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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

1961



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE
BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND





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### MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Rutherford

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR HUDSPITH

### THE MAYOR

ALDERMAN	SMITH	Councillor	MORTAKIS
,,	SUMMERS	,,	Purves
COUNCILLOR	BREADIN	,,	WATERS
,,	Donohoe	,,	WATTS
,,	ELDER	,,	WOOLFREY

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1961

Medical Officer of Health ... A. Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector G. A. Gill, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Insp. W. Allan, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Insp. R. Cheetham, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk ... ... C. Fellows
(Retired November, 1961)

V. Colpitts.
(From November, 1961)

Shorthand Typist ... M. Hope
(Appointed December, 1961)

Rodent Officer ... B. Wade

### BOROUGH OF BLYTH

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1961

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 1961.

The figures of the Registrar General show that the population of Blyth has increased again by 920 to 35,970. This means that in 1960 and 1961 the population rose by 1,210, which is a very considerable increase. Live births fell by 25 to 602, giving an uncorrected birth rate of 16.7 per 1,000 population. There were 13 infant deaths, 3 more than in 1960, but 11 of these occurred in the first four weeks of life and 9 in the first week. The infant mortality rate was 21.5 per 1,000 live births. The number of deaths fell by 40 to 341, giving a crude death rate of 9.4 per 1,000 population, the lowest ever recorded in Blyth.

There were 799 notifications of infectious disease, with Pulmonary Tuberculosis the second commonest disease, with 30 cases. Once again no case of diphtheria was notified and only 3 cases of whooping cough. The fact that there was only one case of food poisoning points to the high standard of hygiene that is being maintained by food premises. A great deal of this is due to the routine, unspectacular work of the public health inspectors.

The problems of caravans, clean air and sewage remain. Some headway has been made with the provision of a private caravan site, and the question of a smoke control area is being pursued. I feel sure that the question of sewage on the beach and in the docks will be overcome in time, but the financial implications are considerable.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee once again for their support; my colleagues in other departments for their courtesy and consideration and the Health Department Staff for the work they have achieved during the year and the cheerful way in which it was carried out.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

### SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

The most important single factor concerned in the well being of the aged is warmth. This is a physical necessity when bodily functions are beginning to slow down and activity is no longer a substitute for a discarded "woolly." It is important, therefore, to ensure that the most efficient method must be used in heating bungalows and single persons' flats within the limits of the tenants' income.

In this respect Blyth has provided blocks of single persons' flats and two-room bungalows, and the Borough Engineer is always willing to experiment with new ideas for heating or for facilitating housework in any form. It is hoped that eventually a pattern will emerge which will embody all the satisfactory ideas and allow a new standard to be adopted for elderly and disabled persons.

Apart from physical warmth the old person requires the warmth of companionship. This is very much more essential for the widow or widower, bereaved after retirement. When one partner dies it leaves a gap which is extremely difficult to fill. This can be helped to some extent by the statutory visits of a nurse or health visitor, but the time that they can spend with an individual is limited and much more is required. Blyth has its Over-Sixty Clubs and After-Care Committees and it is from associations like these that the greatest help can come. For those fit enough to attend meetings, it is only a matter of joining. For those who are house-bound, the old people's clubs must go to them. Loneliness should not be allowed to exist today, but unfortunately it does.

Youth club members can play a big part in making life easier for old people by visiting them. I suggest, in pairs, and for short periods at first.

Old people require adequate food but quantity is of less importance in old age than quality, and meals should be regular. Often the Home Help service can play a big part in this respect. "Meals on Wheels" or meals prepared regularly in a hall for the elderly are of great importance. The former service has been started in Blyth and it is hoped that it will be possible for it to increase gradually. The old people look forward to the Home Help's visit and the meals on wheels visit, not only for the service that is given but also for the opportunity of speaking to someone,

The Chiropody service is one which lends itself to considerable expansion; it is invaluable and greatly appreciated by the old people.

It is still difficult to obtain beds for geriatric hospital cases. Hospitalisation, unfortunately, is necessary when a single person is bedridden and cannot receive adequate attention from the domiciliary services, and what Godber says is true, "No Geriatric Service can be really effective unless it is run as a safety valve for a service mainly of home care."

Unless family responsibility for the aged increases, and I cannot see this happening, the domiciliary services must be increased.

A Laundry service for the old and incontinent must eventually be part of the Health or Welfare Service. Night sitters may have to be introduced where there are no relatives, or to assist them over long periods of illness.

The over 65, over 70, over 80 years are increasing rapidly and this means that services for them must increase as well.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 1961

Area—No Change	Acrea	ge-6,487.
Population—(Registrar-General's Estimate)		35,970
Rate Value—(1st April, 1961)		£350,874
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)		£1,351
Total number of Dwellinghouses in Borough- (1st April, 1961)		11,081

### **Extracts from Vital Statistics**

Comparability Factor—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.28.

		1961	1960
Total Live Births	 	 602	627
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected)			17.8
Live Birth Rate (standardised)			17.8

	1961	1960
Sill Births	8	18
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births		27.9
Total live and still births		645
Infant Deaths		10
Neo-Natal Deaths		6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	21.5	15.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legiti-		
mate live births		16.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti-		
mate live births		Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (death under		
four weeks per 1,000 live births)	18.2	9.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths		
under one week per 1,000 live births)		6.3
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and		
deaths under one week per 1,000 live		
and still births)		34.1
Illegitimate live births	25	16
Illegitimate live births per cent of total		
live births		2.4
Maternal deaths		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and		
still births		Nil
Total Deaths		381
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population		
Standardised death rate per 1,000 home		
population		13.8
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 home	,	
population	0.05	0.06
	State St.	
Infant I	Deaths In	fant Deaths
Live Births Still Births Under 4	Weeks Un	nder 1 Week
M. F. M. F. M.	F.	M. F.
Total 297 305 4 4 7	4	6 3
Legitimate 285 292 4 4 7	4	6 3
Illegitimate 12 13 — — —	-	
1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 19	58 1959	1960 1961
No. of live births 618 618 638 585 624 610 6	308 712	627 602
	365 371	381 341
Excess of births	243 341	246 261
200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200	- 011	220 201

### Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1952-1961

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Infant Deaths	11	18	11	21	11	12	23	16	10	13
Infant Mortality Rate		29.1	17.2	35.8	17.6	19.5	37.8	22.4	15.9	21.5

### Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause		Sex	Where Death Occurred	Age	Avoidable or Not
1	Bronchiolitis		M	Home	6 months	Possibly
2	Asphyxia Neonatorum		M	Hospital	11 Hours	Not
3	Cerebral Haemorrhage		F	Home	3 Days	Not
4	Cerebral Birth Trauma		F	Home	2 Days	Not
5	Prematurity		M	Home	1 Week	Not
6	Congenital Ileal Atresia		F	Hospital	1 Month	Not
7	Prematurity		M	Home	1 Day	Not
8	Neonatal Hepatitis		M	Home	10 Hours	Not
9	Prematurity		M	Hospital	2 Days	Not
10	Prematurity	***	M	Hospital	3 Days	Not
11	Congenital Heart Disease		M	Hospital	6 Days	Not
12	Exomphalus		F	Hospital	1 Day	Not
13	Asphyxia—Inhalation of				74000000	1
	Vomit		F	Home	2 Weeks	Not

### Causes of Death, 1961

Code	The state of the s	100					-
No.	Internation	onal Cla	ssification		Male	Female	Tota
002	Pulmonary Tube	erculosi	s		1	1	2
054	Toxaemia				1	-	1
148	Malignant Neop	lasm of	Pharynx	***	1	-	1
150	,, ,	, ,,	Oesophagus		-	1	1
151	,, ,		Stomach		11	6	17
152.7	,, ,		Jejunum		1	-	1
153	,, ,		Large Bowel		4	4	8
154	,, ,		Rectum		2	1	3
156	,, ,		Liver			1	1
157	,, ,		Pancreas		3	3	6
162	,, ,		Bronchus and	d Lung	10	4	14
170	,, ,	, ,,	Breast		-	10	10
171	,, ,		Cervix Uteri		_	2	2
172	,, ,		Corpus Uteri			4	4
175	., ,		Ovary		-	1	1
177	,, ,		Prostate		3	-	3
180			Kidney		2	1	3
181	., ,		Bladder		_	1	1
193	,, ,		Brain		1	1	2
195.3	,, ,		Pituitary		-	1	1
199	,, ,		Unspecified			1	1
201	Hodgkin's Disea				1		1
241	Asthma				1		1
260	Diabetes Mellitu				2	1	3

### Causes of Death, 1961—continued

Code No.	International Classification			Male	Female	Tota
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage			_	2	2
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage			10	8	18
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis			14	10	24
334	Hypertensive Encephalopathy			1	_	1
420.1	Coronary Artery Thrombosis			44	25	69
420.2	Angina Pectoris			1	-	1
422	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration			6	8	14
422.2	Myocardial Degeneration with Sen	ility	***	6	4	10
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation				2	2
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure			16	14	30
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure			3	2	5
434.3	Pericarditis			3	-	3
434.4	Cor Pulmone			3	3	6
451	Aortic Aneurysm			1		1
465	Pulmonary Embolism			4	3	7
480	Influenza with Pneumonia			1	1	2
490	Lobar Pneumonia			2		2
491	Broncho-Pneumonia			10	4	14
500	Acute Decembritie			1		1
502	Chronic Bronchitis			2	1	3
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia			1	2	3
523.3	Pneumoconiosis Unspecified			1		1
560.2	Exomphalos				1	i
570.2	Mesenteric Thrombosis				î	1
576	Peritonitis				i	1
581	Cirrhosis of Liver			1		î
581.1	Cirrhosis of Liver with Alcoholism			î		i
592	Chronic Nephritis			i	1	2
610	Hyperplasia of Prostate			î		ĩ
754	Congenital Heart Disease		***	î		î
759.3	The L Adminis		***	-	1	1
760	Total and tol Dieth Tolling	•••			î	1
762	Atalastasia		***	1	1	1
770	Haemolytic Disease of Newborn			i		1
776				4		4
792	Prematurity Uraemia			1	1	2
794		***	***	1	1 3	
	Senility Street C	or.	***	1	3	3
811	Motor Accident involving Street C	es I		1	1	1
890	Accidental Coal Gas Poisoning			1	1	1
900	Fall of Footh			1		1
910	Fall of Earth			1		1
919	Accidental Shooting		***	1		1
929	Accidental Drowning			1		1
972	Suicide, Coal Gas Poisoning			2	-	2
974	Suicide, Hanging			1		1
800	Fractured Vault of Skull			1		1
908	Multiple Wounds			1		1
933	Choked on Regurgitated Food			_	1	1
				196	145	341
	Deaths over 65 years of age			120	99	219
	Deaths 1-4 years inclusive					

### Deaths 1952-1961 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1952	_	_	1	1	2
1953	1	_	2	1	4
1954	4		-	1	5
1955	-	-	1	_	1
1956	-		-	100	_
1957	-	-	-		_
1958	-	-		_	1
1959	-			1	1
1960	-	-		20	-
1961	-	-	-		1

### Deaths, 1961

	Jenuary	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Number of Deaths each month	37	38	35	28	28	23	20	26	27	25	32	22	341

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1961

		New	CASES		DEATHS					
Age	Pulm	onary	Non-Pu	lmonary	Pulm	onary	Non-Pulmonary			
Groups	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females		
0-5	1	_	_	-	_	_	_	-		
6-10	1	1		-		-	-	-		
11-15	1	1	1	- 1	-	-	-	-		
16-20	1	-		- 1	-	-		-		
21-25	_	-	-	-		-	-	-		
26-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
31-35	2	1	-	1		-	-	-		
36-40	1	5	-	-		-	-	-		
41-45	2	1	1	- 1	-	-	-	-		
46-50	1	2		- 1		-	-	-		
51-55	4			- !		-	-	-		
56-60	2		-	- 1		-	_	-		
61-65				-		-	-	-		
65 +	2			- 1	1	1	-	-		
Totals	19	11	2	1	1	1	-	-		
Grand Totals		30		3		2				

### Tuberculosis Register, 31st December, 1961

	MA	LES	FEM	TOTALS Pulm.	
	Pulm.	Non- Pulm.	Pulm.	Non- Pulm.	and Non- Pulm.
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1961	178	18	192	38	426

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1952-1961

	Year	All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of T.B. Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
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
1961		 33	2	0.05

### Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
12.9	14.2	13.9	15.2	14.7	15.2	13.3	11.7	10.8	10.2

### **TUBERCULOSIS, 1961**

There were 30 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1961. This is an increase of 7 over 1960 and it indicates that this infection is far from being stamped out. Five of the thirty cases notified involved one complete family and another child relative, making six family contact cases. Two other cases involved an adult and grandchild.

There were six cases notified under the age of 20 years. I wonder how many of these were infected by an aged relative with a chronic cough, yet undiagnosed as tuberculosis because of a reluctance to have a chest X-ray? Five of the notified cases were over 61 years of age. I find it difficult to believe that these patients had not had some kind of symptoms of chest disease for a considerable time.

Once again I make the plea to all general practitioners to take sputum tests from their patients with chronic coughs who refuse to have a chest X-ray. Patients can be persuaded to agree to this line of action because it does not involve them in any effort. I am sure that the reservoirs of infection are maintained by this type of person and that there are many undiagnosed chronic carriers abroad who are a danger to themselves and the community.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1961**

There were 799 notifications of infectious disease during 1961. Of these, 733 were measles. Pulmonary Tuberculosis was again the most common disease apart from measles.

### MEASLES

There were 733 cases of measles notified compared with the 11 of 1960. This is in keeping with normal two-yearly epidemic.

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There were 30 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1961. This was an increase of 7 over 1960. Half of the cases were over 41 years of age, 9 were over 51 years and 2 were over 65 years.

### Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

There were 3 cases of this disease notified during 1961. There was one kidney infection, one endometrium infection and one meningitis.

### PNEUMONIA

There were 5 cases of pneumonia notified in 1961.

### WHOOPING COUGH

There were 3 cases of whooping cough notified during the year. None had received adequate prophylaxis. The continuing low incidence of this disease is entirely due to the use now made of the triple vaccine by general practitioners and child welfare doctors as a prophylactic.

### DYSENTERY

There were 2 cases of sonne dysentery notified during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER AND ERYSIPELAS

There was one notification of each of these diseases during 1961.

### FOOD POISONING

One isolated case of food poisoning was notified.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1961—Age Distribution

												I	١		l	١	1
		Under 1	1	67	60	4	10	6-10	11-15	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	N.K.	Total
:	:	37	100	66	87	113	181	112	61	1	1	1	1	1	1	01	733
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	:	1	Î	1	1	1	-	61	61	1	60	œ	00	60	61	1	30
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	00
	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	61
:	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
:	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	:	I	1	1	1	1	1	65	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	60
:	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	-	1	20
:	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
		37	101	66	87	115	182	1117	10	61	4	6	6	7	60	61	779

### Infectious Disease and Age Distribution, 1961

		Sca Fe			oop- ig igh		Acu	yeliti	n-	Mea	sles	Dip		Dy: ter	sen-	In	ingo ccal fec- ion
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified Total (all ages)		1	_	1	2	-	_	_	-	370	363	_	_	-	2	-	1
Final numbers after correction: Under 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 ,, 4 ,, 5-9 ,, 10-14 ,, 15-24 ,, 25 and over Age unknown  Total (all ages)		1		1	2 2			ute		18 45 48 45 63 146 2 1 -2 370	21 54 51 41 49 146 1 —					111111111111111111111111111111111111111	
		Act Pn mo	eu-	Sm		In	fec-		ec-	Typi	eric r hold ver	Par Typ Fee	hoid	Ery		Poi	ood son-
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified : Total (all ages)		5	-	_	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	-	_	1
Final numbers after correction: Under 5 years 5-14 years		= 4	==			1111			==				11111	= -1	1111		
45-64 ,, 65 and over Age unknown	***	1	_	_	_	=			=	=	=				_	=	

		Т	uber	culos	is	
		pira-		nin-	Oti	her
	M	F	M	F	М	F
Numbers originally notified : Total (all ages)	19	11	_	_	2	1
Final numbers after correction: Under 5 years 5-14 years 15-24 ,, 25-44 ,, 45-64 ,, 65 and over Age unknown	3 1 5 8 2	72   72	1111111	1111111	- 1 - -	_ _ _ _ _
Total (all ages)	19	11	-	-	2	1

### 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
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 1955	34 11	_	10 11	14 24	3 2	12 108	_	44 69	5 10	73 65	50 853	_		3			12	9
1956	12		2	15	ī	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1961	1	-	1	5	-	2	-	30	3	3	733	-	-	-	_	-	1	-

### CANCER

	19	61	19	60	19	59	19	58	19	57	19	56
Type All Causes	 M 38 8	F 42 30	M 50 8	F 31	M 44 8	F 39	M 37 5	F 19 6	M 55 8	F 26	M 42 6	F 27
Bronchogenic	 10	4	19	4	16	3	11	1	20	1	13	1
Stomach	 11	5	10	7	5	6	11	4	13	6	6	6
Intestine	 7	5	6	3	11	13	3	4	5	2	7	6
Female Organs	 -	18	-	9	-	12	-	7	-	10	-	8
Others	 10	10	15	8	12	5	12	3	17	7	16	6

CANCER DEATHS, 1961 Site and Age Distribution

Some On Drawing	Droy	0.01					MALE						FE	FEMALE			
416	Sid Control	Seve		0-2526	26—35 36-	36 45 46	16—55/56	26 65	Over 65	Total	0-2526	26—35 36	36 45 46	46 55 56	56—65	Over 65	Total
Pharynx			:	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oesophagus			:	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	-	1	1	
Stomach	::		:	1	1	1	01	2	+	=	1	1	1	0.3	-	03	0
Jejunum			:	1	1	1		1	1	-	1	1	1	i	1	1	1
Large Intestine	:	:	:	1	1	1		1	20	+ -	1	-	1	-	1	+-	
Keetum			:	1	1	1	-	1	1	-1	1	1	1	1	1.	-	
Liver		****	:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	F	1	1	1	-	1 .	
			:	1	1	1	1	21 :	-	00	1	1	1	1	1.	00 0	. 00
ns and	Lung		:	1	1	1	-	00	9	10	1	1	1	-		23	*
Breast				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1	20	0	10
Cervix Uteri			:	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	ſ	1	I	-	-	1	23
Corpus Uteri			:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	+	0
Ovary				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	-
Prostate			::	1	1	-	1	1	00	00	-	1	1	1	1	1.	1.
Kidney			:	1	1	1	1	1	27	27	1	1	1	1	1.	-	
Bladder			::	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1:	1		1	
Brain				1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	
Pituitary Gland				1	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	
Unspecified				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I	1	1	1	-
	Tota	Totals	:	1	1	1	7	11	20	38	1	1	1	6	10	23	45
			۱														

### ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1961

### Statistics for the Borough for the Ten Years 1952-1961

Year	Popula- tion	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate
1952	34010	352	10.3	618	18.2	11	17.8	9.7
1953	34270	335	9.7	618	18.0	18	29.1	14.5
1954	34370	354	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1
1955	34420	357	10.3	585	16.8	21	35.8	25.6
1956	34470	370	10.7	624	18.1	11	17.6	16.0
1957	34440	348	10.1	610	17.8	12	19.5	14.6
1958	34620	365	10.5	608	17.5	23	37.8	31.2
1959	34760	371	10.6	712	20.4	16	22.4	16.8
1960	35050	381	10.8	627	17.8	10	15.9	9.5
1961	35970	341	9.4	802	16.7	13	21.5	18.2

### SICK BENEFIT SCHEME - 1961

Number of workmen employed	 267
Number of workmen sick	 100
Number of days lost by sickness (5 day week)	 1,955
Average length of time off, in days	 19.5
Percentage of workmen sick during the year	 34.4%
Commonest period off sick	 7-14 days

The commonest causes of absence were minor infections, coryza, pharyngitis and tonsillitis (23).

This was closely followed by influenza or influenzal cold (22). Bronchitis and fibrositic conditions were also common.

### Part II-Environmental Hygiene-Housing

Tomorrow's Housing.—Do not let the title mislead. This is not a prophecy of architectural design, parabolic, hyperbolic or symbolic construction or the use of new methods and materials. This is the promise for many young newly and not so newly weds.

Only a short time ago housing in the Borough proceeded a pace, the Council acquired large tracts of land, the direct labour scheme was in full swing, slum areas like Bebside, Kitty Brewster, Cowpen Road, Cowpen Colliery, East Regent Street, the Quayside, Coomassie Road, Phoenix Street and South Newsham were wiped off the map, new soundly constructed modern housing estates of pleasing design were created, and the public waited patiently and in good heart, knowing their turn would come.

What are the prospects now? The icy hand of the Treasury stretches over the land, interest rates are prohibitive, land for development is more difficult to acquire, repayment of building society mortgages for new houses impose a crippling financial burden for many years on the lower income groups of the working population, mortgages for older properties are more difficult to obtain, a large proportion of the town is sterilised by problematical planning schemes which may take years to come to fruition and which in the meantime have a stultifying effect on further slum clearance schemes, improvement grants, house purchase and general all-round improvement.

It would seem that for many people the prospect for tomorrow's housing is "Bleak" indeed.

### Clearance, Demolitions and Closing Orders, 1961

		Displac	ements
	Houses Demolished	Persons	Families
Clearance Areas	10 100		W = 1
Act, 1957	46 Houses Closed	23	6
Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act,	6	26	7
Parts of buildings closed, Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	5	26	7
	57	75	20

The total figures since 1945 are :-

	CLEAR		Part of the Control o	LITION	CLO	SING	To	PAL
	Houses Demol- ished	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed
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
1961	-	-	46	23	11	52	57	75
	926	2,983	334	1,389	239	884	1,499	5,256

### Housing Act, 1957-Individual Unfit Houses

The following Orders became operative during the year:-

		Houses	Persons	Families
(Sec. 17)	Demolition	 7	18	6
(Sec. 17)	Closing in lieu of Demolition	 4	12	7
(Sec. 18)	Closing (parts of buildings)	 8	21	9
		19	51	22

Representations.—19 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
72 Waterloo Road		 	1	Completed	Order revoked
12 Croft Street		 	1	do.	do.
40 Freehold Street	***	 ***	2	do.	do.
27 Stanley Street		 	1	do.	do.
15 and 17 Percy Stre	et	 	2	Accepted	

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. Renewal.
3 Percy Street	 	1	Headquarters, Boy Scouts' Associ- ation.
9 and 9a Percy Street	 	2	Warehouse for New Textiles (Subject to Planning permission).
12 and 14 Wanley Street a 44 Bowes Street		4	Painter and Decorator's Office and shop (subject o planning per- mission).

Housing Requirements.—At the end of the year there were 24 families and 9 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:—

	In	dividual Houses	-	Cl	earance C	rders		Totals	
Year	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
1961	28	79	29	-	-	-	28	79	29
	212	689	218	71	192	78	283	883	296

### **Improvement Grants**

### Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Despite the simpler conditions made available by the Standard Grant scheme progress is extremely slow, which can be partially accounted for by the planning restrictions referred to in the introduction to the housing section, but is also attributable to the large number of tenanted dwellings in the Borough on which, or so it would appear, owners are not willing to expend any considerable amount. Unless legislation is introduced to enable the Council to require owners to modernise suitable properties and, if necessary, to carry out the work by default, with which I am not in favour owing to the administrative difficulties involved, it is reasonable to forecast the eventual deterioration of most of the older section of the town with the creation of future housing problems for the Council.

Discretionary and Standard Grants.—The following are details of applications and completions during the year, together with summaries of overall position.

# DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—RECORDS—Applications 1961

					MINNE II						199	
nted nt s. d.	0 0 0		omes Jan	0 0	s. 0 0 0 0 0	0 0		nted s. d.	0 0	0 0	s. d.	0 0
Tenanted Grant £ s.	172 276 193		This is	1641	2 211 236	£447		Tenanted Grant £ s.	172	2112	317	£317
cupied it s. d.	0 0	000	0 0	0 0	s. d.	0 0		No.	20	1	25	2
Owner-Occupied Grant £ s. d.	П	238 245 168	340 220	£1,322	290	£290			00 0	0	s. d. t paid) 0 0	0
Refused		ea -	-	3			tions	Owner-Occupied Grant £ s. d.	107 0 264 0	6482 0	Grant not paid) 281 0 0	£281 0
Approved				6		3	Completions	No.		6	-	1
Address	82 Waterloo Road 84 Waterloo Road 1 Marine Terrace 14 Croft Road	66/68 Sidney Street 15 Richard Street 60 Aldborough Street 3 Coburg Street	20 Delayal Terrace 14 Rowley Street 8 Scaton Avenue		50 Marine Terrace G.F.F. 50 Marine Terrace 1st FF. 657/9 Plessey Road			Address	27 Maughan Street 72 Waterloo Road 82 Waterloo Road 84 Waterloo Road		24/26 Percy Street 4 Newlands Road	
Ref. No.	25/60 1/61 2/61	9/61 10/61 13/61	8/61 16/61 17/61		CONVERSIONS 6/61 5 7/61 5 18/61 6			Ref. No.	12/56 27/60 25/60 25/60		CONVERSIONS 28/59 31/59	

## STANDARD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—RECORDS—Applications, 1961

Tenanted Approved £ s. d.	155 0 0	£155 0 0
Owner-Occupied Approved £ s. d.	155 0 0 80 0 0 80 0 0 155 0 0	6470 0 0
Refused		
Approved		ő
Address	101 Salisbury Street 103 Salisbury Street 87 Newcastle Road 16 Allendale Road 19 Richard Street	
Ref. No.	3/61 4/61 12/61 14/61 16/61	

### Completions 1961

romelm.	64			100	ni mad	100	
Food Storage Facilities	1	1	1-		-   -	7	
Water- Closets	1	1	1		1 - 1	6	
Hot Water Supplies	1	1	1	-1	11-	7	
Wash- basins	1 1	1	1			6	
Fixed Bath or Showers		1	1-	11	1	∞	
Owner-Occupied Grant Aid £ s. d.	153 2 6 145 0 0	155 0 0	17 9 0 145 0 0	90 17 3 98 5 7	80 0 0 80 0 0 155 0 0	£1,119 14 4	O/O£1,021 8 9 Ten. £98 5 7
No.		-		1 1 (t'n't'd)		- 10	0/0 9 Ten. 1
Address	12 Edward Street 530 Plessey Road	15 Wellington Street	69 Delaval Terrace	101 Salisbury Street 103 Salisbury Street	14 Coomassie Road 87 Newcastle Road		
Ref. No.	24/60 26/60	5/61	30/59	3/61 4/61	28/60 12/61 15/61		

### Houses for Agricultural Population

### In Progress

Applications were received from the Seaton Delaval Estate on behalf of Lord Hastings for assistance under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, in connection with the construction of two houses at Lysdon Farm, Seaton Delaval, and two houses at Seaton Lodge Farm, Seaton Sluice.

Approval was given by the Minister of Housing and Local Government to the Lysdon Farm application on the 22nd November, 1961, but was not issued in respect of the Seaton Lodge Farm pending planning permission.

### 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	1961	Totals
1.	Application by tenants		43	46	12	6	2	109
2.	Decision not to issue Certificate	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Decision to issue							
	(a) some of the defects		23	28	9	4	Nil	64
	(b) all defects		16	21	3	2	2	44
4.	Undertakings by Landlords							
	(a) accepted		8	25	7	2	1	43
	(b) refused		2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
5.	Certificates issued		24	28	5	3	1	61
6.	Applications for Cancellation		2	10	10	1	Nil	23
7.	Objections by Tenants		Nil	4	4	Nil	Nil	8
8.	Cancellations Refused		Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
9.	Certificates Cancelled		1	12	9	1	Nil	23

### CERTIFICATES AS TO REMEDYING OF DEFECTS

10.	Application ificates of Undertakin	non-comp							
	Issued (a)	Whole	 ***	Nil	14	4	1	Nil	19
	(b)	Part	 	Nil	8	7	2	Nil	17
11.	Application Certificates Undertakin	of Comp							
	(a)	Issued	 	Nil	7	5	1	1	14
	(b)	Refused	 	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	2

### Acquisition of Houses

In addition to the seven properties listed on Page 33 of the Annual Report for 1960, the Council have acquired 71 Barrass Avenue West.

### 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 ... 6
Licences refused ... 5

### Houses for Disabled Persons

Approval was given by the Council to the adaptation of a new ground floor flat on the Coomassie Road Redevelopment Scheme for a physically handicapped person, and for four new ground floor flats in the Phoenix Street area to be constructed on similar lines.

The special bungalows designed and built in 1960 for disabled persons stimulated considerable interest in and out of the district. It was found that the heating system would require modification as the fire provided did not produce sufficient heat to maintain a steady temperature unless it was stoked continuously. Consideration is being given to providing an alternative appliance with an increased thermal output.

In future it has been decided, where there is a family, to adapt existing houses, rather than build special bungalows.

For the single person, or couple, one of whom is disabled and uses crutches or a wheel-chair, ground floor two-room flats are probably best. The Council has adapted one of these to provide the following—wider hall space, sliding doors, special kitchen fittings and extra bath-room fittings. This allows the wheel-chair cripple increased mobility and a determined patient can make a great contribution to the work of the household.

The Council have agreed, also, that a certain number of these special flats shall be included in each new maisonette scheme. One of the most difficult household chores for an old or disabled person is cleaning, laying and lighting a solid fuel fire. Strong recommendations have been made suggesting that a certain number of flats should be heated without using solid fuel—gas heated ducted air; gas or electric fires. The latter seem to be expensive in running costs but it has been said that in a three roomed apartment flat, the temperature can be maintained at 70°F. hot water provided and cooking provided by gas, at less than 18/per week.

It is difficult to change the habits of a life-time or generation—even more so when concessionary coal is a factor, but the day is coming when coal will be burnt with the sole purpose of providing an alternative form of heating and the open fire will be a museum piece—unfortunately it is not coming quickly enough.

### Aluminium Bungalows

### TEMPORARY

The Council considered the advisability of retaining the temporary aluminium bungalows at Cowpen and Newsham following reports by the Borough Engineer and Medical Officer of Health on their structural condition. At the end of the year a schedule of defects and estimate of cost of repair had been forwarded to the Minister and a reply was awaited.

### PERMANENT

The Borough Engineer also reported on the extent of the corrosion in the 59 permanent aluminium bungalows at Wansbeck Avenue and Isabella Colliery following receipt of Circular No. 45/61, and after consideration the Council proposed not to demolish any of these bungalows during the next five years and that demolition of seriously affected dwellings would commence at the end of the period and be continued during the succeeding five years.

The Medical Officer of Health has requested the provision of bungalow dwellings in any scheme of replacement, in view of the number of such houses occupied by physically infirm or elderly persons for which these houses have proved most suitable.

### HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

### Return for the Year ended 31st December, 1961

		Houses Demolished	du	placed ring ear
Α.	Houses Demolished:— In Clearance Areas.		Persons	Familie
(1) (2)	Houses unfit for human habitation Houses included by reason of bad arrangement,	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3)	etc	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 Local Authority owned houses certified unfit	40	23	6
(6)	by M.O.H	6	Nil	Nil
(7)	action has been taken under local Acts Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil
A2				
	Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed:	8	Nil	Nil
B. (8)	Unfit Houses Closed:— Under Sec. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing		20	
(9) (10)	Act, 1957 Under Secs. 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18,	Nil	26 Nil	Nil
	Housing Act, 1957	5	26	7
o.	Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in w Defects were Remedied :—	нісн Ву		By Local Authority
(11) (12)	After informal action by Local Authority After formal notice under:		85	Nil
(13)	(a) P.H. Acts	1	57 Nil 5	Nil Nil Nil
D.	UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing A	Act,		
	1957) :	No. of	No. of	separate
	Position at end of Year	houses	dwellir	in Col. 1
		(1)		(2)
(14)	Retained for temporary accommodation:— (a) under Sec. 48			Nil
	(b) under Sec. 17 (2) (c) under Sec. 46	NT:1		Nil Nil
15)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Secs. 34 or 53	STO		Nil
	Purchase of Houses by Agreement :			
E.				

### HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

		19	60	19	61
Houses completed in 1961:		With State Assistance		With State Assistance	Un- aided
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor		39	2	6	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent—prefabricated—Contractor		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Houses in Progress, 31/12/61:					
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor		. 10	Nil.	56	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority		. Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Houses completed by Private Enterpri	SE	:			
Traditional	100	. 6	273	Nil.	176
Houses approved by Ministry of House and Local Government	NG	3773	Nil.	22	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY COUNC UP TO 31/12/61:	CIL				
Permanent Traditional		. 2,280	2	2,286	2
Permanent Non-traditional			Nil.	150	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F.		. 72	Nil.	72	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Aluminium		. 59	Nil.	59	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY PRIVA	TE				
Traditional		. 10	528	10	704
Conversions			Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Housing provided under the Housi (Temporary Accommodation) Act, 194			Nil.	150	Nil.

## DISCRETIONARY GRANTS—SUMMARY

Vann	Applic	Applications	Owner-Occupied	Tenanted	Owner-		Completions	00
1001	Approved	Refused	all	All	nordinan	Grant	Tenanted	Grant
			s.	£ s. d.		£ 8. d.		£ 8. d.
1955	19	5	0	155 0 0	1	0	1	1
1956	6	1	0	1 1 1	1-	1,006 0 0	1	1 1 1
1957	186	1	0	30,264 0 0	1	1 1	1	76 0 0
1958	13	1	0	0	3	0	5	0
1959	00	1		437 0 0	01	0	190	
1960	2	-	0	T	20		61	0
1961	6	89		641 0 0	00	482 0 0	1	172 0 0
	249	11	7,974 0 0	34,717 0 0	21	3,406 0 0	661	33,922 0 0
		Totals:	2 s. d. 7,974 0 0 34,717 0 0		No. 21 199	£ s. d. 3,406 0 0 33,922 0 0		
			£42,691 0 0		220	£37,328 0 0		
CONVERSIONS								
	Amilio	No of	Ournon Ocounied	Tomontod		Completions	tions	
Year	Approved	Dwellings	Grant	Grant	Occupied Owner-	Grant	Tenanted	Grant
-			£ s. d.	s.		£ 8. d.		£ s. d.
1959	21 -	<del>+</del> -		634 0 0	1	1 1	10	10
1961	- 60	- 80	290 0 0	447 0 0	1	281 0 0	N 61	317 0 0
	0	0	4 4					

### STANDARD GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS.

Year	Approved	Refused	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted
69	-		£ s. d.	£ 8. d.
1961	52 52	- 1	1,240 0 0 470 0 0	115 0 0
	18	1	£1,825 0 0	0 0 023

COUNCIL OWNED.

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

COMPLETIONS.

	Own	Owner-Occupied	Tena	nted	Fixed Bath	Wash-	Hot Water	Water	Food Storage
rear	No.	Grant	No.	Grant	or snowers	Dasims	sanddne	Closers	racinines
1960	96	£ s. d. 544 15 8 1,021 8 9	1-	£ s. d.	m 00	80	91-	70 00	41-
	15	1,566 4 5	1	98 5 7	11	12	10	14	п

### PUBLIC HEALTH

### DRAINAGE

For many years the Health Department has provided a free drain-cleansing service which has done much to remedy immediately what can be an unpleasant nuisance. Although there has been generally a steady decline in the number of requests received, the figures for the past three years being 1958 (87), 1959 (70), 1960 (98) and for 1961 (56), much more attention has been paid during the year to the problem of unsatisfactory drainage, a total of 636 visits having been made for this purpose. Towards the end of the year, with the co-operation of the National Coal Board, an intensive survey was made of every drain, inspection chamber, gulley, and rainwater pipe in the Malvin's Close Estate, and full scale repair and reinstatement is now in progress.

### REMOVAL OF REFUSE

Household Effects.—Following requests by owners the Cleansing Department removed and destroyed, by burning, a total of 992 unwanted household articles consisting principally of beds, mattresses, furniture and miscellaneous items. This essential service continues to expand and is appreciated by the public.

### FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

A total of 358 dwellings were treated for insect infestation, as before the principal complaint being of cockroaches. The general method of treatment for these pests is by spraying of affected areas with an approved insecticide followed, in more persistent cases, by fumigation.

It was also found necessary on a small number of occasions to strip skirtings, picture rails and architraves in Council dwellings found to be affected with bed bugs. These cases are usually brought to the attention of the Department after vacation or exchanges or on complaint by the Housing Department, Health Visitors or Home Helps, and are fortunately few in number. Due to the increased visiting of socially unsuitable families by Health and Welfare workers during the past few years the cases of such infestation have markedly declined.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Due to the intensive re-building and modernisation

programme of the past few years there is little further progress to report in this field, and, apart from minor complaints, the conveniences have been maintained in a most satisfactory and hygienic manner.

The proposal to construct a new dual convenience and shelter in the vicinity of Newsham is still under review.

### Part III—Nuisances

A total of 2,765 inspections were made regarding general public health matters, being an approximate increase of 44% over 1960, of which 1,599 were with regard to specific complaints. As before, the principal complaints were of structural disrepair which is primarily due to the deterioration of the older-properties, the reluctance of owners to carry out more than essential repairs (any increase in rent income under the Rent Act, 1957, being offset by rising costs), and the lack of any current slum clearance programme.

### COLLIERY SPOILBANKS AND COAL DISPOSAL POINTS

Spoilbanks.—The general picture is as follows:—

... Discontinued. No Nuisance.

Discontinued. Slight combustion but no obvious nuisance. Isabella

All waste barged to sea via Bates Colliery.

... Continued tipping in progress with water spraying and con-Horton Grange solidation. As it is proposed to close this colliery early in 1962 tipping will cease and the spoilbank will be kept

under observation.

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

DEEP MINED Site		Dec. 1960 Tons	Dec. 1961 Tons
Hathery Lane, Bebside	 	582	Cleared
Mill Pit Disposal Point	 	_	Cleared
New Delaval	 	210,000	79,420
OPEN-CAST			
Bebside Disposal Point	 	718,880	534,536

### 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	 	 	 381,521,000
Tynemouth Corporation Water Board		 	 2,427,000
National Coal Board (Hepscott) .	 	 	 50,639,000

### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

Of 55 samples, 50 were of satisfactory purity, the 5 unsatisfactory being 4 after sand filtration but before chlorination, and one after chlorination. The unsatisfactory results were immediately notified to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and check samples 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.

### Part V—Prevention, Treatment and Notification of Infectious Diseases

Once again there were only a small number of visits (84) in connection with notifiable diseases.

### Part VI-Mortuaries and Post-Mortem Rooms

The Mortuary was used on 48 occasions, details being:-

Authority		Bodies	Post-mortems
Borough of Blyth	 	32	18
Bedlington Urban District Council	 	13	9
River Blyth Port Health Authority	 ***	3	2

As in previous years, Mr. Wade continued his duties as part-time Mortuary attendant.

### Part VII-Miscellaneous

Watercourses.—The two watercourses which are the principal source of complaint are the stream which emanates from the disposal of waste water from the Horton Colliery via Kitty Brewster to the River Blyth and that from the Open-Cast Disposal Point, Hathery Lane via Tynedale Drive to the River, the two joining in the vicinity of the Sidney Arms, Cowpen. Continuous pressure was brought to bear on the respective riparian owners and the undermentioned chemical samples were taken.

Flooding was caused on two occasions, the first being the flooding of the roadway in the vicinity of the Sidney Arms due to obstruction of the burn in the lower reaches, this being remedied by the National Coal Board cleansing the section immediately below the bridge and the Borough Engineer's Department clearing the culvert under the roadway; the second being caused by the silting up of the burn prior to its entrance to the Tynedale Drive culvert, this being remedied by the National Coal Board and the Northumberland County Council clearing their sections, plus action by the Department. In addition the Public Utility Boards made representation to the National Coal Board regarding possible corrosion of their services due to the high acid content of the Tynedale Water and the attention of the Northumberland and Tyneside River Board was again drawn to the generally unsatisfactory position.

There is, however, some prospect of improvement in the future in that a considerable section of the Tynedale water-course will come within the prospective Campus Site of the proposed educational development by the North-umberland Education Committee, and will presumably require to be culverted; we have received a further assurance that the open-cast site at Hathery Lane will be cleared by 1964, and in the case of the Kitty Brewster water-course, the Horton Colliery is to close by 1962 which may mean the end of pumping from the colliery, although this latter point is not yet definitely known.

#### General

Training of Public Health Inspectors.—At the request of the Newcastle upon Tyne Health Department and the College of Further Education and through the courtesy of the Borough Engineer, arrangements were made for parties of students to visit the Cowpen Sewerage and Composting Plant where the operation of sewage treatment and composting were explained in detail by the Borough Engineer. Following this we accompanied a group of students to Edinburgh to a demonstration of the Dano system of refuse separation and Composting, which briefly is the complete sorting of domestic refuse into organic and inorganic wastes, the organic matter being composted thus preserving wastes which could be returned for soil fertilisation.

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

In the Annual Report for 1960, page 44, I set out the details with regard to the "Existing Sites" for which applications for Site Licences had been made, and the position at the end of 1961 was:—

PC	sition at the end of i	301	was.—
	Link House Gardens, Blyth		Existing planning permission expires 31st December, 1966.  New planning application to be submitted but consideration deferred pending County Planning Officer's proposals for the area.  No progress at end of year.  Construction of new sanitary block to comply with existing Public Health Act licence, nearing completion.
2.	Link House Filling Station		Planning permission dated 18th May, 1961, for six touring caravans, permission to expire on the 30th September, 1962.
3.	Old Pottery, South Newsham	1	New planning application submitted and still under consideration by County Planning Department at end of year.
4.	North Farm, Cowpen Road		Planning permission dated 18th May, 1961, for twenty-five permanent residential caravans, permission to expire on the 30th September, 1962.  Land acquired for alternative development and site cleared January, 1962.
5.	Furnace Road, Bebside		Site cleared March, 1961. No planning decision issued.
6.	Adjacent King's Arms, Cowp	en	
	Road		Site cleared. Planning permission refused.
7.	High House Farm, Bebside		Planning permission dated 18th May, 1961, for one permanent residential caravan, permission to expire on the 30th Septem- ber, 1961. Site cleared August, 1961.

It is pleasing to record that four of the sites have been cleared, but it is unfortunate that due to planning consideration no decisions have been issued with respect to the Link House Gardens and Old Pottery sites, although this would appear to be unavoidable. As a result, no "Site Licences" have been issued by the Council.

New Applications.—During 1961 the following application was received.

 High House Farm, Bebside ... Planning permission for one permanent residential caravan. To be issued February, 1962.

Pending.—At the end of the year discussions were in progress between the Council and the County Planning Department on the development of land in the South Newsham Area for a caravan site to be operated by the Council.

## THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Prior Approvals. Secs. 3 and 6.—There were no applications for prior approval.

New installations—

Situation

Type of Heating Plant

1. New Co-operative Stores, St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice

Electric under-floor heating.

2. Mineral Water Factory, Northumberland Street, Blyth ... Oil Fired.

Industrial Furnaces.—In accordance with Circular 42/61 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the attention of industrialists in the area was drawn to the provisions of Section 2 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, with respect to defences available against prosecution and the need to alter or equip buildings and furnaces to comply with the provisions of the Act. In most instances I am informed that attention is being paid to this problem and new or adapted equipment is to be provided.

Contraventions.—In accordance with Section 30 of the Act it was necessary to serve notice of offence with respect to:-

1. Emission of Black and Dark smoke from vertical boiler

A petition was received from the residents of Woodbine Terrace of smoke causing a nuisance from the boiler plant of Craft Cleaners.

The assistance of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service was obtained and the question of the replacement of the plant is under consideration. In the meantime the plant operators have given an assurance that they will use principally smokeless fuel.

Complaint was also made of excessive smoke emission from the twenty-four permanent pre-fabricated bungalows in the Wansbeck Avenue area, and the tenants were visited with a request to use smokeless fuel. None of the residents were agreeable but five did agree to a trial use of coke, and arrangements were made with the Northern Gas Board for a free issue. In company with their Coke Sales Liaison Officer tests were carried out but in no case was the inset openable stove suitable for burning coke other than with the doors closed. It was generally acknowledged that this would be unsatisfactory as the stove was the sole means of heating of these bungalows. The

manufacturers were approached and it was found that it would be possible to obtain a conversion unit to alter the stove to allow it to burn as an open fire, but in view of the cost involved and the then unknown life of the "pre-fabs" it was ultimately decided that no further action be taken.

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Complaints.—Three complaints were received, one relating to excessive use of a motor horn by a mobile shop, one relating to handling and stacking of milk crates in the early morning and one in relation to noisy bakehouse machinery.

In the first instance action was taken by the Police and a fine of £1 0s. 0d. imposed; in the second a letter to the milk retailer produced the desired improvement; and in the third the advice of acoustic engineers has been sought and their report is awaited.

Training.—Mr. Allan attended a course of lectures on Noise Abatement and Measurement given by the Department of Physics of the Rutherford College of Technology.

### GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Attention was paid to routine public health matters under specific legislation dealing with The Factories Acts, the Shops Act, Prevention of Damage by Pests, Rag, Flock and Fillings Material, Pet Animals Act, and Health and Welfare provisions for agricultural premises. Most of the factories in the town were visited and three new toilet blocks were erected, together with other minor improvements. A re-survey of shops other than food premises was well under way at the end of the year and preliminary notifications of omissions and contraventions are being issued.

Regular servicing and survey work is carried out by the Rodent Officer, and details of this are shown on page 43.

Altogether a good year for environmental hygiene, without spectacular action but with steady improvement and rising standards.

#### MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Legislation requiring the licensing of dogs was first introduced by the Dog Licences Act of 1867, which set an annual charge of five shillings which was later amended to seven shillings and sixpence by the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1878.

Without listing a collection of intervening legislation, the various enactments were repealed and re-enacted by the Dog Licences Act of 1959, but the annual licence fee remained at seven shillings and sixpence, exemptions being in respect of dogs under six months, or solely for the purpose of leading sheep or cattle on a farm, or by shepherds, or by blind persons for guidance.

In this animal kingdom of ours where the canine is predominant, where the protection of animals enjoys the prefix "Royal" whilst the protection of children is merely "National," where we are assailed nightly by the animated advertisements to use "so-and-so's" special vitaminised dog food to put new life into your pet, it is time someone struck a blow for the human and restored a sense of proportion.

What is this so-called "Pet" of the family? All too frequently it is some misbegotten pup which attracts the eye of the youngest member of the family and which the doting parent or relative has not the heart or strength of will to refuse. What is the result? After a few weeks the novelty and interest dies away and the animal then becomes just another member of the family, left to fend for itself, and for the rest of its existence free to wander at large together with other canine friends, to spread their foulness throughout the length and breadth of the land, but, Oh no, never on their owners' doorsteps or front gardens, but indiscriminately on the streets and pavements of our towns and cities.

This, of course, is not the limit of its capabilities. There is also the delight of barking incessantly, preferably during the hours of darkness or when a pedestrian happens to be in the vicinity, the pleasure of running after cyclists or motorised vehicles and, who knows, there might be the added fun of causing an accident, or at least nervous stress.

Do not for one moment imagine that these activities are the pre-requisite of the mongrel! Dear me no. We all know the respectable householder with the pedigree animal who tends it with loving care and would not dream of letting their valuable possession wander at large less it be run down by some insensate motorist or, if it be a female, ruined by some miscellaneous mongrel. How often does one see these otherwise respectable pillars of society, who would be horrified at the mere suggestion that they were the least bit inconsiderate, exercising their animals on a lead and allowing them to foul someone else's land, or the pavements, or preferably on a nicely laid out open space provided at the ratepayers' expense for the mutual enjoyment of all, but never, never in their own garden.

Is it necessary to say more? It would take a Rothschild to relate the original charge of five shillings in 1867 to present-day values, but the imposition of such a charge is long overdue.

# 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):

	Number	Number of					
Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	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					
<ul><li>(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section</li><li>7 is enforced by the Local Authority</li></ul>	121	17	8	_			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	8	_					
Total	149	19	8	Nil			

2. Cases in which defects were found:

	Numbe	Number of cases in which defects were found.							
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.		By H.M. In- spector. (5)	which prosecutions were instituted.				
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									
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	2	NII	2	Nil				
(c) Not separate for Sexes	1	2	Nil	1	Nil				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork)									
Total	5	4	Nil	3	Nil				

# Factories, 1961

dilla dense a smil	iviniti		DAG			Mechanical Power	No. Mechanical Power
Bakeries						12	-
Blacksmith						1	-
						1	
Boiler Scaling						1	-
						4	-
Building Operations		***				8	-
Cabinet Making	onle		***		***	-	1
Car Spraying and Coachw Clothing Alterations		***	***	***	***	4	3
Clothing Repairs			***	***	***	A STATE OF THE STA	1
Clothing Manufacturers						5	
Composting						1	_
Cooked Fish Preparations						1	
Cooked Meat Products an	d Sau					11	1
Coppersmiths						1	200
Corn Grinders						1	-
Cycle Repairs						1	-
Dairies						1	-
Dry Cleaners			***			2	-
Electrical Engineers			***			1	
Electro-plating			***			1	
Engineering		***	***	***		4	
Fibre Glass & Plastics			***		***	2	
Foundry Gas Works			***	***		2	
Ice-cream Manufacturers						6	
Joinery, Stone-crushing E	etabli	shmen	ta	1000	119	8	3
Locomotive Repairs						1	
Machine Repairs						î	-
Manufacturing Chemist		***				1	-
Maning Chang and Timber						1	_
Motor Vehicle Repairs						17	-
Pickles	V					1	-
Plumbers						1	2
Polishing						-	2
Potato Crisps		***	***			1	-
Printing		***				3	-
Radio and Electrical Repo	airs		***			-	4
Roller Conveyors		***	***	***		1	1
Saddlery and Harness		***		***		1	1
Sculptor Shipbuilding and Repairs			***		***	1	
Sheet Metal and Welding					***	i	2 2 2 2 2
Sign Writing							1
Slaters and Tilers						_	î
Slaughtering						1	-
Soft Drinks and Bottling						1	-
Spring Mattresses						1	-
Sugar Confectionery						1	-
Timber Impregnation						1	-
Timber Merchants						5	- 10
Transformer Stations						1	
T.V. Repairs							-
Tyre Retreading						1	
Upholstery	***					2	
						129	20

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During 1961 the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer.

				Baits	Traps	Ozs. Poison bait	No of Bodies		Est. Kill	No. of
Description			No.	laid	laid	taken	Rats	Mice	Rats	Visits
Dwellinghouses			158	514	2	322	2	55	6	299
Public Houses	***		2	27	-	18	1	1	2	5
Farms Buildings	***	***	5	104		567	43	25	178	19
Council Properties	***	***	11	731	210 holes gassed	464	157	13	608	68
House Drains			2	5	gassed	10	6	_	24	8
Food shops			19	238	2	94	2	25	2	44
Reservoir			1	6	- 1	42	3	_	14	4
aravan Site			1	4	-	29	4	-	9	4
ardens			14	105	-	262	29	-	83	85
arages		***	3	28	3	18	1	-	3	10
Warehouses			6	104	6	63	5	7	11	17
dlotments			2	14	- 1	106	9	-	35	7
chools			7	178	-	54	-	12	-	15
icensed Premises		***	3	52	-	50	2	4	10	7
Refuse Tips		***	4	279	-	373	83	-	380	17
anteens			2	33	-	59	9	-	18	6
Dance Hall	***	***	1 2	48	-	42	3	5	9	4
inemas	***	***	2	120	T	44	-	12	-	4
Bakeries	***	***	2	16	100	6	-	1		4
sh Pit	***	***	1	2		6	1	-	2	3
N.C.B.) Property		***	5 5	121 65	-	277	16	2	90	17
hops nack Bars	777	***	1			3	1115	7		12 2
la akamtan	***		1	4 2		7	-		2	3
ocial Clubs	***	***	3	50	200	22		7	-	6
Mariana	***	***	1	63		278	17	64		4
laughterhouse	***	***	1	4		8	1	04	2	3
OTHER	***	****	36	-		118	5		39	132
ewers	***	***	00		1	110		I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	00	344
					1 200					manhole
Т	otals		299	2,917	13 Traps	3,361	399	241	1,527	809
					210 holes gassed					344 manhole

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

Local	Dwelling	Agricultural	Business
Authority	Houses	Premises	Premises
28	52	47	171

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

## Water Sampling

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

#### CHEMICAL

	Name of Source	Sample Taken	No. of Sample
1.	Newcastle and Gateshead Water	Domestic supply, 55 Hedley Ave., Blyth	1
2.	Sub-soil water	55 Hedley Avenue, Blyth	1
3.	Tynedale Watercourse		3
4.	Kitty Brewster Watercourse		1
			-
			6
			-

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL

	Source		o. of mples	Highly Satisfactor			Unsatis- factory
1.	Newcastle and Gateshead Wate	er	12	10	2	-	
2.	Hepscott Water before chlori tion		15	10	1	3	1
3.	Mixed Newcastle and Hepse Water after chlorination		16	15	_	_	1
4.	Tynemouth Water		12	12	-4	_	
5.	Tynedale Burn		2	owi			s isolated chemical
			_		eriai.	-	_
			57	47	3	3	2
			-	-	-	-	

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Increased attention was given during the year to the inspection of food premises in the Borough and it is pleasing to report that the majority comply with the Regulations. The tables overleaf show the number of facilities against the number and types of premises and it will be noted that, with only one or two minor exceptions, the various trades are fully covered.

New Premises.—The following newly constructed premises were opened during the year:—

21A Briardale Road, Cowpen ... Messrs. H. & R. Madgwick. Grocery and Provisions—Self Service.

21E Briardale Road, Cowpen Mr. W. H. & Mrs. E. Butcher, General Dealer. 21F Briardale Road, Cowpen Mr. C. E. Robertson-Coffee Bar. 21g Briardale Road, Cowpen Mr. C. E. Robertson-Grocery and General Dealer. St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd. Grocery and Provisions—Self Service and Pharmacy. St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice Sugar Confectionery and Newsagent. Waterloo Road, Blyth Co-operative Grocery and Provisions-Self Service. North-Society Ltd. umbria Restaurant. Northumberland Street ... ... Mineral Water Factory.

# Reconstructed Premises.—The following were reconstructed during the year:—

6 Waterloo Road ... Messrs. Marshall's Ltd. Retail Bakery Shop.
52 Waterloo Road ... Messrs. R. F. and J. Anderson. Retail Bakery Shop. (Formerly Silver Library).

22A Turner Street ... Messrs. Brough's Ltd. Grocery and Provisions (Self Service) Closure of Meadow Dairy and extension of existing premises.

It is difficult to single out any of the foregoing, each in their turn providing a consistently high standard of construction but special mention must be made of the new and ultra-modern "Northumbria" Restaurant. This establishment has been designed and equipped in a most lavish manner and the fittings, furnishings and decor are of the highest standard. The kitchen has been designed by specialists and the following equipment installed.

Four stainless steel sink units.
One double sink and dish washer.
Three gas fired cookers of the latest design.
Twin gas fired grillers.
Large hot plate and steaming well.
One "Hi-Flo" "Frylux" Fryer.
One steam press pressure oven.
One steam vat.
Electric Mixer.
Electric Meat Slicer.
Electric Potato Peeler.
Personal Wash-hand basins.

The whole of the working kitchen is extremely light and airy and is provided with a complete and efficient ventilation system, together with efficient refrigeration facilities for foodstuffs.

The restaurant is of a similar high standard, and equipment comprises separate milk, coffee and fruit juice dispensers, together with a double stainless steel sink unit and hot and cold water supply to the service bar. In addition, a separate staff canteen has been provided.

Last but not least, reference should be made to the first class fully tiled sanitary accommodation for the patrons, with adequate water closets and urinal, wash-hand basins with hot and cold water supplies, and continuous flow towel services.

This restaurant is a credit to the Society and the Borough and will bear comparison with any.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

minon seri			eroll.					Service	dend		
Premises	No	). W	7.C's	Wash Basins	Wash-up Sinks	Hot Water	Clothing Lockers	Formica	Glass Display	Marble	Miscel- laneous
		67		1 4 100	DESCRIPTION OF				S. O.		-
Bakery and Shop		-1		-	00	0.1			13.		
(combined).		6 }	31	23	20	21	19	9	5	_	-
		8 3	20	19	18	21	16	12		7	
		7	7	9	18		5	12	100		1
to alread Manada		5	7	7	8	7 7	6	2	1	3	
Departmental Store		2	7	5	2	2	2	-	1	-	2 Self-
reparemental Store	-	-		-	~	-	-				Service
ish Fryers .	1	15	15	10	13	15	7	-	_	_	SCLVIC
ood Manufacturer	8			-	-	-					
and Warehouses.		6	12	7	4	4	3	-	1 town	-	-
		67	65	57	57	62	60	40	7	4	10
A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		13	17	10	10	13	12	5	7 2	3	_
											Self-
Procery and											Service
Provisions.	1	51	69	51	50	59	43	36	5	8	6
ce-cream											
Manufacturers.		2	2	1	3	3	2	-			-
Hotels, Restaurants											
and Snack Bars.		17	32	16	17	17	12	-	-	77	-
Sugar Confectionery	7	25	23	16	11	21	15	5	6	1	5
Wet Fish		1	2	2	2	1	1			1	-
	2	53	309	233	233	253	203	109	26	27	16 Self- Service

#### REFRIGERATION

Premises	Ice- cream Plant	Ice- cream Conserva- tors	Frozen Food Cabinets	Cold Rooms	Refrige- rators	Refrig. Display Counters	Refrige- rated Window Display
Bakehouses					1000		
Bakery and Shop							
(combined)	-	4	1		4	1	-
Retail Shops	-	-				-	-
Butchers	2000	-	1	21	1	1	4
Canteens	-	2			6	-	-
Cooked Meats	-	-		4	1	3	1
Departmental Stores		1	2		1	2	
Fish Fryers		1	1	-	7	-	-
Food Manufacturers							
and Warehouses	-	2000		1	-	-	
General Dealers	-	45	16		13	8	_
Freengrocers		2	3	-	-		-
Procery and Provisions	-	8	17	5	32	10	-
ce-cream Manufacturers	2	_	200	-	3	-	-
Hotels, Restaurants and							
Snack Bars	-	6	-		9	-	-
Sugar Confectionery		11	1	-	-	-	_
Wet Fish	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	2	80	42	31	67	25	5

#### FOOD PREMISES

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

. 13
. 51
. 3
. 2
. 43
. 17
. 7
. 1
. 14
. 4
. 1

A total of 327

#### 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 Manu	ıfactu	rers		 2
Ice-cream Reta	ilers			 122
Preserved Food	s			 1

There were 8 additional registrations for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

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

Preserved	Foods			***	2
Ice-cream	Manufact	urer	***		1
Butcher					1

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

As explained in the Annual Report for 1960, these are now operated principally by the Northumberland County Council as the Licensing Authority, but co-operation is maintained and milk bottles were collected and forwarded monthly to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
44	18	15	77

Since the installation of a new bottle washing machine during 1961, the bottles have been of a consistently high standard of sterility.

Samples of Pasteurised Milk taken from the Dairy by the County Health Inspector gave the following results.

METHYLENE	BLUE TEST	Рнозрна	Total		
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Samples	
34	1 2000	34		68	

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959
Although there are three registered manufacturers in the Borough, one ceased to trade during the year.

Sampling details are as follows:-

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
11	4	3	4	22
Satisfac	etory	Unsati	sfactory	
- 68.	2%	30	.8%	

All the unsatisfactory samples were due to one manufacturer and after repeated advice and warnings the Council served notice of intention to cancel the registration as an alternative to institution of legal proceedings. On the 7th November, the President and General Secretary of the Ice-Cream Alliance, together with local representatives, interviewed the Medical Officer and myself, followed by an inspection of the premises, as a result of which the Council received from the Ice-Cream Alliance the following assurances.

The manufacture of heat treated ice cream would cease.

That only ice cream prepared by the complete cold mix method would be manufactured and sold.

That the premises would be improved and kept in a clean condition.

That the tricycles would be improved and maintained in a clean condition and that attention would be paid to the personal cleanliness of the salesmen.

In view of this the Council accepted the assurances given and decided to defer consideration of the cancellation of the registration until June 1962, subject to further reports by the Health Department.

### THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE ACT, 1958

Following discussions between the representatives of the Meat Traders' Association, the Deputy Regional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and myself, the Council informed the Association that immediate steps should be taken to put the improvements in hand if the risk of the closure of the slaughterhouse was to be avoided. Representatives of the Association and the Blyth Co-operative Society were subsequently interviewed by the Health Committee and it was recommended that the Borough Engineer be requested to prepare, as soon as possible, an estimate of the cost of alterations and repairs required to bring the Slaughterhouse up to the statutory requirements, for submission to a special meeting of the Committee and the Borough Treasurer report on the suggested rent to be charged on a basis of a Lease for a period of ten years.

It is to be regretted that consideration has not been given up to this stage to the construction of a new and more suitably situated abattoir instead of proposing to carry out further modifications on the existing, which is old, badly arranged and in close proximity to a residential and redevelopment area. This is a matter for the Meat Traders' Association themselves, who appear to be unwilling or unable to reach agreement on any long-term commitments.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

Meat Inspection.—Slaughtering took place on 264 days during 1961, necessitating 490 visits to the Abattoir by the Inspectors. Details of slaughtering, meat inspection and overtime are given in the tables on pages 50 and 51.

Hours of Slaughtering.—In order to obtain 100% inspection it was necessary to work overtime on 127 days out of 264 (48%) and in addition slaughtering took place on 9 Sundays and two Bank Holidays including Whit Sunday and Monday and August Sunday and Monday.

Animal Health.—Out of 11,655 animals slaughtered, only four sheep and three pig carcases were entirely condemned, which is once more an indication of the high quality of meat purveyed in the town. This also emphasises the need for the present slaughterhouse to be modernised or a new one constructed, in order that the

butchers may purchase their own animals "on the hoof" and not "off the hook."

Once again no entire bovine carcases were condemned.

Condemned Meat.—The total weight of carcases, carcase meat and organs found to be unsound was 2 tons, 18 cwts., 3qrs. and 7 lbs., 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.

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,960	117	-	6,366	3,212
Number inspected	1,960	117	-	6,366	3,212
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:		parti i			of a little
Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part or	-	-		4	3
organ was condemned Percentage of the number in-	267	5	-	24	136
spected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti-	20037		6 X 1005 X		
cerci	13.6	4.3	-	0.4	0.43
Tuberculosis only:		100	ALL PARTY OF		
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number in-	2	1	-	-	32
spected affected with tuber- culosis	0.1	0.85	-	-	0.99
Cysticercosis:			1000	1 1000	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Carcases submitted to treat-	. 3	014	11-17	111-1	1 -1
ment by refrigeration Generalised and totally con-	-	-	-	-	THE PARTY
demned	_		-	-	-

# Animals Slaughtered-Summary, 1961

Month		Bulls	Bul- locks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1961	Total 1960
January		1	117	36	19		492	277	942	840
February		1	117	33	14	-	430	256	851	877
March		1	132	34	8	-	463	288	926	859
April		1	117	30	12	-	401	218	779	628
May		-	143	44	11	-	503	234	935	814
June		_	104	42	8	_	439	161	754	791
July		_	124	59	8	320	664	226	1081	905
August		-	129	40	6		708	205	1088	1069
September		_	106	55	6		623	226	1016	966
October		1	138	50	9		688	326	1212	1021
November			133	48	7		590	358	1136	985
December		-	88	36	9	-	365	437	935	983
Total 1961		5	1448	507	117	-	6366	3212	11655	
			-	207	7					
Totals 1960		4	1397	443	125	4	5644	3121		10738
	1		11177	197	3					
1961		Sows	]	Boars	T	ups	Ewe	_		
		348		-		3	20		ll inclu n totals	
1960	450	1 1			1	10		f Summ		

It was found necessary to condemn the following entire carcases.

	No.	Weight in Lbs.	Disease
Sheep	1	66	Dropsy and Emaciation.
Sheep	1	34	Emaciation.
Sheep	1	55	Septic Pneumonia and Emaciation.
Sheep	1	26	Traumatism.
Pig	1	90	Leukaemia.
Pig	1	156	Generalised Tuberculosis.
Pig	1	188	Moribund.

The following part carcases and organs were found to be unfit:

	No.	Weight in Lbs.
Cattle	326	3,892
Sheep	31	277
Pigs	173	1,803

# Details of Slaughtering, 1960

	Slav	ightering	Ove	rtime	Bank								
		Days	Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sunday	s Holidays	Inspe	ctions				
January		23	11	131	-	1	-	44	1901				
February		19	6	61	_		_	39					
March		22	10	101	_		_	41					
April		20	10	10		-	W. (1)	39					
May		24	13	$13\frac{1}{2}$	-	1	1 Whit. Mon.	43					
June		22	8	8	-		-	7 87					
July		23	10	10	8	2	-						
August		24	8	8	m Tay	1	I Bank Hol. Mon.	41					
September		21	11	11	MOI - 200	112	_	42					
October		22	12	12	-	7	-	38					
November		23	14	15		2	21	40					
December		21	14	14	-	2	110 - 100	36					
		264	127	132	114011	9	2	490					

#### UNSOUND FOOD

There were more complaints of unsound food during the year than for some time past, and details are as follows:—

Fruit Pies.—Complaint was received from a Newcastle resident of alleged food poisoning of his son by a pre-packed fruit pie purchased from a cafe in the Borough, and immediate investigation was made. It was not possible to recover any portion of the suspected pie, but a portion of a similar pie purchased at the same time and retained by the complainant, was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, with negative results.

With the full co-operation of the manufacturers a very thorough and complete investigation was made; queries were raised as to preparation, packing, coding and delivery, and the Chief Chemist, Hygiene Officer and Area Manager of the Company interviewed the Medical Officer and myself and later the retailer.

It would appear that the pie had been delivered at a date earlier than that acknowledged by the retailer, who was instructed to ensure stricter rotation of future stock.

Spot checks at later intervals confirmed the manufacturer's statements on codings and deliveries.

Pre-Packed Cheese.—I submitted a personal complaint to a national manufacturer of pre-packed cheese regarding the unsatisfactory condition of processed cheese slices affected with mould, and was informed that the difficulty was due to a faulty seal on the wrapping. Some time later a packet of pre-packed natural cheese from the same manufacturer was found to be similarly affected, and investigation at the retailers premises revealed that similar complaints had been made by other customers and the cheeses had been replaced. This information was sent to the manufacturers, who discussed with the retailer and myself the question of storage at a more appropriate temperature.

Canned Goods.—A new stallholder appeared on the Market during the year and his principal commodity consisted of a motley collection of canned goods of indeterminate age, rusted and with torn labels and presenting a most unsatisfactory appearance. Many of these products bore well known national brands.

Samples of processed peas, evaporated milk and tomato soup were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the reports were principally that the tins were dirty and rusty but that the contents were sterile. In view of this it was not possible to take action for the sale of unsound food, nor could it be alleged that the tins were not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser, as they were freely displayed at a cut price rate and their condition was obvious to any discerning customer. The co-operation of the manufacturers was then sought and their representatives, on visiting, expressed concern that their well-known products were being retailed in such a manner, as their marketing arrangements to wholesalers were such that unsatisfactory products should be returned or destroyed. The attention of the County Weights and Measures Inspector was also drawn to this and, as a result, the sale of the unsatisfactory canned food was discontinued.

Similar pressure was brought to bear regarding the exposure for sale by the same trader of a quantity of boiled sweets, samples forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory resulting in the following report. "There are aesthetic objections to the sale of sweets in the condition in which these were apparently offered to the public. No pathogenic organisms were grown on culture."

It is not possible to legislate for every contingency, but in cases of this nature the public are being tempted to buy what may turn out to be shoddy and inferior, but not unsound, food stuffs at a cut price, of their own free will and volition and the trader is taking a calculated risk that the goods are not unfit for consumption. There would appear to be a need for tighter control by the distributors to ensure that such unsatisfactory foodstuffs are returned and destroyed and for suitable legislation to be framed to enable the local authority's officers to prevent their exposure for sale.

Dried Fruit.—Following routine visits to a school kitchen, the Department was notified by the County Weights and Measures Inspector that a sample of Dried Apricots submitted for test for permitted preservatives, etc. showed that the fruit was dirty and infested by minute grubs. The consignment had been delivered some months previously and investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Infestation Division, indicated that the infestation must have occurred during storage.

The storeroom was emptied, disinfested and subsequently redecorated and restocked.

Information as to the action taken was forwarded to the County Weights and Measures Department and the Education Officer.

Custard Powder.—Complaint was received from a school kitchen of the quality of a custard powder which had been prepared and which appeared to be contaminated by some vegetable debris. Examination by the Public Analyst indicated that it appeared to be vegetable debris similar to the residues from a flower, but that he was unable to identify any particular species.

Meat and Potato Pastry.—Complaint was submitted by a member of the public of discolouration of meat contained in a meat and potato pastry manufactured by a local bakery. Examination by the Analytical Section of their Technical Research Division indicated that several of the smaller pieces had dark blue patches on the outside but that the colour had not penetrated far into the meat. The colouring appeared to be due to a blue dye of the triphenylmethane type which is a common constituent of marking ink, and the contamination was probably due to official meat marking which had not been removed on preparation.

The manufacturers of the pastry gave an assurance that greater care in preparation would be taken in future.

Bread Containing Insect.—Complaint was also received of the sale of a loaf from the same manufacturer which contained a minute insect. Investigation by the Research Division identified the insect as the broad horned flour beetle (Gnathocerus cornutus). This is a common pest which infests flour and other cereal products and investigation was made at the bakery on delivery and storage methods. The bakery is fully equipped with the most modern equipment, there is a large and continuous change over in stock and regular disinfestation is carried out. All flour is automatically sifted before delivery to the dough-mixing machines but the insect was still minute enough to pass through the fine mesh filters.

The flour suppliers were also notified in order that all possible precautions to prevent further complaint could be taken.

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspections, 1961

Grand					2,765
Totals	775	624 249 636 4 4	183	8 13 52 38 13 13 13	2,765
Dec.	928	20 9 9	10 01   01	-   8   4   6	19
Nov.	193	108 424 1	e     -	w-@4  c	
Oct.	173	29 36 9	7	91   40999-	
Sept.	57	26 26 3	35     1	4 4 10   00	
Aug.	7	22 22   1	90	4 10 00   00	
July	85	63 27 20 6	8 -   -	1870 6 6 0 8 10	
June		11111	1111	11111111	
Мау	35	9 5 5 1 9	80     61	686     6	
Apr.	35	25   15	6	000-00	
Mar.	39	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	-111	∞ +   +	
Feb.	31	64 21 8   23	13	- 00 01	
Jan.	46	05 24	21	61-4   22	
Number of inspections made during the year 1961	(a) Public Health Act, 1936. Inspections following complaints— General	Dirty or Verminous Premises  Drainage  Holiday Accommodation  Keeping of Animals	(also Food a	Public Entertainment nveniences ps ttes rses sous	

Grand			2,776		2,789		2,963					3,157						3,677
Totals		111	11	13	13	174	174	57	2 61	29 16	20.00	194	75	101	144	96	36	520
Dec.		61		1-		00		10	11	00	03		00		11	1	11	-
Nov.		1		10		=		01	11	01 01	1 10		e -		11	1	1	
Oct.		1		22		12		1	11	I	00		10		-1 10	1	10	
Sept.		5		-		01		-	11	I	23		10		2	1	63	
Aug.		1	IP.	1		20		00	11.	- 1	03	W.	14		1 4	1	63	
July		-		61		31		4	119	9	02 03		33		9	10	9 7	
June		1		1		1		11	1	11	11		11	1	11	1	11	
Мау		1		1		20		17	1.		35		15.3		101	1	01	
Apr.		1		1		22		00 10	1	63	11		116		10	1	11	
Mar.		1		1		15		00 10	03 0	01-	00		10		3	1	4	
Feb.		1		1		4		60 10	1-	- 4	-		29	-	* #8	96	-	
Jan.		-		1		53		11	1	11	01		8 61	0	56	1	2	
Number of inspections made during the year 1961	AGRICULTURE (WELFARE PROVI-	Farms	Noise Abatement Act, 1960	Inspections	CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF	Inspections	CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956	Inspection of Plant Lead Peroxide Gauges		Smoke Observations	Pre-fab. Bungalows Miscellaneous	Housing Acr. 1957	Investigations re Overcrowding	Applicants for interview re re-	Housing Survey	Proposed House Purchase	Miscellaneous	
Z	(9)		(c)		(p)		(e)					3						

ž	Number of inspections made during the year 1961	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand
	Representations	1	1	1	1	10	1	9	4	9	4	61	1	27	
	Re-inspections	21	15	17	20	10	1	25	6	9	29	14	9	172	
	::	1	- 9	19	10	eo 1-	11	10	101	12	27 7	10	1 8	111	
	Miscellaneous	-	1	18	-10	- 9	1	6	0.01	1	14	01-	10	100	
*	D. et 111													386	4,063
	Clearance Areas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	U													1	4,064
6	Improvement Grants Agricultural Dwellings	55	17	59	53	39	11	70	16	21 6	65 60	3 3	10	344	
														378	4,442
€	Certificates of Disrepair Interviews	01	- 8	01 01	60	61	11	1 2	14	4	1 9	4 01	- 8	14 39	
														53	4,495
3	FACTORIES ACT, 1937 Mechanical Power No Mechanical Power Outworkers	91-	∞ ∞	4	eo	r	111	8 10	01 01 -	1-4	12	es -	4-1	29 29	
(3)	SHOPS ACT, 1950													115	4,610
	in Shops	22	=	1	œ	45	1	43	17	6	49	19	38	259	
														259	4,869

Totals Total	490 15	55 28 8 8 5 E	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 2	26 437 75 14 76 2,018 7,128
Dec. T	9g %	01 0 4 77     -	-6         0	
Nov.	5 5	∞ 01 00 01 1~ 01 ∞	-o s   <del>4</del> -	20 p
Oct.	88	17 0 1 2 1 2 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	2 =   e   e	10 3 26 15
Sept.	24	71 9 19 8 19	13 20 6	1 6 4
Aug.	4	52 8 15 1 4	80 0 48 E 0 -	944   8
July	81	75 8 8 2 1 1 - 1 <del>4</del>	E = 2 4   8-	12   12
June	11	111111	11 111111	111111
May	£ 67	24829   -	-8	14:01-9
Apr.	39	I 80 64 70 - 1 70	80 4   01-8	10 40 10
Mar.	4	74   824 2	80 21   4   8	310   310
Feb.	39	8 9 2 0 4   2	64   - s   s s	8 8 8 8 5
Jan.	4	4   8 10 - 81 81	10     61     61	
Number of inspections made during the year 1961	Food and Drugs Acr, 1955 Abattoir—Meat Inspection Abattoir—Alterations Examination of Unsound Food-	Bakehouses Bakehouses Bakery and Confectionery Shops Fish and Chip Shops Frod Manufacturing Premises General Dealer Shops	n Shops ises Premises	Canteens

Grand		7,149				9,012	9,256
Totals	19	21	127 233 96	359	992	1,863 131 113	244
Dec.	11		26 35	œ	50	25	
Nov.	11		119	20	20.00	1 1	
Oct.	11		26 70 14	27	90	49	
Sept.	-		13 8	40	91	60 10	
Aug.	-1		4 9	26	8.4	8 6	
July	6 1		23 10 7	115	192	900	
June	11		111	1	11	11	
May	eo		99-	35	99	37	
Apr.	11		47.1	53	95	11	
Mar.	4-1		101-	23	100	62 4	
Feb.	11		98 41	6	88 6	81.00	
Jan.	-		4 11 9	27	± e	9 4	
Number of inspections made during the year 1961	MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS Dairies and Equipment Heat Treatment Plant		Miscellaneous Inspections and Interviews Number of Informal Notices served Number of Statutory Noticess erved Number of Houses and Buildings	treated for the eradication of insect pests Number of items of Bedding,	Clothing, etc., Destroyed by request Obstructed Drains Cleansed	Informal Notices Compiled Statutory Notices Compiled	
4	<u>a</u>		(b)				

Grand		9,802		608'6	10,021
Totals	546	546	6	7	884 59 16 38 5 512
Dec.	27		11		1311111
Nov.	49		11		94  11
Oct.	26		11		94  11
Sept.	38		11		\$\psi \psi \empty
Aug.	37	1	11		51 4   -
July	53		21		51 4 70     1
June	45		1-		24048
Мау	99		11		2401
Apr.	42		61		0 4-1
Mar.	19		24		8100     1-
Feb.	63		11		91 20 4
Jan.	39		11		4   -=-
Bu	:		::		
Number of inspections made during the year 1961	:		::		<u> </u> :::::::
s mad	:		al—		Bacteriological— ottles am Foods n
inspections m the year 1961	ES AC		hemic 		Sacteri titles oods
inspe the y	ARC		SAMPLING: Chemical—  (a) Water  (b) Custard Powder		H F S L S H
ber of	LAND CH Searches		SAMPLI (a) Wi (b) Cu		_
Num					<b>ම්</b> ට්මේමමම
	E		3		









