate fell from 20.4 per 1,000 population to 17.8, which is still above the national average.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year, compared with 16 in 1959, giving an infant mortality rate of 15.9 per 1,000 live births. This is the lowest figure ever recorded in Blyth and says much for the ante and postnatal care given by the general practitioners, hospitals and Child Welfare Clinics. Of these 10 deaths, 6 occurred in the first four weeks of life and 4 in the first week. The number of deaths rose from 371 to 381, giving a crude death rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population.

There were 65 cases of infectious disease notified during the year—a remarkably low figure. It is strange recording the commonest infectious disease as pulmonary tuberculosis with 23 cases. It serves to remind us, however, that this disease is still active, and every means must be taken to eradicate it. There were no cases of diphtheria notified, nor any of food poisoning.

I think it can be said that 1960 was a good year as far as Community health was concerned.

There are still problems to be faced—caravans, clean air, river pollution. These are mentioned separately in the Report.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support during the year, also my colleagues in other departments for their unfailing co-operation. The Health Department Staff has again put in a tremendous amount of work—most of it routine and all of it performed unobtrusively and efficiently.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

DEATH IN 1960

Disease of the heart and arteries remains the commonest cause of death. More than half the total deaths are due to this at the present time. The next most common cause of death is cancer and almost one-fifth of all deaths is now due to this cause. Over three-quarters of all deaths, therefore, are due to cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The picture was different thirty years ago. Less than one-fifth of the deaths were attributed to cardiovascular causes and less than one-tenth to cancer and only one-quarter of the deaths then were due to the above causes. The missing two-quarters were made up of deaths from diphtheria, scarlet fever, influenza, tuberculosis, pneumonia, bronchitis, diarrhoea and infant deaths.

There has been a marked change in the pattern of death—from death in childhood and adolescence to death in old age.

In Blyth, both the cardiovascular and cancer causes of death are still tending to rise. The average of these deaths over a given period has always been higher than those of England and Wales. It is known, of course, that deaths from arteriosclerotic heart disease are very much higher in the North of England than elsewhere. Why this should be is not so clear. It may be due to many causes—harsher climate, different diet, type of employment, heavier smoking and drinking, or merely that the methods of death certification lean towards that diagnosis. The latter reason I doubt very much, as post-mortem examination has confirmed the cause of death in a sufficient number to show a difference does in fact exist.

Why there should be a similar tendency with cancer is difficult to understand, unless there is some hidden common factor as yet unexplained.

While the Blyth records of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer exceed the national average, it is interesting to note that as far as fatal road accidents are concerned Blyth is more favourably placed—it is well below the national average. Indeed, if the years 1955 and 1958 are excluded, Blyth has an excellent record in this respect—this may well be due to the fact that Blyth is a road and rail terminus. Other fatal accidents are slightly above the national average, but when one considers Blyth's industry—coal-mining and shipbuilding—it is not excessive: these are still hazardous occupations.

HOUSING

In 1960 Blyth opened two special type bungalows for handicapped persons. These were designed by the Borough Engineer, D. W. Foster, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S. The bungalows were in the nature of an experiment ; the idea was to produce a basic plan which would allow for alteration, without difficulty, for the individual handicapped person.

Each dwelling consists of a living room, two bedrooms, a utility room, kitchen, bathroom and W.C., separate W.C., hall and passage and garage.

The following features are noteworthy :-

A wide hall for ease in manipulating a wheelchair. Wide doors for wheelchair access. All internal doors are sliding. The approaches back and front are ramped. The front door opens inwards. The back door opens outwards, allowing easy exit in case of fire. The bathroom and separate W.C. have been designed to allow the fullest possible use to be made of them by someone in a wheelchair, and the kitchen is planned to provide for this as well. The bungalows have background central heating and there is only one open fire.

I feel that there are other experiments which should be attempted.

(a) A house with an extra room downstairs for grandparents who have to be cared for by relatives. In this case the bathroom and W.C. would of necessity be downstairs as well.

(b) A self-contained flatlet of similar size to the present single person's flat attached to a traditional house. This would allow old people to have separate accommodation but at the same time be conveniently near to relatives for help to be given easily. These house/flat combinations should be let on the tied house principle and should be given up when the old relatives die.

I would like to draw attention to the use of domestic gas, especially in aged person's bungalows and flats. Old people tend to lose their sense of smell—this constitutes an obvious danger where there is any chance of a gas leak.

It would give a considerable degree of safety if the gas cookers provided in old people's houses were provided with piped pilot lights to all jets. There are many occasions when the memories of old people are poor for things taking place at the present time. Gas can be turned on and forgotten almost in the same instant, by old people suffering from absent-mindedness—with disastrous results to tenant and possibly house as well. These special appliances are more expensive, but very much safer.

PROVISION OF 2-ROOM BUNGALOWS

The Housing Committee would do well to keep in mind the necessity for providing 2-bedroom bungalow type houses. There are, at present, a considerable number of persons living in temporary prefabricated bungalows who were given the tenancy on medical grounds. When the life of the temporary bungalows comes to an end these special tenants will still require to be accommodated in bungalows of comparable size.

CLEAN AIR

It is noted that an agreement has been reached between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers for miners living in smokeless zones. They are to receive £42/7/0 per annum instead of $8\frac{1}{2}$ —12 tons of concessionary coal (the sum is the national average for concessionary coal). The "re-purchase payment" is not sufficient to buy the equivalent in smokeless fuels. The miners wish to retain the right to negotiate for supplies of alternative fuel instead of payment.

This is a step in the right direction. It does not, however, go far enough. Surely the answer is for the National Coal Board to provide smokeless fuel (their own) instead of soft coal.

It is difficult to see any progress being made in this area so long as a shortage of *suitable* smokeless fuel exists, and this is the case at present.

There is no doubt in my mind that there is a great need for minimising the production of household smoke. (There are adequate safeguards against industrial pollution). It is depressing to drive along Cowpen Road on a windless morning or evening when fires are being lighted or banked. The smoke production is frightening. The atmospheric pollution achieved by these chimneys has the most adverse

affects on health and cleanliness and because of that, on family economy. Yet all of these houses have "approved appliances" !

It seems futile to press for smokeless zones when the limited number of householders who believe in smokeless fuel and use it for reasons of health and economical efficiency are unable to depend on regular supplies.

I blame the National Coal Board for failing to produce adequate supplies of an efficient smokeless fuel. It is said that they have such a fuel, but production is limited. Everything possible should be done to increase the production of this fuel so that soft coal for the ordinary householder could be abolished. Would not the effects of atmospheric pollution—bad health, dirt, deterioration of buildings and low efficiency of soft coal—make worthwhile the spending of large sums of money ? Would the benefits not more than outweigh the large initial costs ? Progress is very slow in this sphere.

On the other hand I am not in favour of schemes like the one suggested by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for investigating the question of atmospheric pollution by having a National Survey to measure the smoke and sulphur-dioxide content of the air in several towns. This work is to be carried out and financed by local authorities. The records which in the past were kept religiously by health departments have been found to be inaccurate. The data collected, in any case, told us nothing that we did not already know. Now we are asked to pursue a new survey using new and more expensive apparatus. The collecting of this data is estimated to absorb half a day of a public health inspector's time per four gauges. Health departments with small staffs cannot afford the capital expenditure nor the man hours involved. It does not require surveys of this type to provide the information that, if householders of a town are known to burn 95% soft coal, there will be a very high proportion of smoke and sulphur-dioxide produced. An analysis of the coal used in the area could give the amounts of the impurities produced per ton by combustion. In my opinion the survey suggested is, at the best, an academic exercise, wasteful of specialists' time, expensive and unnecessary. When I am certain that adequate supplies of suitable smokeless fuel are available I will campaign for smokeless zones with all the influence and authority with which I am empowered.

SEWERAGE

Blyth is a town paying now for past methods of sewage disposal. Formerly, it was the accepted method for sewage to be piped out to sea, in towns fortunate enough to have sea frontage.

Through the years, as the town has grown, sewage has been allowed to drain into the harbour and into the open sea. The Medical Research Council tells us that there is no danger to health because of this. It is also unquestionably true, however, that it causes offence both to the ships in harbour and to the holiday-makers on the beach.

Fortunately, the sewage disposal of the town's largest housing estate at Cowpen is partially treated, and only the effluent is discharged into the river. Although I would prefer to see complete treatment being carried out, the present method is a great advance on the discharge of crude sewage into the harbour and sea.

At the other end of the town from Cowpen, further development is contemplated and naturally the sewage question again arises. Several proposals have been suggested and public inquiries have been held, and I feel confident, that, whatever plan is adopted, it will incorporate the integration of the present beach outfalls, thus eliminating one of the nuisances existing on the beach and foreshore.

I feel, that as the town develops, the old sewers draining into the harbour will be eliminated. This will undoubtedly take time, as it is a costly business, but eventually the harbour should be free from its offensive pollution.

COMPARISON OF CARDIOVASCULAR AND CANCER DEATHS PER 1,000

England and Wales and Blyth, 1953 - 1959 and 1923 - 1929

ENGLAND AND WALES				BLYTH			BLYTH				
Year	Cardio- Vascular Deaths per 1,000 Deaths A.	Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths B.	Cardio- Vascular and Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths C.	Cardio- Vascular Deaths per 1,000 Deaths D.	Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths E.	Cardio- Vascular and Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths F.	Excess of Blyth Deaths per 1,000 Deaths Over England and Wales G.	Year	Cardio- Vascular Deaths per 1,000 Deaths H.	Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths I.	Cardio- Vascular and Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths J.
1953	495	170	665	549	167	716	51	1923	144	64	208
1954	513	175	688	553	234	787	99	1924	141	66	207
1955	512	171	683	549	198	747	64	1925	177	73	250
1956	513	173	687	602	186	788	101	1926	201	92	293
1957	509	177	686	554	232	786	100	1927	192	79	271
1958	519	177	696	602	153	755	59	1928	197	113	310
1959	505	179	684	536	223	759	75	1929	235	106	341
Average	509	174	684	563	199	762	78		184	85	269

COMPARISON OF FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS

All other Fatal Accidents and Total Fatal Accidents per 1,000 Deaths for England and Wales and Blyth, 1950 - 1959

	ENGLAND AND WALES			BLYTH		
	Fatal Road Accidents	Other Fatal Accidents	Total Fatal Accidents	Fatal Road Accidents	Other Fatal Accidents	Total Fatal Accidents
1950	8	19	27	5	21	26
1951	8	19	27	4	13	17
1952	8	20	28	3	25	28
1953	8	20	28	9	33	42
1954	9	21	30	8	22	30
1955	9	21	30	14	28	42
1956	10	21	31	3	10	13
1957	9	21	30	3	26	29
1958	10	22	32	13	19	32
1959	11	22	33	3	19	22
Average :	9	20.6	29.6	6.5	21.5	28

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 1960

<i>Area</i> —No change	<i>Acreage</i> —6,487.
<i>Population</i> —(Registrar-General's Estimate) ..	35,050
<i>Rate Value</i> —(1st April, 1960)	£341,359
<i>Product of a Penny Rate</i> (estimated)	£1,323
<i>Total Number of Dwellinghouses in Borough</i> — (1st April, 1960) ..	10,882

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.28.

	1960	1959
Total Live Births	627	712
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (uncorrected)	17.8	20.4

	1960	1959
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (standardised)	17.8	20.4
Still Births	18	13
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	27.9	17.9
Total live and still births	645	725
Infant Deaths	10	16
Neo-natal Deaths	6	12
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	15.9	22.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legiti- mate live births	16.3	23.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births	Nil	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (death under four weeks per 1,000 live births) ..	9.5	16.8
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	6.3	12.6
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births)	34.1	30.3
Illegitimate live births	16	30
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.4	4.2
Maternal deaths	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	Nil
Total deaths	381	371
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population	10.8	10.6
Standardised death rate per 1,000 home Population	13.8	13.5
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 home population	0.06	0.11

			Live Births		Still Births		Infant Deaths Under 4 Weeks		Infant Deaths Under 1 Week	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	313	314	9	9	4	2	3	1
Legitimate...	...	...	304	307	9	9	4	2	3	1
Illegitimate	...	...	9	7	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. of live births	674	618	618	638	585	624	610	608	712	627
No. of deaths ...	453	352	335	354	357	370	348	365	371	381
Excess of births over deaths ...	221	266	283	284	228	254	262	243	341	246

Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1951-1960

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Infant Deaths...	21	11	18	11	21	11	12	23	16	10
Infant Mortality Rate ...	31.1	17.8	29.1	17.2	35.8	17.6	19.5	37.8	22.4	15.9

Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Where death occurred	Age	Avoidable or not
1	Congenital Hemiplegia ...	M	Home	4 Months	Not
2	Congenital Heart Disease ...	F	Hospital	1 Month	Not
3	Acute Broncho-Pneumonia ...	F	Home	3 Weeks	Possibly
4	Prematurity (Twin) ...	M	Home	4 Days	Not
5	Prematurity ...	M	Hospital	22 Hours	Not
6	Cerebral Haem with Prematurity ...	F	Home	3 Days	Not
7	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	M	Hospital	8 Months	Yes
8	Spina-Bifida ...	M	Home	12 Hours	Not
9	Intestinal Obstruction ...	M	Hospital	1 Week	Not
10	Acute Bronchitis ...	M	Home	7 Weeks	Yes

Causes of Death, 1960

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
053.1	Staphylococcal Septicaemia ...	1	—	1
150	Malignant Neoplasm of Oesophagus ...	1	—	1
151	„ „ „ Stomach ...	10	7	17
153	„ „ „ Large Bowel ...	3	2	5
154	„ „ „ Rectum ...	3	1	4
155	„ „ „ Gall Bladder ...	—	1	1
157	„ „ „ Pancreas ...	2	3	5
162	„ „ „ Bronchus and Lung ...	19	4	23
170	„ „ „ Breast ...	—	2	2
171	„ „ „ Cervix Uteri ...	—	3	3
172	„ „ „ Corpus Uteri ...	—	1	1
175	„ „ „ Ovary ...	—	3	3
177	„ „ „ Prostate ...	4	—	4
179	„ „ „ Penis ...	1	—	1
181	„ „ „ Bladder ...	1	—	1
190	„ „ „ Lip... ...	—	1	1
193	„ „ „ Brain ...	4	—	4
193.9	„ „ „ Medulla Blastoma ...	1	—	1
196.3	„ „ „ Of Ribs (Chondro Sarcoma)...	1	—	1
199	„ „ „ Unspecified ...	—	3	3
203	Myelomatosis and Multiple Myelomata ...	1	1	2
204	Lymphatic Leukaemia ...	2	—	2
204.1	Myeloid Leukaemia ...	1	1	2
241	Asthma ...	—	1	1
260	Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	1	2
293	Anaemia following Gastric Haemorrhage ...	1	—	1
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage ...	2	1	3
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	3	9	12
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis ...	12	22	34

Causes of Death, 1960—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
334	Hypertensive Encephalopathy	1	1	2
345	Disseminated Sclerosis	—	2	2
350	Paralysis Agitans	—	1	1
353	Epilepsy	1	—	1
420	Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease	3	2	5
420.1	Coronary Artery Thrombosis	44	30	74
421	Chronic Endocarditis	—	1	1
422	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration	8	8	16
422.2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility	5	12	17
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	1	1	2
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure	18	9	27
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure	7	3	10
434.4	Cor Pulmone	2	—	2
451	Aortic Aneurysm	—	2	2
465	Pulmonary Embolism	—	1	1
480	Influenza with Pneumonia	1	—	1
491	Broncho-Pneumonia	18	5	23
500	Acute Bronchitis	2	—	2
501	Bronchitis Unqualified	—	1	1
502	Chronic Bronchitis	4	2	6
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia	—	1	1
541.1	Duodenal Ulcer with Perforation	1	—	1
570	Intestinal Obstruction	2	—	2
576	Peritonitis (Pelvic)	—	1	1
580	Acute Atrophy of Liver	1	—	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	5	3	8
610	Hyperplasia of the Prostate	1	—	1
752	Spina Bifida	1	—	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	1	1	2
760.5	Intracranial Birth Injury with Prematurity	—	1	1
763	Pneumonia of the Newborn	—	1	1
774	Prematurity (Twin Pregnancy)	1	—	1
776	Prematurity Unqualified	1	—	1
792	Uraemia	1	1	2
794	Senility	—	3	3
E.816	Motor Accident involving more than one Vehicle	1	—	1
E.871	Accidental Barbituric Poisoning	—	1	1
E.890	Accidental Coal Gas Poisoning	2	1	3
E.900	Fall on Stairs	1	—	1
E.902	Fall from one Level to another	1	—	1
E.921	Suffocation by Inhalation of Food	—	1	1
E.929	Accidental Drowning	2	—	2
E.970	Suicide, Barbiturate Poisoning	—	1	1
E.972	Suicide, Coal Gas Poisoning	1	—	1
E.974	Suicide, Hanging	—	1	1
E.975	Suicide, Drowning	1	—	1
N.992	Electrocution	—	1	1
		214	167	381
	Deaths over 65 years of age	136	124	260
	Deaths 1 - 4 years inclusive	—	—	—

Deaths 1951-1960 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1951	—	2	1	—	3
1952	—	—	1	1	2
1953	1	—	2	1	4
1954	4	—	—	1	5
1955	—	—	1	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—
1957	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	—	—	1	1
1960	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths, 1960

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Number of Deaths each month	37	22	27	41	35	24	20	35	32	32	34	42	381

TUBERCULOSIS 1944 - 1960

Table showing the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in the respective years and the number of deaths which have occurred, also 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	6-7 years	7-8 years	8-9 years	Over 10 yrs.
1960	23	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	36	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956	46	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	69	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1953	62	9	5	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1952	96	11	6	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
1951	88	17	7	—	2	3	3	2	—	—	—	—
1950	84	12	7	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1949	72	16	5	3	5	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
1948	56	21	7	8	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1947	47	26	6	12	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	1
1946	55	26	21	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1944	58	29	5	5	6	7	1	—	—	1	—	4
	938	196	85	43	27	14	7	6	2	3	3	6

TUBERCULOSIS, 1960

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
41-45	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
46-50	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
51-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-60	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61-65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	13	10	1	3	1	1	—	—
Grand Totals	23		4		2		—	

Tuberculosis Register, 31st December, 1960

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS Pulm. and Non-Pulm.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1960	176	18	206	39	439

TUBERCULOSIS, 1951 - 1960

Year	All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of T.B. Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1951	90	23	0.56
1952	103	13	0.38
1953	73	14	0.40
1954	49	8	0.23
1955	72	6	0.17
1956	52	7	0.20
1957	44	7	0.20
1958	19	3	0.08
1959	40	4	0.11
1960	27	2	0.06

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
10.2	12.9	14.2	13.9	15.2	14.7	15.2	13.3	11.7	10.8

TUBERCULOSIS, 1960

Although 23 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis during 1960 appears to make satisfactory reading, there is no cause for complacency.

This disease will not be overcome without a struggle, and I am certain that the final eradication will be difficult and may be prolonged. The difficulty is finding the source of the infection. Contact tracing becomes more and more difficult. The close family members of the patient and the close working associates are usually persuaded to have examination without too much difficulty. Unfortunately, it is often the outer fringe of relatives or friends surrounding the patient which harbours the real source of infection. Again I would stress the importance of persuading granny, grand-dad and old great-uncle Willie to have an X-ray of the chest. Quite a number of younger people would be spared the necessity of hospital treatment if this could be achieved.

I feel sure that the notification figures will continue to decrease, but not without the occasional outbreak which will serve to remind us that continued vigilance is required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1960

There were 65 notifications of infectious disease during 1960. This is the lowest recorded figure for infectious disease in Blyth.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There were 23 notifications of this disease. This is in keeping with the downward trend over the years. It is the second lowest notification figure and it is encouraging to think that the incidence has fallen from the appalling figure of 96 in 1952. It is also noteworthy that it topped the list of all infectious diseases this year.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There were 4 cases notified during the year. These included cervical glands, abdominal glands, kidney and spine. All were adults between the ages of 38 and 45 years.

PNEUMONIA

There were 9 cases notified during 1960.

MEASLES

There were 11 cases notified during 1960. This is a new low record for this disease in Blyth.

DYSENTERY

There were 8 cases of this disease notified. The disease was sporadic in character. Six families were involved and 5 of these had single cases. I feel sure that modern antibiotic treatment given early is the most effective method of preventing the onset of an epidemic.

SCARLET FEVER

There were 5 cases of scarlet fever notified during 1960. This is another low record for this disease in Blyth.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 3 cases of whooping cough notified during the year. None of these had received prophylactic inoculations against the disease. Again a new low record has been set up, and when it is considered that in 1959 there were only 6 cases of this disease it can be seen that a great change has taken place. This may well be due to the routine protection of babies against whooping cough, of which most mothers avail themselves.

ERYSIPELAS

There were 2 cases of this disease notified during 1960.

It is interesting to note that new low records have occurred in three diseases which in former years meant work for the general practitioner and loss of school attendance for the patients. These diseases are, of course, Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough.

Once again no case of diphtheria has been notified in Blyth—the last case was in 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1960—Age Distribution

Disease	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	K.N.	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	3	3	2	6	2	—	23
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	—	9
Measles ...	—	1	1	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Dysentery ...	—	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
	2	2	4	6	5	2	8	1	4	4	6	6	9	6	—	65

Infectious Diseases and Age Distribution, 1960

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified																
Total (all ages) ...	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	7	4	—	—	5	3	—	1
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
2 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
3 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
4 " ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 " ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
10-14 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	7	4	—	—	5	3	—	—
	Acute Pneumonia		Small-pox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
					Infective		Post Infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-64 " ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	Tuberculosis						Other Notifiable Diseases									
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other		Original				Final					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	14	10	—	—	1	3										
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
5-14 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—										
15-24 " ...	1	3	—	—	—	—										
25-44 " ...	4	2	—	—	—	—										
45-64 " ...	4	3	—	—	1	1										
65 and over ...	3	1	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	13	10	—	—	1	3										
	Puerperal Pyrexia						Ophthalmic Neonatorum									
	Original		Final		Original		Original				Final					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
5-14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
15-24 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
25-44 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
45-64 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										

Notifications Withdrawn :

- 1 Case of Meningococcal Infection (Female 5/12). Rediagnosed as Septicaemia.
- 1 Case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Male 57 yrs). Rediagnosed as Non-Tuberculosis.

Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Para Typhoid Fever	Malaria	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
1951	57	—	10	54	5	1	—	88	2	93	490	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	65	—	10	29	2	6	—	96	7	45	346	—	—	1	—	—	24	3
1953	83	—	8	16	1	1	—	62	11	190	747	2	—	—	—	—	5	6
1954	34	—	10	14	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12	—
1955	11	—	11	24	2	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	3	—	—	8	2
1956	12	—	2	15	1	8	—	46	6	177	63	2	—	2	—	—	7	6
1957	11	—	7	9	—	203	—	36	8	56	859	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
1958	6	—	3	5	1	11	—	14	5	144	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1959	14	—	7	10	—	12	—	32	8	6	886	—	1	—	—	—	4	1
1960	5	—	2	9	—	8	—	23	4	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CANCER

Type All Causes			1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
...			50	31	44	39	37	19	55	26	42	27	36	35
			81		83		56		81		69		71	
Bronchogenic	...	...	19	4	16	3	11	1	20	1	13	1	13	2
Stomach	...	...	10	7	5	6	11	4	13	6	6	6	10	7
Intestine	...	...	6	3	11	13	3	4	5	2	7	6	5	5
Female Organs	...	...	—	9	—	12	—	7	—	10	—	8	—	11
Others	...	...	15	8	12	5	12	3	17	7	16	6	10	21

CANCER DEATHS, 1960

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
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach	—	1	—	—	—	9	10	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Large Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gall Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	2	11	6	19	—	1	1	—	1	1	4
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
Cervix Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Corpus Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lip...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brain	2	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medulla Blastoma	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ribs	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unspecified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Totals	3	1	—	3	13	30	50	—	1	1	5	5	19	31

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1960

Statistics for the Borough for the Last Ten Years

Year	Popula- tion	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate	No. of Cases of Infectious Disease Notified							
									Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Diph- theria	Ac. Polio- myelitis	Dys- entery	Tuberculosis	
															Pul.	Non- Pul.
1951	34747	453	13.2	674	19.7	21	31.1	14.8	490	57	93	—	—	1	88	2
1952	34010	352	10.3	618	18.2	11	17.8	9.7	346	65	45	—	1	6	96	7
1953	34270	335	9.7	618	18.0	18	29.1	14.5	747	83	190	—	—	3	62	11
1954	34370	354	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1	50	34	73	—	1	24	44	5
1955	34420	357	10.3	585	16.8	21	35.8	25.6	853	11	65	—	3	108	69	10
1956	34470	370	10.7	624	18.1	11	17.6	16.0	63	12	177	—	2	8	46	6
1957	34440	348	10.1	610	17.8	12	19.5	14.6	859	11	56	—	2	203	36	8
1958	34620	365	10.5	608	17.5	23	37.8	31.2	18	6	144	—	—	11	14	5
1959	34760	371	10.6	712	20.4	16	22.4	16.8	886	14	6	—	—	12	32	8
1960	35050	381	10.8	627	17.8	10	15.9	9.5	11	5	3	—	—	8	23	4

CANCER

Cancer is becoming an increasingly frequent cause of death, not because it is any more dangerous than before, but because the causes of death are becoming fewer. Cancer is a scourge and a bogey. It is dangerous in itself, yet the very name causes untold harm and gives rise to much more fear and misery than it deserves.

Many types of cancer can be cured and most sufferers can benefit from treatment and can extend their lives by many years *provided it is discovered early*. The sooner the diagnosis is made the greater chance there is of a complete cure.

Cancer in its early stages is seldom painful, but there are certain signs which indicate that a doctor should be consulted at once.

Cancer of the stomach—Persistent indigestion with loss of appetite—especially if there is loss of weight.

Cancer of the bowel—Sudden onset of persistent and obstinate constipation or intermittent diarrhoea and constipation when bowel movements had previously been regular.

Cancer of the skin—An ulcer of the exposed skin which does not heal in 3-4 weeks.

Cancer of the lung—An irritating cough of 3-4 weeks and the spitting of blood.

Cancer of the prostate—Difficulty in passing urine, and increased frequency in passing urine, or blood in the urine.

Cancer of the breast—The discovery of a painless lump in the breast ; enlargement of one breast ; retraction of the nipple ; discharge of blood from the nipple.

Cancer of the womb—Unusual bleeding from the womb, especially at the change of life. Unusual discharge from the womb.

It should be noted that these signs frequently indicate conditions which are *not* cancer, but early advice from a doctor is the wisest course to take. If you decide to seek counsel from your family doctor, you must be prepared to accept and follow his advice. If he tells you that it is not cancer you must believe him. Patients can worry themselves to death with imaginary cancer. If the doctor advises treatment, carry out the advice fully.

SICK BENEFIT SCHEME - 1960

Number of workmen sick	...	...	...	...	139
Number of days lost by sickness	...	...	...	...	3,393
Average length of time off, in days	...	...	...	...	24½
Number of workmen employed	...	...	...	...	272
Percentage of workmen sick during the year	...	...	...	...	51%
Commonest period off sick	...	...	...	...	7-21 days

The commonest illness was injury, followed by influenza and bronchitis. Injuries can be classified into those occurring at work and those at home. Out of the 25 cases reported, 14 occurred at work.

In the past, muscular injuries were common—e.g. fibrositis, lumbago and sciatica, progressing to “slipped disc.” These have been notably diminished this year. It may well be due to the fact that no direct labour force is employed for building. It is also interesting to report the introduction of mechanical aids for workmen. This has been in force for a long time as far as binwork is concerned. However, mechanical grabs are being used by the pavior and pavior’s labourer. They appear to be extremely efficient and the workmen like using them (which is important). I feel sure that this will cut down hand injuries and back injuries as described above in this type of employment.

LABORATORY SPECIMENS, 1960

BACTERIOLOGICAL

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

A. PATHOLOGICAL

(1) Sputum	B. Tuberculosis	Present	...	...	...	Nil
	Tuberculosis	No pathogens isolated	...	...	...	36
(2) Faeces	Sh. Sonnei	Present	...	...	...	11
		No pathogens isolated	...	...	...	15

B. WATER, MILK, SEWAGE, ETC.

(1) <i>Water Samples.</i>								
(a) Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
(2) <i>Sewage.</i>								
(a) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Sewage effluent at Sewage Works, Cowpen, for B. Coli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3) <i>Milk Samples.</i>								
(a) Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(4) <i>Sterility of Milk Bottles.</i>								
(a) Satisfactory.	40	(b) Fairly Satisfactory.	18	(c) Unsatisfactory.	27	...	...	85
(5) <i>Ice-Cream.</i>								
(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(6) Water from paddling pool at beach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Part II—Environmental Hygiene—Housing

Slum Clearance—Five Year Programme

At the end of 1959 there were 52 houses remaining to be dealt with under the programme (See page 27, Annual Report 1959), being Nos. 9 to 43 Disraeli Street (odd numbers inclusive) and Nos. 2 to 56 Gladstone Street (even numbers inclusive).

These were inspected, a report submitted to the Housing Committee, and it was recommended that consideration be deferred.

Details of housing progress to date are given in the following pages.

Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders, 1960

	Houses Demolished	Displacements	
		Persons	Families
Clearance Areas	10	—	—
Individual Unfit Houses, Sec. 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	10	92	30
	Houses Closed		
Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	25	74	22
Parts of buildings closed, Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	9	31	9
	54	197	61

The total figures since 1945 are :—

	CLEARANCE AREAS		DEMOLITION ORDERS		CLOSING ORDERS		TOTAL	
	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced
1945/50	399	1,875	55	432	1	4	455	2,311
1951	139	339	2	4	10	19	151	362
1952	67	220	76	298	8	36	151	554
1953	112	362	64	194	27	120	203	676
1954	—	—	33	103	37	131	70	234
1955	—	—	22	82	21	81	43	163
1956	109	—	4	22	23	119	136	141
1957	31	3	15	74	15	59	61	136
1958	2	184	3	26	23	51	28	261
1959	57	—	4	39	29	107	90	146
1960	10	—	10	92	34	105	54	197
	926	2,983	288	1,366	228	832	1,442	5,181

Housing Act, 1957—Individual Unfit Houses

The following Orders became operative during the year :—

			Houses	Persons	Families
(Sec. 17)	Demolition	... ..	10	39	11
(Sec. 17)	Closing in lieu of Demolition	...	6	25	6
(Sec. 18)	Closing (parts of buildings)	...	10	43	11
			26	107	28

Representations.—37 houses were represented during the year as being unfit for human habitation.

Undertakings.—The undermentioned dwellings were the subject of undertakings to repair and applications for revocation of Orders.

Address	No.	Remarks
29 Beaumont Street	1	Completed Order revoked
31 Wright Street	1	do. do.
43/43½ Wright Street	2	do. Acquired by Council
4 Back Phoenix Street	1	do. Order revoked
21 Stanley Street	1	do. do.
66 Back Park Road	1	do. do.
1 Stannington Street	1	do. do.
15 Delaval Terrace	1	do. do.
35 Hambledon Street	1	do. do.
24 Percy Street	1	do. do.
26 Percy Street	1	do. do.
48 Stanley Street	1	do. do.
14 Wensleydale Terrace	1	do. do.
39 Hambledon Street	1	do. do.
11 Edward Street	1	do. do.
2 Tweedy Street	1	do. do.
36 Claremont Terrace	1	In progress
72 Waterloo Road	1	do.
9/11 Gladstone Street	2	Accepted
14/16 Croft Road and 1 Marine Terrace	3	do.

Change of Use.—The undermentioned dwellings, subject of Closing Orders, were approved for change of use as under :—

Address	No.	Purpose
14 Back Winship Street	1	Club House for Cycling Club. (12 months subject to review).
4 Marine Terrace and 9 and 9 Back Croft Road	3	Radio and T.V. Service Centre.
6 and 8 Hildyard Street	2	Coffee Club.
10 Arthur Street	1	Office and Store.

Housing Requirements.—At the end of the year there were 24 families and 3 single persons awaiting re-housing from operative Orders.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

Dwellings to Replace Slums.—Certificates of Displacement were submitted to the Borough Treasurer, the latest position being :—

Year	Individual Unfit Houses			Clearance Orders			Totals		
	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families
1955	6	21	6	—	—	—	6	21	6
1956	31	132	34	—	—	—	31	132	34
1957	35	128	36	4	5	4	39	133	40
1958	32	86	33	56	152	62	88	238	95
1959	39	116	39	11	35	12	50	151	51
1960	41	129	41	—	—	—	41	129	41
	184	610	189	71	192	78	255	804	267

Improvement Grants

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Discretionary and Standard Grants.—The following are details of Improvement Grant applications, conversions and completions dealt with during the year.

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—RECORDS—Applications 1960

Ref. No.	Address	Approved	Refused	OWNER-OCCUPIED		TENANTED	
				Approved £ s. d.	Grant £ s. d.	Approved £	Grant £
29/59	15 Delaval Terrace	1	—	454 0 0	227 0 0	—	—
32/59	1 Stannington Street and 66 Back Park Road	—	1	—	—	—	—
17/60	3 Briarwood Road	1	—	214 0 0	107 0 0	—	—
19/60	19 Beaconsfield Street	1	—	414 0 0	207 0 0	—	—
20/60	19 Stanley Street ...	1	—	296 0 0	148 0 0	—	—
27/60	72 Waterloo Road...	1	—	528 0 0	264 0 0	—	—
CONVERSIONS.		5	1	£1,906 0 0	£953 0 0	—	—
28/59	24/26 Percy Street	1	—	£ s. d. 563 0 0	£ s. d. 281 0 0	£	£
Completions							
Ref. No.	Address			OWNER-OCCUPIED		TENANTED	
		No.		Grant £ s. d.	No.	Grant £ s. d.	
16/57	765 Plessey Road ...	—	—	—	1	84 0 0	
17/57	767 Plessey Road ...	—	—	—	1	78 0 0	
22/59	39 Delaval Gardens	1	—	166 0 0	—	—	
17/60	3 Briarwood Road	1	—	107 0 0	—	—	
29/59	15 Delaval Terrace	1	—	227 0 0	—	—	
19/60	19 Beaconsfield Street	1	—	207 0 0	—	—	
20/60	19 Stanley Street	1	—	148 0 0	—	—	
CONVERSIONS.		5	—	£855 0 0	2	£162 0 0	
13/59	10 Newlands Road	—	—	—	No. 2	£ s. d. 317 0 0	
COUNCIL OWNED.		—	—	—	No. 2	£ s. d. 26 8 10	Net Annual Loss
43/43a Wright Street		—	—	—			

STANDARD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—RECORDS—Applications, 1960

Ref. No.	Address	Approved	Refused	Owner-Occupied Approved £ s. d.	Tenanted Approved £ s. d.	
33/59	27 Winchester Avenue	1	—	40 0 0	—	Up to 31st Oct., 1960
3/60	70 Middleton Street	1	—	80 0 0	—	
4/60	19 Oxford Street	1	—	80 0 0	—	
7/60	15 Arthur Street	1	—	—	155 0 0	
8/60	14 Arcadia Terrace	1	—	145 0 0	—	
9/60	40 Carlton Street	1	—	155 0 0	—	
10/60	29 Park Road	—	1 0/Oc.	—	—	
22/60	19 Delaval Terrace	1	—	155 0 0	—	
24/60	12 Edward Street	1	—	155 0 0	—	
30/59	69 Delaval Terrace	1	—	50 0 0	—	Up to 31st Dec., 1960
26/60	530 Plessey Road	1	—	145 0 0	—	
28/60	14 Coomassie Road	1	—	80 0 0	—	
34/60	15 Wellington Street	1	—	155 0 0	—	
		12	1	£1,240 0 0	£155 0 0	

Completions, 1960

CONVERSIONS : NIL.

Ref. No.	Address	No.	Owner-Occupied Grant Aid £ s. d.	Fixed Bath or Showers	Wash- basins	Hot Water Supplies	Water Closets	Food Storage Facilities
23/59	18 Carlton Street	1	108 3 4½	1	1	1	—	1
33/59	27 Winchester Avenue	1	15 10 0	—	—	—	1	—
3/60	70 Middleton Street	1	70 0 0	—	—	—	1	1
4/60	19 Oxford Street	1	51 2 3½	—	—	—	1	1
8/60	14 Arcadia Terrace	1	145 0 0	1	1	1	1	—
								Up to 31.10.60
9/60	40 Carlton Street	1	155 0 0	1	1	1	1	1 Nov., 1960
		6	£544 15 8	3	3	3	5	4

Summaries of both Discretionary and Standard Grants from the inspection of the various Acts are given in the Schedules on pages 35, 36 and 37.

IN PROGRESS

Following the report on the action of the Minister of Housing and Local Government in imposing an administrative ceiling for grant aid in respect of the Forster Memorial Homes, Cowpen Colliery (See Annual Report 1959, page 29), a deputation from the Northumberland Aged Mineworkers' Homes Association met officials from the Ministry, the assistance of the former Member of Parliament was sought and the Council made representations on behalf of the Association, but to no avail, and after receiving the official application for grant aid on the 8th January, 1959, the long-awaited improvements were put in hand towards the end of the year.

GENERAL

For some time the Association of Public Health Inspectors has been pressing for legislation to enable Local Authorities to carry out improvement work compulsorily. It should be pointed out, however, that it is not always the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the landlord which is responsible for the slow progress, but in some—and possibly many—instances, the tenants themselves are not willing to pay the increased rents which would result from such improvements.

Houses for Agricultural Population

COMPLETED

The six new agricultural dwellings at Low Horton and High Horton Farms, Bebside, were completed during the year, the present position of new construction with assistance under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts, being :—

Year	Address	No. of Dwellings
1958	Hartley West Farm, Seaton Sluice	2
1959	Seaton Red House Farm, Seaton Delaval	2
1960	High Horton Farm, Bebside	2
	Low Horton Farm, Bebside	4

APPROVED

North Farm, Bebside. — Application was received from the National Coal Board, Northern (N/C) Division, for assistance under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, for the construction of two houses at Bebside, North Farm.

Approval was given by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in October.

PENDING

Lysdon Farm, Seaton Delaval.—I have approached the Seaton Delaval Estate regarding the construction of new houses at this farm and have been informed they propose to build a further two within the next 18 months to 2 years.

Seaton Lodge Farm, Seaton Sluice.—It is anticipated that applications will be submitted for the erection of two houses as soon as the site has been selected.

Rent Act, 1957

The following table shows the action taken by the Department since the inception of the Act.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

	1957	1958	1959	1960	Totals
1. Application by tenants	43	46	12	6	107
2. Decision not to issue Certificate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Decision to issue :					
(a) some of the defects	23	28	9	4	64
(b) all defects	16	21	3	2	42
4. Undertakings by Landlords :					
(a) accepted	8	25	7	2	42
(b) refused	2	3	Nil	Nil	5
5. Certificates issued	24	28	5	3	60
6. Applications for Cancellation	2	10	10	1	23
7. Objections by Tenants	Nil	4	4	Nil	8
8. Cancellations Refused	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	2
9. Certificates Cancelled	1	12	9	1	23

CERTIFICATES AS TO REMEDYING OF DEFECTS

10. Applications by Tenants for Certificates of non-compliance with Undertaking :					
Issued (a) Whole	Nil	14	4	1	19
(b) Part	Nil	8	7	2	17
11. Applications by Landlords for Certificate of Compliance with Undertaking :					
(a) Issued	Nil	7	5	1	13
(b) Refused... ..	Nil	1	1	Nil	12

Acquisition of Houses

In 1957 the Council adopted the policy of considering applications from owner-occupiers for the tenancy of Council houses where the owners urgently needed additional accommodation or where their existing accommodation exceeded their respective needs, subject to the owners being prepared to sell their property at a price recommended by the District Valuer and in 1958 extended this policy to include all properties offered for sale.

During the three years 1957 to 1959 many properties were the subject of such offers, and an extensive amount of work was incurred by all Departments in the inspection, estimating and valuation of properties which either proved unsuitable or were subsequently withdrawn by the owners.

In view of this the Council have now reverted to their original policy with regard to over or under-occupation by housing applicants, and the following have been acquired.

Address	Acquisition
62 Stanley Street	1957
43/43½ Wright Street	1959
47 Woodbine Terrace	1959
757/759 Plessey Road	1959
22/24 Elliott Street	1959
38 Lynn Street	1959
87/89 Newsham Road	1960

Housing Act, 1957

Overcrowding Licences.—In accordance with the Council's policy of issuing Overcrowding Licences in respect of new housing applications, the following action was taken :—

Licences issued	8
Licences refused	5

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the year ended 31st December, 1960

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—			
In Clearance Areas.			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	10	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas :—			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	10	48	16
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H.	Nil	44	14
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—			
(8) Under Sec. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	25	74	22
(9) Under Secs. 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	9	31	9

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—			By Owner	By Local Authority
(11)	After informal action by Local Authority	...	42	Nil
(12)	After formal notice under :			
	(a) P.H. Acts	...	64	Nil
	(b) Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	1	2
(13)	Under Sec. 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	11	Nil

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957) :—			No. of houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. 1.
Position at end of Year			(1)	(2)
(14)	Retained for temporary accommodation :—			
	(a) under Sec. 48	...	Nil	Nil
	(b) under Sec. 17 (2)	...	Nil	Nil
	(c) under Sec. 46	...	Nil	Nil
(15)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Secs. 34 or 53	...	Nil	Nil

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—				
(16)	Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	...	Nil	Nil

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

	1959		1960	
	With State Assistance	Un-aided	With State Assistance	Un-aided
HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1960 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	58	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor	27	Nil.	39	2
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent—prefabricated—Contractor	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES IN PROGRESS, 31/12/60 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor	41	Nil.	10	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional	2	113	6	273
HOUSES APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
	22	2	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY COUNCIL UP TO 31/12/60 :				
Permanent Traditional			2,280	2
Permanent Non-traditional			150	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F.			72	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Aluminium			59	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional			10	528
Conversions			Nil.	Nil.
HOUSING PROVIDED UNDER THE HOUSING (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION) ACT, 1944 :			150	Nil.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS.

Year	Applications		Owner-Occupied			Tenanted			Completions		
	Approved	Refused	Approved	Grant	Approved	Grant	Approved	Grant	Owner-Occupied	Grant	Tenanted
1955	19	5	£ s. d. 5,299 0 0	£ s. d. 2,641 0 0	£ s. d. 310 0 0	£ s. d. 155 0 0	£ s. d. 120 0 0	£ s. d. 1,006 0 0	1	—	—
1956	9	—	2,774 0 0	1,384 0 0	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
1957	186	—	668 0 0	334 0 0	60,530 0 0	30,264 0 0	—	—	—	—	1
1958	13	1	1,369 0 0	684 0 0	6,442 0 0	3,220 0 0	723 0 0	76 0 0	3	5	5
1959	8	1	1,312 0 0	656 0 0	876 0 0	437 0 0	220 0 0	1,019 0 0	2	190	190
1960	5	1	1,906 0 0	953 0 0	—	—	855 0 0	32,493 0 0	5	2	2
	240	8	13,328 0 0	6,652 0 0	68,158 0 0	34,076 0 0	2,924 0 0	33,750 0 0	18	198	198
Totals ...			£ s. d. 13,328 0 0	£ s. d. 6,652 0 0				£ s. d. 2,924 0 0	No. 18		
			68,158 0 0	34,076 0 0				33,750 0 0	198		
			£81,486 0 0	£40,728 0 0				£36,674 0 0	216		

CONVERSIONS.

Year	Applies Approved	No. of Dwellings	Owner-Occupied		Tenanted		Completions	
			Approved	Grant	Approved	Grant	Owner-Occupied	Grant
1959	2	4	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 1,268 0 0	£ s. d. 634 0 0	—	£ s. d. —
1960	1	1	563 0 0	281 0 0	—	—	—	—
	3	5					2	317 0 0

COUNCIL OWNED.

Year	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Completions	
			Tenanted	Grant
1960	2	2	2	75% Nett Annual Loss

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS.

Year	Applications		Completions	
	Approved	No. of Dwellings	Tenanted	Granted
1954	1	10	10	75% Annual Loss do. £443. Reduced by Min. of H's'ng & L. Gov't to £272
1959	1	8	—	
	2	18	10	

STANDARD GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS.

Year	Approved	Refused	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant
1959	1	—	£ s. d. 115 0 0	£ s. d. —
1960	12	1	1,240 0 0	115 0 0
	13	1	£1,355 0 0	£115 0 0

COUNCIL OWNED.

1959	967	(For provision of wash-hand basins).
------	-----	--------------------------------------

COMPLETIONS.

Year	Owner-Occupied		Tenanted		Fixed Bath or Showers	Wash-Basins	Hot Water Supplies	Water Closets	Fuel Storage Facilities
	No.	Grant	No.	Grant					
1960	6	£ s. d. 544 15 8	—	—	3	3	3	5	4

PUBLIC HEALTH

REMOVAL OF REFUSE

Household Effects.—The continuing practice of the collection of unwanted household effects is having a beneficial effect so far as their deposit on vacant sites is concerned, although this still occurs from time to time, and some 74-beds, 103-lots of bedding, 343-mattresses, 169-chairs, 88-settees and other incidental items amounting in all to some 977-articles were collected and destroyed.

FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

In accordance with the procedure as set out in previous Annual Reports, treatment of infested premises for insect pests amounted to some 304-dwellings, with 73-revisits.

As before, the predominant complaint was of cockroaches, but it was interesting to note the marked diminution with regard to mite infestation on the new housing estates referred to in the reports for 1958 and 1959. It is hoped that this is mainly due to the preventive measures taken in previous years, but it may well be largely due to the prolonged wet weather with resultant lower temperatures which deterred incubation. A period of hot weather will no doubt provide the answer.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Further additions and improvements to existing conveniences, and new construction as set out on Page 35 of the 1959 Report took place during the year, being:—

1960 New dual convenience and shelter, Briardale Road.

New public convenience, tent store, first aid post and shelter near R.A.C. Box, Links and Foreshore.

Extension to Ladies' section, Miniature Golf Hut, Links and Foreshore.

Extension to Ladies' section, Astley Car Park, Links and Foreshore.

In addition, the provision of new prefabricated toilets to Croft Park and a new dual convenience and shelter in Plessey Road were under consideration. Following the completion of the Briardale Road convenience, the former old open structure situate on the North side of Cowpen Road was demolished.

In view of the extensive development of car parking facilities and the proposed new miniature golf course in the area between the Astley Arms and the Melton Constable, consideration should now be given to the erection of a combined structure on similar lines to that near the R.A.C. Box, in place of the existing underground convenience at the junction of Fountain Head Bank and Marine View.

This converted air raid shelter is not really satisfactory or hygienic and is definitely too small for the large numbers of visitors who frequent this area.

Part III—Nuisances

A total of 1917 inspections were made with regard to general public health matters, of which some 1,128 were with regard to specific complaints, being a slight increase over 1959. As before, the principal complaints were as to structural disrepair of the older type of properties.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS AND COAL DISPOSAL POINTS

Spoilbanks.—The position with regard to these is similar to that set out in detail in the report for 1959.

Coal Disposal Points.—The deposit of open-cast and deep-mined coal continued during the year and I am once again indebted to the Area General Manager of the National Coal Board and the Regional Opencast General Manager for the following figures of stock-piling :—

DEEP-MINED	Site			Dec. 1959	Dec. 1960
				Tons	Tons
	Hathery Lane, Bebside	...	...	20,500	582
	Mill Pit Disposal Point	...	...	1,700	—
	New Delaval	...	...	188,000	210,000
OPEN-CAST					
	Bebside Disposal Point	...	...	602,813	718,880

As a result of the action taken during 1959 to suppress the dust nuisance at the New Delaval Site, no specific complaint was received during the year, but the site was kept under regular observation.

Part IV—Water Supply

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

Source of Supply	Amount, Gallons
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	499,543,000
Tynemouth Water Co., via Seaton Valley U.D.C.	3,330,000
Tynemouth Water Co., direct	3,798,000
National Coal Board (Hepscott)	46,786,000

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

Out of 56 samples taken 49 were of satisfactory purity. Of the 7 unsatisfactory, 5 were as supplied to the consumer, the remaining two being after sand filtration only, and samples taken after chlorination were of the required standard. Two of the unsatisfactory supplier samples were from the Newcastle and Gateshead and three from the Tynemouth Water Co., who were notified of the results, and subsequent tests proved satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES

The separate water supplies were the subject of chemical examination and the reports of the Public Analysts state they are free from deposit, odour or taste and the waters are suitable for a public supply.

MISCELLANEOUS

One sample of sewage effluent before discharge to the river was taken from the Cowpen Sewerage Works, the examination showing maximum pollution.

Two samples were taken of water from the children's paddling pool, Links and Foreshore, for the efficiency of chlorination, and both proved satisfactory.

Part V—Prevention, Treatment and Notification of Infectious Diseases

There were only a small number of visits, principally in connection with Sonne Dysentery and Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications, requiring investigation and contact tracing.

Part VI—Mortuaries and Post-Mortem Rooms

The Mortuary was used on 47 occasions, details being :—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Post-mortems</i>
Borough of Blyth... ..	35	29
Bedlington Urban District Council	9	4
River Blyth Port Health Authority	3	2

In addition to the general cleansing and care of the building and equipment, Mr. Wade carries out the full duties of Mortuary Attendant at the request of the Pathologist, and his services are greatly appreciated.

Part XI—Miscellaneous

Watercourses.—In the report for 1959, detailed reference was made to the proposal to pipe the burn from the Coal Stocking Grounds, Bebside to the River, or to construct an effluent treatment plant at the Bebside Disposal Point. Although planning permission was obtained for the effluent plant it would appear that this scheme is not to proceed owing to cost and the probable short-term life of coal stocking.

In view of this and owing to certain flooding of the surrounding area, which arose from the blockage of the existing culvert from Tynedale Drive to Cowpen Road, due to the silting of the watercourse by the deposit of solids and debris over a long period, a further approach was made by the Health Department to the Opencast Executive, which resulted in the Opencast General Manager proposing to recommend to his Executive that they bear the cost of undergrounding the stream from the highway culvert to the junction with the watercourse from Horton Grange Colliery, subject to the Council obtaining the wayleaves and carrying out the work.

The Council agreed in principle to this but subsequent difficulties regarding the payment of Consultant's fees resulted in a decision to take no action on the culverting of this section.

General.

Association of Public Health Inspectors.—After a lapse of many years a meeting of the Northern Centre was held in Blyth on Friday, 22nd July, 1960, which was attended by fifty members from surrounding authorities. Through the courtesy of Mr. G. L. Atkinson, General Manager and Secretary of the Blyth Harbour Commission, the visitors were entertained to a tour of the Harbour on the tug "Chipchase," which appeared to be greatly appreciated. This was followed by tea at the Council Offices, through the hospitality of the Mayor and Corporation, and a meeting of the Centre followed in the Council Chamber, at which the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Deputy Mayor were present. A talk on the development of Blyth from its earliest days to the present was given by myself.

Staff.—Mr. Ronald Cheetham, the Trainee Public Health Inspector, appointed in May, 1958, was successful in passing the examination of the Royal Society of Health held in

Newcastle-on-Tyne on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd April, 1960, and was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector in June, 1960.

Mr. William Gilfillan, the Disinfector/Handyman, resigned in September, owing to ill-health. For the time being it has been recommended that the vacancy be not filled, and the miscellaneous duties are being shared by the staff.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

The above Act places duties on local authorities in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where agricultural workers are employed.

During the year a survey of such holdings was made and there are 22 farms in the Borough, on two of which agricultural workers are not employed, being in one case a depot for a group of colliery holdings and the other being grazing only. Of the remaining 20, the largest has an acreage of 700, the smallest 65; permanent staffs are small and sanitary accommodation is adequate for these.

Seasonal workers are employed for 2 to 3 weeks, usually potato picking, and because of the small acreage are never required to work great distances from the farmyard. Up to the present provision has not been made for sanitary accommodation in the fields, but where necessary each farmer has been requested to provide a portable chemical closet.

BURIAL ACT, 1857—EXHUMATIONS

Two licences were issued during the year for the exhumation and re-interment of human remains. In both instances I attended and observed that the removals and re-interments were carried out with due care and attention to decency in accordance with the terms of the licences.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948 SHOPS ACT, 1950

A number of notifications were received from H.M. Factory Inspectorate of contraventions of the Acts, to which the attention of the occupiers was drawn. In most instances the necessary works had either been completed or were in hand at the end of the year. Most of the factories in the Borough were visited and conditions were, in general, satisfactory.

There were no notifications by the Shops Inspector of contraventions regarding heating, lighting and ventilation, but many of the shops were visited in the course of other duties.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular servicing and survey work is carried out to all Council properties, agricultural holdings, food and other business premises. Constant treatment was given to the refuse tips at Meggie's Burn and Bebside and a twice-yearly sewer treatment carried out. There is a good relationship between the business premises, particularly food shops, and the Department, and there is no hesitation on the part of the occupiers in asking for our assistance.

Details of the work of the Rodent Officer is shown on page 52.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no registered or licensed premises in the Borough, two traders only using filling materials for re-conditioning purposes, and the materials used satisfy the British Standards Institution Mark Scheme.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The purpose of this new Act which came into effect on the 29th August, 1960, was to strengthen the powers of planning authorities and to introduce a new licensing system to be administered by county borough and county district councils. The Minister's view, which was endorsed by Parliament, was that the powers should be used in a positive way; that the aim should be to secure that all sites—whether residential or holiday—are properly equipped and run; that sites are not allowed in the wrong places; that planning permission is not withheld on principle, but only where there is some definite planning objection; that permission is given on a long term or permanent basis unless there is some definite reason against this; and that where sites have to be run down or numbers have to be reduced, this is done with due regard to avoidance of hardship.

In addition to the Act, the Minister, in pursuance of his powers under Section 5 (6), issued Model Standards which are to be expected, as a matter of good practice, on sites which are used regularly by residential or holiday caravans.

New Sites.—In brief, provisions are contained in the Act for planning and licensing authorities to co-operate in dealing with new sites in two stages. First it is essential that planning permission be obtained and the Act requires the planning authority to consult with the local authority before a decision is reached. The second stage will be for the local authority to reach agreement on the licensing conditions so that they do not overlap the planning requirements.

Existing Sites.—The Act required that occupiers of "existing sites," i.e. those with or without specific planning permission, had to apply for site licences within two months, and in accordance with this the occupiers of existing sites in the Borough were informed by interview and correspondence of the requirements. As a result, the following applications were received and submitted to the local planning authority.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Link House Gardens, Blyth ... | Planning permission obtained 9th November, 1956, to expire 31st December, 1966.
Licence under Public Health Act (Sec. 269) issued 22nd September, 1956. |
| 2. Link House Filling Station ... | No. planning permission.
No Public Health Licence. |
| 3. Old Pottery, South Newsham... | No planning permission.
Licence under Sec. 269, Public Health Act, issued 19th April, 1960. |
| 4. North Farm, Cowpen Road ... | No planning permission.
Licence under Sec. 269, Public Health Act, issued 14th March, 1960. |
| 5. Furnace Road, Bebside ... | No planning permission.
No Public Health Act licence. |
| 6. Adjacent King's Arms, Cowpen Road, Blyth | do. |
| 7. High House Farm, Bebside ... | do. |

At the time of preparation of this report the observations of the County Planning Authority were awaited.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Prior Approvals. Secs. 3 and 6.—In order that prior consultation may take place, all deposited plans are examined by the Health Department and, where applicable, contractors and proposers are notified of their obligations under the Act and invited to submit applications for prior approval. As a result of this procedure the undermentioned applications were received and approvals issued during the year in connection with the installation of new heating and grit and dust arresting plants.

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Type of Heating Plant</i>
1. New Co-operative Shop premises, Wordsworth Avenue, Blyth ...	Oil Fired Air Heating Installation. (Section 3 (2)).
2. Departmental Store, Waterloo Road, Blyth	Oil Fired. (Section 3 (2)).
3. National Coal Board, Bates Colliery, Blyth...	Coal Fired with Mechanical Chain Grate Stokers. (Section 3 (2)). Four Cell Fixed Spiral Vane Grit Arrestors. (Section 6).

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.—In co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, five lead peroxide gauges for the measurement of sulphur dioxide were established in December, 1957, and continuous monthly readings taken since.

In January, 1961, the Department informed the Council that Blyth was one of the towns selected for the new scheme of atmospheric pollution measurements recommended by the working party, but it was recommended that the Council do not participate in such tests and that the present records be discontinued. In view of this the statistical records for the past years have been deleted from the report.

Contraventions.—In accordance with Section 30 of the Act it was necessary to serve notices of offences with respect to :—

1. Emission of smoke from industrial chimney so as to be a nuisance...	Section 16
2. Burning of old tyres so as to be a nuisance	Section 16
3. Burning of old railway wagons so as to be a nuisance	Section 16
4. Emission of Black and Dark smoke from railway locomotive ...	Section 1
5. Emission of Dark smoke from colliery chimney	Section 1

In addition to these, observations were made regarding smoke emissions from steam cranes and other industrial premises.

On the assurance of the owners or occupiers that steps would be taken to prohibit or minimise the contraventions, the Health Committee recommended that no legal action be taken.

Smoke Control Areas.—During the summer of 1959 it was proposed that consideration be given to declaring Seaton Sluice a Smoke Control Area. This area was selected as a pilot scheme as, although it did not contain any industrial premises, it comprised some 130 private residential dwellings of both pre and post-war construction, together with a new Council estate of some 50 houses. In addition to this a

further 250 private houses were under construction on the St. Ronan's Estate and further building was proposed in the Parkfield area. One of the principal reasons for selecting this area was that it was divorced from the remainder of the Borough, was generally accepted as "Clean" and, in view of the new development then taking place, it was felt that the proportionate costs to be borne by the Council, the householders and the Treasury, would not be great. Needless to say, these very reasons were also the cause of criticism—"Why select Seaton Sluice when there is all the industrial and residential smoke in Blyth"? The answers to that, of course, were the essence of the pilot scheme, the fact that if further development took place the Smoke Control Area could readily be expanded; as all new buildings were provided they would automatically be fitted with "approved appliances" in accordance with the Building Byelaws, and that if the town were to be dealt with first it would be some years before attention could be directed to Seaton Sluice.

A personal house-to-house survey was made to obtain the necessary technical information and to explain to the householders the obligations of a Smoke Control Area, the financial assistance available, where appropriate, and most important to obtain the reaction of the residents to the proposal. I would emphasise that no attempt was made to coerce or influence the residents as to the benefits of a smokeless zone and the following are the principal reasons "For" or "Against."

AGAINST

Percentage Analyses.—Of the 167 houses surveyed, 66 (39.5 per cent) had a definite objection. If the remaining 21 occupiers with no particular opinion for or against are included, the figures would be 87 (52 per cent).

Concessionary Coal.—Of the 66 definite objectors, 44 (66.6 per cent) were in receipt of concessionary coal, either with a full worker's allowance or a reduced allowance for retired miners. I have no doubt that some of the remaining 22 objectors were in receipt of unofficial concessionary coal.

The obvious objections in these cases were over (a) loss of equivalent income;

(b) nominal payment for all coal bought back by the N.C.B., the sum being insufficient to purchase an equal amount of smokeless fuel;

(c) fear of further redundancy in the coal industry, a very real problem in this area ;

(d) objection to change.

It was noted, however, that a number of the objectors were in favour of the principle of clean air.

Aged Persons.—Excluding retired persons in receipt of concessionary coal, there were 12 objectors who were classed as Aged Persons and whose principal objections were

(a) cost of alternative fuels ;

(b) objections to disturbance of household due to fireplace adaptations and subsequent redecorations ;

(c) objection to change.

This is equivalent to 18.2 per cent of the definite objectors.

Others.—10 householders (15 per cent of the objectors) were averse to the formation of a smoke control area in Seaton Sluice, the principal grounds being over (a) It was unnecessary in an already clean area ;

(b) cost of alternative fuels ;

(c) dislike of change.

FOR

These were principally owner-occupiers, of whom a number were already using or experimenting with smokeless fuels. Reference to the schedule attached shows they reside mainly in Parkfield, The Links and Marine View. The prime reason for agreement was just the reverse of the objectors

(a) that Seaton Sluice was a " Clean " area and they wished it to continue, and

(b) smokeless fuels were labour saving ;

(c) they were in general agreement with the principle of clean air.

Following the survey, a detailed report was submitted to the Health Committee and it was recommended that the report be received and that no action be taken in the matter.

Appended are details in schedule form.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956
Proposed Smoke Control Area No. 1.—Seaton Sluice—Houses Surveyed.

	No. of Houses	No. Inspected	Owner Occupied	Tenanted	Result of Survey			Remarks
					For	Against	No Opinion	
Seaburn Grove ...	8	7	7	—	5	2	—	Additional houses under construction do.
The Links ...	17	17	16	1	9	4	4	
Parkfield ...	30	29	29	—	24	3	2	
Cresswell Avenue ...	17	17	17	—	6	8	3	
Astley Villas ...	5	5	4	1	1	4	—	
Marine View ...	35	34	25	9	21	8	5	
Fountain Head Bank ...	9	8	8	—	3	2	3	
Harboard Terrace ...	8	6	—	6	—	6	—	
St. Ronan's Estate (Council Owned) ...	50	44	—	44	11	29	4	
Messrs. Goflon's Estate ...	179	167	106	61	80	66	21	
	**250	—	—	—	—	—	—	Under Construction
	429	167	106	61	80	66	21	

BUSINESS PREMISES :

Farms ...	...	7 (dwellinghouses may be subject to grant aid).
Licensed Premises ...	...	2 (not subject to grant aid).
Shops ...	2	do.
Cafes ...	2	do.
Church ...	1	(at discretion of Local Authority).

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Proposed Smoke Control Area No. 1, Seaton Sluice—Analyses of Refusals and No Opinions

	Houses Inspected	Against	Concessionary Coal		Aged Persons	Others
			Workers	Retired		
Seaburn Grove ...	7	2	1	—	—	1
The Links ...	17	8	3	—	3	2
Parkfield ...	29	5	—	1	—	4
Cresswell Avenue ...	17	11	3	—	—	8
Astley Villas ...	5	4	2	2	—	—
Marine View ...	34	13	5	1	—	7
Fountain Head Bank ...	8	5	1	1	—	3
Harboard Terrace ...	6	6	1	—	3	2
St. Ronan's Estate (Council Owned)	44	33	14	9	6	4
	167	66 *** (87)	30	14	12	10 *** (31)

*** Of the 31 "Others" included amongst the objectors, 21 had no particular opinion or objection, only 10 having a decided objection.

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 Public Health 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	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	113	17	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	18	—	—	—
Total ...	151	19	8	Nil

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)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1				
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	11	10		11	
(c) Not separate for Sexes...	2	1	1	1	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...					
Total ...	14	11	1	12	Nil

Factories, 1960

	Mechanical Power	No. Mechanical Power
Bakeries	12	—
Blacksmith	1	—
Boiler Scaling	1	—
Boot and Shoe Repairers	4	—
Building Operations	18	—
Cabinet Making	—	1
Car Spraying and Coachwork	4	—
Clothing Alterations	—	3
Clothing Repairs	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers	5	—
Coppersmiths	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations	1	—
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage	10	1
Corn Grinders	1	—
Dairies	1	—
Dry Cleaners	2	—
Electrical Engineers	1	—
Electro-plating	1	—
Engineering	5	—
Foundry	2	—
Gas Works	1	—
Ice-cream Manufacturers	6	—
Joinery, Stone-crushing Establishments	8	3
Machine Repairs	1	—
Marine Store and Timber	1	—
Motor Vehicle Repairs	17	—
Pickles	1	—
Plumbers	1	2
Polishing	—	2
Potato Crisps	1	—
Printing	3	—
Radio and Electrical Repairs	—	4
Roller Conveyors	1	—
Saddlery and Harness	—	1
Sculptor	1	—
Shipbuilding and Repairs	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding	1	—
Sign Writing	—	1
Slaters and Tilers	—	1
Slaughtering	1	—
Soft Drinks and Bottling	1	—
Spring Mattresses	1	—
Sugar Confectionery	1	—
Timber Impregnation	1	—
Timber Merchants	5	—
Transformer Stations	1	—
T.V. Repairs	3	—
Tyre Retreading	1	—
Upholstery	2	—
	131	20

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During 1960 the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer.

Description	No.	Baits laid	Traps laid	Ozs. Poison bait taken	No of Bodies		Est. Kill Rats	No. of Visits
					Rats	Mice		
Dwellinghouses	111	406	16	291	4	60	10	233
Food shops	21	245	11	115	1	38	2	52
Other shops	3	44	—	14	—	3	—	7
Schools	3	141	—	71	1	6	10	7
Allotments	4	16	—	69	4	—	22	12
Gardens	35	104	—	286	25	1	90	107
Farms	7	85	—	432	37	—	143	24
Council Properties	9	235	—	588	61	7	297	36
Outhouses	7	15	—	40	3	2	10	22
Canteens	5	56	—	28	—	3	—	10
Workshops	5	74	—	173	8	1	51	14
Snack Bars	2	13	—	6	—	1	—	4
Warehouses	2	24	—	16	—	3	2	6
Shipyards	1	78	—	17	9	—	42	4
Licensed Premises	5	110	—	41	1	12	2	11
Sea Wall	1	20	—	75	2	—	25	4
Vacant Sites	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Colliery Yards (N.C.B.)	2	30	—	158	10	—	52	7
Sweet Factories	2	55	—	11	—	1	—	5
Bakery	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	2
Dairy	1	8	2	4	2	—	—	4
Garages	1	20	—	12	—	5	—	2
Golf Club	1	5	—	25	2	—	8	4
Refuse Tips	4	617	—	502	144	—	658	23
Sewage Works	1	15	—	93	8	—	31	4
Sewers	—	165	—	78	—	—	25	—
		350 manholes						
Totals ...	235	2,587 350 manholes	29	3,146	322	143	1,480	606

In addition to the above treatments the following surveys were carried out.

Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural Premises	Business Premises
37	38	79	219

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Water Sampling

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

CHEMICAL

	<i>Name of Source</i>	<i>Sample Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
1	Newcastle and Gateshead Water	Mains supply, Welsh's Garage, Bebside	1
2	Tynemouth Water	Domestic supply, 26 St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice	1
3	Newcastle and Gateshead Water	Domestic supply, 21 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth	1
4	Sub-floor Water	21 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth ...	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL

	<i>Source</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
1	Newcastle and Gateshead Water	13	12	1
2	Hepscott water before chlorination	14	12	2
3	Mixed Newcastle and Hepscott water after chlorination	13	12	1
4	Tynemouth Water	16	13	3
5	Paddling Pool—Links and Foreshore ...	2	—	2
6	Sewage Effluent, Sewage Works	1	—	1
		—	—	—
		59	49	10
		—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF WATER, 1960

Chemical

Chemical Results :

Total solids dried at 180° C	...
Chlorine as Chlorides	...
Free ammonia	...
Albuminoid ammonia	...
Nitrogen as nitrates	...
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27° C)	...
Total hardness	...
Non-carbonate hardness	...
Carbonate hardness	...
Lead and Copper	...
Iron	...
Appearance and Colour	...
Smell and Taste	...
Microscopical examination of deposit	...
pH Value	...

ANALYSIS OF SEWERSLUDGE

Chemical

NAME OF SOURCE		
Newcastle & Gateshead Water from Welsh's Garage, Bebside. Sample marked 1c/w/60.	Tynemouth Water from tap at 26 St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice. Sample marked 2c/w/60.	Newcastle & Gateshead Water from 21 Bondicar Terr. Blyth
240 Parts per million. 17.8 0.20 0.14 1.6 2.40 155 65 90 None 0.2 Hazen degrees 15. Slightly cloudy, pale yellow. Satisfactory.	120 Parts per million. 14.2 Trace Trace 0.30 3.6 75 10 65 None 0.2 Hazen degrees 20. Clear and pale yellow. Satisfactory. Satisfactory.	Sub-floor Water Sample 3c/w/60 161.5 p.p.m. 2 Domestic Supply Sample 4c/w/60 16 p.p.m. Trace
7.1 Parts per million. Report Although this sample of water contains rather more free ammonia than is usual in the Newcastle & Gateshead supply it is nevertheless of satisfactory organic purity. The water is of reasonably good colour and is free from odour or taste. There is a fair amount of deposit, consisting mainly of iron oxide.	7.0 Parts per million. Report This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is free from deposit and is of reasonably good colour ; it is also free from odour or taste. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.	8.2 " Report The very high chloride content and the presence of free ammonia are very strongly indicative that sample 3c/w/60 has been through a drain.
W. GORDON CAREY.	W. GORDON CAREY.	W. GORDON CAREY.
Samples of Sludge from settlement tanks, marked :—		
Total solids	East 10%	Central 9%
Total Water	90%	91%
Date samples taken	1-2-60	2-2-60
		West 9.85% 90.15% 3-2-60
		W. GORDON CAREY.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

In 1950 a Clean Food Campaign was commenced, and in the ensuing years a great deal of progress was made in the modernization of food premises.

In 1956, following the issue of new food hygiene regulations, a further detailed survey of all food premises was made, and at the end of that year the majority had been visited, advice and information given and the occupiers notified of their responsibilities. It was unfortunate that early in 1957 a member of the staff obtained another appointment and his place was not filled until a pupil inspector was appointed in May, 1958, with the result that this essential work was only continued intermittently, owing to the need to divert our efforts to the slum clearance and improvement grant work together with day-to-day public health matters.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the success of Mr. Cheetham in obtaining the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as a Public Health Inspector in April 1960, resulted in the establishment being brought up to strength, and with the virtual completion for the time being of the slum clearance programme, attention is again being given on an increasing scale to this vital work.

Since the Ministry of Health issued the new regulations which came into operation on the 1st October, 1960, progressive inspections of all food premises are again being made, and although it is not yet possible to state that all the requirements previously notified have been complied with, there is ample evidence that a large proportion of the necessary works have been carried out and the recalcitrants are being and will be vigorously pursued.

It is to be hoped that our efforts will not again be diverted until this important task is complete.

Over the past ten years the efforts of the Council, the traders and the Department have been amply rewarded by the transformation which has occurred in the town's shopping facilities by new construction, modernization and the replacement by modern materials and appliances of ageing and outdated fixtures, fittings and equipment, and the process is a continuing one.

For the information of the Council and the Ministry the following details give some picture of the facilities provided to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, but the information is far from complete and gives but little indication of the overall improvement which has taken place.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Premises	No. W.C's	Wash Basins	Wash-up Sinks	Hot Water	Clothing Lockers	Formica	Service Counters Glass Display	Marble	Miscellaneous
Bakehouses ...	6								
Bakery and Shop (combined)...	6	31	19	18	19	9	5	—	—
Retail Shops ...	8								
Butchers ...	20	19	18	16	20	16	12	7	—
Canteens ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooked Meats ...	7	7	7	8	7	6	2	1	3
Departmental Stores ...	2	7	5	2	2	—	—	—	—
Fish Fryers ...	15	15	8	12	15	7	—	—	—
Food Manufacturers and Warehouses...	7	13	7	4	5	3	—	—	—
General Dealers ...	69	66	51	55	61	67	40	6	4
Greengrocers ...	14	18	10	9	12	10	5	2	3
Grocery and Provisions...	50	64	50	43	52	40	36	5	8
Ice-cream Manufacturers...	3	2	2	3	3	3	—	—	—
Hotels, Restaurants and Snack Bars...	18	26	17	18	18	10	—	—	—
Sugar Confectionery ...	25	25	18	11	20	14	5	6	1
Wet Fish ...	1	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	1
	260	295	214	201	235	198	109	25	27
									13 Self-Service 4

REFRIGERATION

Premises	Ice-cream Plant	Ice-cream Conservators	Frozen Food Cabinets	Cold Rooms	Refrigerators	Refrig. Display Counters	Refrigerated Window Display
Bakehouses ...							
Bakery and Shop (combined)...	—	4	1	—	1	1	—
Retail Shops ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers ...	—	—	1	21	1	1	4
Canteens ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooked Meats ...	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Departmental Stores ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Fryers ...	—	1	1	—	7	—	—
Food Manufacturers and Warehouses...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
General Dealers ...	—	43	13	—	14	5	—
Greengrocers ...	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Grocery and Provisions...	—	7	15	5	33	9	—
Ice-cream Manufacturers	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Hotels, Restaurants and Snack Bars...	—	6	—	—	6	—	—
Sugar Confectionery ...	—	9	1	—	—	—	—
Wet Fish ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	3	72	37	31	67	16	4

(230)

Records with respect to Licensed Premises and Canteens are not in sufficient detail to include at this stage, but these premises are well equipped.

FOOD PREMISES

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions, the following information is given regarding food premises in the Borough :—

Bakeries	6	Greengrocery	14
Combined Bakeries and Retail Shops	6	Grocery and Provisions	50
Retail Shops	8	Hotels	4
Butchers	20	Ice-cream Manufacturers	3
Cooked Meats	7	Licensed Premises	43
Dairies	5	„ (Clubs)	17
Departmental Stores	2	„ (Off-licences)	7
Factory Canteens	9	Preserved Foods Manufacturers	2
Fish Fryers	15	Restaurants, Cafeteria and Snack Bars	15
Food Manufacturers	2	School Kitchens	4
Food Warehouses	3	Sugar Confectionery	25
General Dealers	69	Wet Fish	1

a total of 337

REGISTRATIONS

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are as follows :—

Bakehouses	12
Butchers	21
Cooked Meats	7
Fish Fryers	15
Ice-cream Manufacturers	3
Ice-cream Retailers	114
Preserved Foods	3

There were 17 additional registrations for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

The undermentioned premises ceased to be used and have been removed from the Register.

Ice-cream Manufacturer	1
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MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The details of dairies registered, distributors of milk and licences under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations are as follows :—

Dairies	5
Distributors (in respect of 108 premises)	88
Licences—Sterilised	110
Sterilised (Supplementary)	1
Pasteurised	37
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	1
Tuberculin Tested	29
Tuberculin (Supplementary)	1

New registration of distributors amounted to five and removals from the register after ceasing to trade, one.

Supply.—The milk supply to the Borough remains as set out in the Annual Report for 1959.

Pasteurisation and Milk Bottle Sterility.—During the year the Blyth Co-operative Society installed at their Aldborough Street Dairy a new Alfa-Laval High Temperature. Short-time, Pasteurising Plant and Clarifier.

This modern milk unit is of the latest design, is at present dealing with approximately 750 gallons of milk per hour, but is capable of greater output if required. The system is integrated so that the entire process of milk treatment is electronically controlled from receiving the milk by tanker to the cooling and bottling processes.

One of the most important features of the new plant is the Clarifier which operates at a speed of some 7,500 r.p.m., and through which all the raw milk must pass. The purpose of this machine is to filter the raw product so as to remove all debris, foreign bodies or vegetable matter which may have inadvertently gained access during production and collection. As a result of this, the bacterial quality is improved by removing the source of contamination, which in turn has a beneficial effect on the keeping quality and cream line.

Incorporated in the improvements which have taken place at the Dairy, was a change over of the cooling system from direct expansion using ammonia, to chilled water, so removing the risk of contamination of the milk by ammonia fumes in the event of leakage. The milk, after treatment, is reduced to a temperature of 38°F. within 15-seconds and is retained at this temperature during the bottling process until ready for delivery to the customer.

Despite all the efforts of the Dairy Department, the decline in satisfactory milk bottle counts referred to in the 1959 Report continued. In view of this I am now informed that the Society are to instal a new bottle washing machine during 1961, which will mean that the Dairy will be then fully equipped with the most up-to-date milk plant.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960

These new regulations, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1960, modified and consolidated the former

regulations dealing with special designated milk. Apart from technical changes in the prescribed tests for such milks, the principal change affecting the Borough was the transfer of the responsibility for the issue of dealers' licences to the food and drugs authority, i.e. the Northumberland County Council; the issue of a dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) licence covering "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" Milk and the increase in the period for which a dealer's licence could be granted from one year to five.

The dilution of local authority responsibility over the affairs of their own area is thus carried a stage further. Whilst acknowledging the standardisation of procedure and the long overdue readjustment of the period for which dealers' licences were issued, I fail to see, with due respect to the County Health Inspector, how one individual will be able to keep track on every little corner shop in the County wishing to retail pre-packed milk. Will the full majesty of the law be invoked against such a miscreant who fails first to obtain a "licence," of which there is such a multiplicity these days?

How much better it was for the inspectors of the local authorities to keep an eye on such matters during the course of their day-to-day duties and to help and advise. Perhaps, without the official responsibility, we will again in due course be asked to notify the food and drugs authority if we observe any contraventions of the Regulations.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959

There are now only three ice-cream manufacturers in the Borough, of whom two produce on a comparatively small scale at varying times dependent on the weather and demand, which again resulted in difficulty of sampling.

The unsatisfactory results were primarily due to one such producer who had failed to keep his equipment to the standard required. His attention has been drawn to the deficiencies and a warning given that failure to comply with the prescribed Regulations during 1961 will entail more drastic action.

Sampling details are as follows :—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
15	1	4	3	23
Satisfactory Approx. 69.6		Unsatisfactory Approx. 30.4		

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE ACT, 1958

As required by Section 3(1) of the Act, the report on the slaughtering facilities of the Borough was prepared and considered by the Health Committee and, following its adoption, was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Prior to this stage, consultations had taken place between the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health, the Bylth Meat Traders' Association and myself, so that agreement could be reached as to the completion of the report in accordance with the direction of the Minister.

The report was accepted and approved by the Minister in January, 1960, the only amendment being from the 31st March, 1963, to 1st January, 1963, as the day by which the construction regulations be applied.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

Meat Inspection.—Slaughtering took place on 255 days during 1960, necessitating 498 visits to the Abattoir by the Inspectors.

Details of slaughtering, meat inspection and overtime are given in the tables on pages 62 and 63.

Hours of Slaughtering.—In order to obtain 100% meat inspection it was necessary to work overtime on 120 days out of 255 (47%), and in addition slaughtering took place on 2 Saturdays and 12 Sundays, including Easter Sunday and Whit Sunday.

Animal Health.—There was little variance in numbers of animals slaughtered during 1960 as against 1959, and the total of entire carcasses and organs condemned amounted to only four sheep and one pig. The four sheep concerned were all "casualties" and would not normally form part of the meat supply to the Borough.

One point worthy of special note is that for the first time, so far as the records show, no entire bovine carcasses were condemned, a further indication, as stressed in last year's Report, of the improvement in animal health generally.

Condemned Meat.—The total weight of carcasses, carcase meat and organs found to be unsound was 3-tons, 3-cwts., the method of disposal being collection not less than twice weekly by Messrs. Tyneside Butchers' Bye-Products, Ltd., who recover animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers, glues, fats and chemicals.

All manure is collected weekly by the Borough Engineer's Department for agricultural purposes.

Unsound Food.—The destruction of such goods is by removal to one of the Council's refuse tips, burning and then covering with refuse.

There was only one complaint during the year from a member of the public, which referred to the purchase of a pre-cut, wrapped sliced loaf, which was found to be affected with moulds. Investigation at the bakery concerned and at the general dealer's shop revealed that the loaf had been retained by the vendor an unreasonable length of time. Advice was given as to stricter rotation of stock and a warning issued, but the Council decided under the circumstances not to take legal action.

Food Poisoning.—There were no notifications during the year.

On Page 19 of the Annual Report for 1959, the Medical Officer referred to four notifications of food poisoning involving one family, the suspected medium being imported chopped pork, and a detailed report was forwarded to the appropriate Ministries.

Following this we were surprised and pleased to be visited by Professor Isidor Savic and Dr. Radivoj Zakula of the Yugoslav Institute of Meat Technology, Belgrade, who were in this country and are responsible for the Yugoslav Government meat canning factories.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Details of Samples Taken, 1959

Pasteurised Milk from Producer/Retailer inside the Borough :—

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
By Borough : 13	—	13	—	26
By County Council : 33	—	33	—	66

Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility :—

Satisfactory 39	Fairly Satisfactory 18	Unsatisfactory 27	Total 84
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Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,844	125	4	5,628	3,121
Number inspected	1,844	125	4	5,628	3,121
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	381	3	—	18	133
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.6	2.4	—	0.3	4.3
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	1	—	—	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	0.8	0.8	—	—	0.7
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

Animals Slaughtered—Summary, 1960

Month	Bulls	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1960	Total 1959
January	—	107	39	17	—	447	230	840	888
February... ..	1	129	39	5	—	408	295	877	804
March	—	135	28	15	—	375	306	859	832
April	—	117	22	12	3	248	226	628	773
May	—	135	30	13	—	391	245	814	688
June	1	107	40	8	1	441	193	791	794
July	—	97	51	7	—	542	208	905	800
August	—	103	51	4	—	693	218	1069	974
September	—	117	35	8	—	566	240	966	1186
October	2	132	33	7	—	573	274	1021	1064
November	—	121	46	11	—	557	250	985	1055
December	—	97	29	18	—	403	436	983	1009
Total 1960	4	1397	443	125	4	5644	3121	10738	
1973									
Totals 1959	11	1376	492	148	6	5795	3039		10867
2033									
1960									
	Sows	Boars		Tups		Ewes	All included in totals of Summary		
	450	1		1		100			
	491	5		5		49			
			1959						

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

	No.	Weight in lbs.		Total	Disease
		Carcase	Offal		
Ewes	2	50	10	60	Emaciation
Sheep	1	28	6	34	Emaciation and Oedema
Lamb	1	50	—	50	Oedema
Pig	1	232	17	249	Oedema
	5	360	33	393	

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	...	...	...	449	4,829
Sheep	...	Part carcasses and/or organs	...	...	...	16	86
Pigs	...	Part carcasses and/or organs	...	...	...	158	1,599
Beef	...	Hindquarters	...	...	...	1	145
		Trimnings	...	...	...	—	54
Sheep	...	Forequarter	...	...	...	1	30
Pigs	...	Forelegs	...	...	...	2	9
		Hindlegs	...	...	...	1	10
						628	6,762

Details of Slaughtering, 1960

		Slaughtering	Overtime	Bank				Inspections
		Days	Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sundays	Holidays	
January	...	18	6	6½	—	—	—	30
February	...	17	13	13	—	—	—	32
March	...	21	10	10	—	—	—	49
April	...	20	10	10½	—	1	—	46
May	...	22	9	10	—	—	—	43
June	...	22	4	4	—	2	—	41
July	...	22	11	11½	—	1	—	42
August	...	21	6	6½	—	1	—	45
September	...	26	11	11	—	4	—	48
October	...	22	12	14	—	1	—	30
November	...	21	13	15½	—	—	—	43
December	...	23	15	18	2	2	—	49
		255	120	130½	2	12	—	498

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspections, 1960

Number of inspections made during the year 1960	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.														
Inspections following complaints—														
General	31	63	40	39	55	50	63	40	53	44	57	34	569	
Re-inspections <i>re</i> outstanding notices...														
Dirty or Verminous Premises	30	45	34	38	42	29	29	141	54	56	50	11	559	
Drainage	1	10	9	3	21	26	27	23	30	18	11	10	189	
Exhumations	9	8	3	2	17	20	20	11	20	16	20	9	155	
Keeping of Animals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	
Licensed Premises ...	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	2	1	—	2	—	11	
Moveable Dwellings	—	2	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Caravan Sites	2	19	14	3	3	7	5	7	22	6	5	—	93	
Mortuary	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	23	—	4	27	
Piggeries	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Places of Public Entertainment	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Public Conveniences	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Refuse Tips	2	8	—	—	—	3	2	11	—	—	2	1	29	
Vacant Sites...	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	8	
Watercourses	7	4	1	2	4	1	1	9	1	12	9	—	51	
Water Supplies	12	4	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	26	
Sewer Treatments	—	—	3	—	—	2	2	5	4	2	2	—	20	
Coal Deposits	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	
Interviews	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	
	23	—	9	—	6	8	10	11	7	11	14	18	117	
													1919	1919

Number of inspections made during the year 1960		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(b) AGRICULTURE (WELFARE PROVISIONS) Act. Farms		28	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	20	—	—	—	52	1971
(c) CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.														52	
Inspection of Plant		—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	3	1	12	2089
Lead Peroxide Gauges		—	5	5	5	5	—	5	5	5	5	5	6	51	
Spoilbanks		—	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	9	
Smoke Nuisances		1	4	4	5	5	—	2	1	6	—	—	—	28	
Smoke Observations		—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	
Miscellaneous		2	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	11	
(d) HOUSING ACT, 1957.														118	2742
Investigations <i>re</i> Overcrowding		48	7	8	13	12	16	16	11	14	14	10	6	175	
Housing Survey		6	57	2	14	15	—	—	4	7	18	32	9	164	2742
Houses in Clearance Areas		—	—	4	2	6	5	6	2	—	1	—	—	26	
Corporation Houses		1	14	11	7	37	15	16	12	11	14	6	42	186	
Applicants for interview <i>re</i> re- housing and exchanges		—	5	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	15	
Proposed House Purchase		—	2	4	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	1	17	
Unfit Houses		30	6	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	10	—	—	64	
Miscellaneous			—	7	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	6	3	64	
														653	2742

[illegible]

Number of inspections made during the year 1960		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(h) SHOPS ACT, 1950. Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops		1	8	2	17	8	41	42	2	12	7	21	4	165	3909
(i) PESTS ACT, 1948. Allotments Agricultural Holdings Dwelling Houses Council Properties Other Properties Sewers		—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
		1	1	—	—	4	3	5	—	—	—	8	3	25	
		1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	10	
		2	3	7	5	—	11	11	—	—	—	7	1	47	
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
(j) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. Investigations Made		—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	3	—	3	—	11	3994
(k) INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATIONS) ACTS. Investigations Made		17	9	1	—	3	2	3	—	6	5	11	11	68	4073

Number of inspections made during the year 1960		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(l) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.															
Abattoir—Meat Inspection	...	30	32	49	46	43	41	42	45	48	30	43	49	498	6
Disease of Animals	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	
Examination of Unsound	...	7	6	18	2	9	8	9	11	10	14	10	10	114	22
Foodstuffs...	...	—	—	1	3	—	4	3	3	—	—	6	2	—	
Bakehouses ...	...	—	—	—	6	—	5	6	3	1	—	1	1	23	88
Bakery and Confectionery Shops...	...	3	3	7	1	2	10	9	8	5*	8	15	17	—	
Butchers' Shops ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	3	1	1	14	3
Fish and Chip Shops	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	11	90
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	2	2	—	—	—	2	2	17	7	15	29	16	—	
General Dealer Shops	...	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	4	2	1	4	1	22	97
Greengrocery Shops	...	2	—	1	4	—	20	25	9	4	7	19	6	—	
Grocery and Provisions Shops	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Ice-cream Premises :	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(a) Manufacturing	...	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	9	3	—	2	1	25	7
(b) Retail	...	—	—	—	5	6	2	—	4	1	7	—	—	—	
Preserved Food Premises	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	3	53	9
Restaurants and Cafes	...	—	9	5	3	6	6	6	7	1	10	—	—	—	
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	...	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	7	3
Wet Fish Shops	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	
Canteens ...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	186
Market Stalls	...	7	8	—	12	—	13	13	58	5	12	28	30	—	
Interviews ...	...	4	—	2	—	—	9	10	—	—	—	—	7	32	30
Food Vehicles	...	1	3	1	8	—	—	2	10	—	1	4	—	—	
(m) MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS.															
Dairies and Equipment	...	1	1	—	—	7	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	16	5434
Heat Treatment Plant	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	9	
Milk Shops ...	...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	—	17	5476
														42	

Number of inspections made during the year 1960												Grand Total
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
(n) MISCELLANEOUS.												
Inspections ...	2	—	18	14	10	10	5	19	3	—	17	106
Interviews ...	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Number of Informal Notices Served ...	8	8	2	15	10	9	14	10	6	12	5	109
Number of Statutory Notices Served ...	—	17	7	20	—	16	28	—	21	—	4	113
Number of Houses treated for the eradication of Insect Pests ...	26	25	34	36	—	—	30	42	28	37	14	272
Number of Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	4
Number of Houses disinfected at request of Occupier ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Number of items of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Destroyed by request ...	65	29	113	174	45	46	60	67	87	62	40	860
Obstructed Drains Cleansed ...	5	3	1	9	8	9	2	1	3	6	4	60
Informal Notices Complied Statutory Notices Complied	6 16	5 5	1 12	8 10	5 —	6 9	4 8	2 26	3 9	—	6 10	1545 47 107
LAND CHARGES ACT.												
Searches ...	42	74	42	43	26	38	49	65	50	50	42	593
Sampling: <i>Chemical</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
(a) Water ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
(b) Sewage Sludge ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Bacteriological</i>												
(a) Milk ...	2	2	2	4	—	2	2	2	6	2	2	28
(b) Milk Bottles ...	6	6	6	18	—	6	6	12	6	6	6	84
(c) Water ...	4	4	4	8	—	4	10	4	4	4	4	59
(d) Ice-Cream ...	—	—	3	2	—	5	8	4	—	—	—	22
(e) Faeces ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	10	21
(f) Sputum ...	28	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
(g) Sewer Effluent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
												997
												8018



