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**COCKERMOUTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**


Annual Report

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR 1951

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector



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THE "WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES," COCKERMOUTH.

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Cockermouth Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1951, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health, dated 16th February, 1940 and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received June, 1952.

My thanks are again due to those Observers of Rainfall in the district, shown on page 5, for their courtesy in supplying the records.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres),	161,312 (inclusive of area covered by water).
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1951)	(see page 6) 19,560
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to	Rate Book 5,708.
Rateable Value	£99,310.
Product of a Penny Rate £385 10s 4d.	

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	303	152	151	Birth Rate (R.G.)
Illegitimate	11	2	9	(unadjusted) 16.05
Still Births	8	5	3 (incl. 0 illeg).	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 24.8.				
	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	234	119	115	Crude Death Rate
(R.G.) 11.9 per 1,000 of estimated resident population				

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	0	Nil
Total	0	Nil

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	12 .
All Infants per 1,000 live births (approximately)	38
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate „	182
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	2
Deaths from Cancer	30

Table showing rainfall in inches, in 1951, compiled from observers in various parts of the district.

Observation Station	Dean School	At Crosthwaite Keswick, about 440 yards from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite,	Cockermouth, within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer	A. Casson, Esq.	T. Wilson, Esq.	Alan Atkinson Esq., Engineer to Manchester Corporation Water Works	G. Barnes Esq.	M. M. Dixon Esq. Surveyor
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 in.	5 in.	8 in.	5 in.
Height of gauge above ground	11 in.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.	1 ft.
Height of gauge above sea level	365 ft.	264 ft.	620 ft.	400 ft.	330 ft.
1951.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January	2.57	4.71	8.99	4.51	4.04
February	2.83	5.56	10.52	5.94	3.69
March	5.10	4.16	8.84	4.65	4.30
April	1.76	4.84	7.08	5.45	
May	.42	3.08	4.38	2.05	
June	2.15	2.26	2.32	1.97	1.24
July	3.36	3.07	4.58	3.91	2.59
August	4.90	5.44	9.84	5.82	4.16
September	4.78	8.84	13.55	8.89	5.10
October	3.36	1.14	1.74	1.77	1.40
November	4.89	13.11	22.38	13.39	7.43
December	5.41	12.48	17.96	14.53	7.34
Totals	41.53	68.48	112.18	72.88	
Average prev. 5 yrs 1946-50 (incl)	47.83	62.40 (Av. 49 yrs 57.6)	97.02 (Av. 74 yrs 83.00)	74.30	46.68

Cockermouth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year 1951.

The area of the district in statute acres is 161,312 (approximately 4,700 of which are covered by inland water).

POPULATION.

The population figure of 19,560 is given for the year 1951 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home population" (i.e. including members of the armed forces stationed in the area); on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1950 was 19,400.
(calculated on the same basis as above).

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—The total number of live births registered in and belonging to the district in 1951 was 314 (154 males and 160 females). Of these 11 (2 males and 9 females) were illegitimate. The net live birth rate is accordingly 16.05 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 16.7 for the previous year.

As regards Births and Deaths the Registrar General has supplied Area Comparability Factors, which allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.08, adjusting the birth rate, therefore, to 17.3.

Birth Rate comparisons may be given as follows:—

		Adjusted.
1951—Cumberland	17.1	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.1	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.2	
England and Wales	15.5	
Cockermouth Rural District	16.05	17.3

The percentage of illegitimate live births was approximately 3.5 as compared with 2.7 in 1950.

Still Births—8 still births (none being illegitimate) were also registered, giving a still birth rate of 0.40 per 1,000 of the population, being 0.46 for 1950. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.36).

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 24.8 as compared with 27.02 for 1950.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths (civilian and non-civilian), registered as belonging to the district was 234 (119 males and 115 females) i.e., after correcting for non-residents dying within the district and for those persons whose usual residence was within the district dying outside the district. This gives a crude death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of the population compared with 12.6 for the previous year.

The comparability factor for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained above under 'Births') is 0.96. The adjusted death rate for Cockermouth Rural District was, therefore 11.4.

Comparisons of crude death rates are shown below:—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1951—Cumberland	13.2	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	13.1	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	13.2	
England and Wales	12.5	
Cockermouth Rural District	11.9	11.4

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 8)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age—giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of, approximately, 38 per 1,000 births as compared with 43 for the preceding year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1951—

Cumberland	..	—	..	34
Rural Districts of Cumberland	..		..	35
Urban Districts of Cumberland	..		..	32
England and Wales	..	...	..	29.6
Cockermouth Rural District	..		..	38

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951.

Causes of Death		Males	Females
All Causes		119	115
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	0
2	" Other	0	2
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningo-Coccal infections	0	1
7	Acute Polio-myelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	4
11	" " lung, bronchus	3	0
12	" " breast	0	1
13	" " Uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	5
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	22
18	Coronary disease, angina	11	13
19	Hypertension with heart disease	3	7
20	Other heart disease	28	29
21	Other circulatory disease	2	3
22	Influenza	2	2
23	Pneumonia	0	1
24	Bronchitis	5	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	12
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
34	All other accidents	3	3
35	Suicide	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total		8	4
Legitimate		8	2
Illegitimate		0	2
		M	F
LIVE BIRTHS	Total	154	160
	Legitimate	152	151
	Illegitimate	2	9
STILL BIRTHS	Total	5	3
	Legitimate	5	3
	Illegitimate	0	0

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths), 1951 R.G.—(see p. 6) 19,560

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1951

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Prematurity (including twins)	3				3					3
Prematurity, Atelectasis, Asphyxia Neonatorum	5				5					5
Broncho-pneumonia		1			1					1
Subarachnoid haemorrhage		1			1					1
Gastro-enteritis and Inhalation Pneumonia								1		1
Congenital Heart and Pneumonia						1				1
All Causes (certified)	8	2			10	1		1		12 _{RO}

3 of the deaths in the first column occurred within twenty-four hours after birth, and 3 within forty-eight hours.

Two deaths occurred among illegitimate infants so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate was approximately 182 per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with 10 deaths among legitimate infants giving a Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 33 per 1,000 legitimate births. These rates were respectively 111 and 41 for the previous year.

(For Infant Mortality Table see page 9).

SENILE DEATH RATE.

167 persons (80 males and 87 females) had attained the age of 65 or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 71.3 per cent of the total deaths as compared with a percentage of 66.9 for 1950.

31	(14 m 17f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
38	(16 m 22f)	"	70 and 75
41	(22 m 19f)	"	75 and 80
37	(19 m 18f)	"	80 and 85
11	(7 m 4f)	"	85 and 90
6	(2 m 4f)	"	90 and 95
3	(f)	"	at ages of 95, 95 and 96 years respectively.

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were 6 inquests (2 of which were held outside the district).

Thirteen Coroner's Certificates were received of cases where post mortem examinations had been made but no inquest held.

16 post mortem examinations were known to have been carried out (these include inquest cases).

Nine deaths were uncertified (1950—8).

Violence.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.408 per 1000 of the population in the Cockermouth Rural District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1,000 of the population in comparison with 1950:—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950
Deaths	2	1	0	3	6	7	8	11
% of all causes	.85	.40	0	1.22	2.56	2.85	3.419	4.48
D R. pr 1000 population	.102	.052	0	.154	.306	.360	.408	.567

Deaths from Violence in 1951 include: 1 from fracture of skull and multiple injuries due to fall from a height (open verdict); 1 from air embolism due to abortion attempt (suicide); 1 from accidental burns received through setting nightdress alight by match; 1 from accidental internal injuries due to being crushed at work in a coal-mine; 1 from asphyxia due to drowning (suicide); 1 from barbiturate poisoning (suicide); and 2 from accidental fracture of femur in old persons.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 30 cases, as follows:

System	Primary Organ	Males.	Females.
Alimentary	Pharynx	1	
	Oesophagus		1
	Stomach	8	4
	Bowel	2	1
	Rectum		1
Respiratory	Lung	3	
Glandular	Breast		1
	Pancreas	3	
	Prostate	2	
Other	Cheek		1
	Jaw	1	
	Primary focus undetected		1
.....			

2	of the deaths (m and f) occurred among persons between	40 and 50	years of age.
9	" (8 m 1 f)	"	50 and 60
8	" (5 m 3 f)	"	60 and 70
8	" (5 m 3 f)	"	70 and 80
2	" (1 m 1 f)	"	80 and 90
1	" (f)	" in her 91st	year.

The 30 deaths correspond to a death rate of 1.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 20 deaths and a death rate of 1.03 in 1950. Approximately out of every 8 deaths of persons in this district one was due to cancer (1950—1 in 12; 1949—1 in 8).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 28.

There were only 4 deaths due to Tuberculosis.—

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory System	2	0	2
Other Forms	0	2	2
All cases	2	2	4

Three of the deaths were of previously notified cases in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .20 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .46 for 1950.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .10 per 1,000 of the population, there being four respiratory deaths fewer than in the previous year which had a rate of .41.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

2. Two full-time Sanitary Inspectors:—

(i.) Senior S.I.—Mr. George Nelson, who holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also a special Certificate of the London City Guilds for Sanitation and Plumbing.

(ii) Additional S.I.—Mr. Reginald Mather, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

3. Mr. Denys Hinde, clerk and assistant. The department also had the use of a temporary clerk.

The work of the Council's Engineering Staff (Sanitary and Water) under Mr A. E. Simpson, A.M.I.C.E., is to some extent connected with this department.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service (taking over in 1948). Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland the provision made for this district has remained adequate.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Generally speaking, with few exceptions, this district is well covered with public and private water mains.

The population supplied from public mains direct to houses is estimated as 17,730 and houses supplied, approximately, 4,973. See below (table).

There are no properties in this district which are supplied by stand-pipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, P.H.A., 1936).

The estimated number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains direct to houses for each Parish is shown in the following table.

Parish	Houses	Population	Parish	Houses	Population
Above Derwent	322	890	Crosscanonby	254	875
Allerby and Oughterside	174	635	Dearham	563	2024
Bassenthwaite	82	250	Dean	218	737
Bewaldeth	6	19	Embleton	66	258
Blinderake	77	269	Gilcrux	103	374
Bothel	91	353	Greysouthen	143	460
Bridekirk	118	700	Lorton	62	178
Broughton	395	1320	Loweswater	8	25
Broughton Moor	234	880	Papcastle	78	250
Blindbothel	12	30	Plumbland	156	565
Borrowdale	54	218	Seaton	779	2325
Brigham	233	860	St. Johns	1	4
Buttermere	—	—	Setmurthy	29	113
Cameron	60	225	Underskiddaw	39	118
Clifton, Great	401	1340	Winscales	65	186
Clifton Little	140	475	Wythop	11	48
				Totals—	4,974 17,004

Six samples of water were taken for analysis and the results given as follows:—

1. (21-8-51) High Nook Beck, Loweswater.

Sample taken (together with next, Mines Ghyll) from one of the proposed sources of an extension to Holm Beck Scheme. The result shows some contamination, mainly vegetable, and suggests that chlorination will be advisable. The water is markedly plumbo-solvent.

2. (21-8-51) Mines Ghyll, Loweswater.

Sample taken at source of one of the proposed extensions to Holm Beck Scheme. The result is satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically, but the water is plumbo-solvent.

3. (21-8-51) Lorton Village Supply

Taken at the tap at Rising Sun Cottages. The results of bacteriological examination are very satisfactory.

4. (21-8-51) Embleton Village Supply.

Taken at a tap at Orchard House, Embleton. The result shows the water to be safe for drinking purposes

5. (11-12-51) Little Crosthwaite, Underskiddaw.

Taken at source of proposed private supply for Little Crosthwaite Cottages (3 houses). The result of bacteriological examination shows that the water is contaminated. Chemically the water is satisfactory. The water is plumbo-solvent.

(11-12-51) Oldfield Farm, Greysouthen.

From a tap on the private supply to the above dairy farm. Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water except that the iron content is too high, due to rusty pipes. (These are to be renewed).

Renewals of water mains during the year:

266 lin. yds. of 2 inch main between Pumping Station and Rose Farm, Little Broughton.

300 lin. yds. of 3 inch main at Grange-in-Borrowdale.

Extensions of water mains:

120 lin. yds. of 2 inch main near Home Farm, Gt. Clifton.

450 lin. yds. of 3 inch main on N.E.H.A. site, Seaton.

90 lin. yds. of 1½ inch main on N.E.H.A. site at Seaton.

122 lin. yds. of 3 inch main on N.E.H.A. site at Greysouthen.

33 lin. yds. of 3 inch main on N.E.H.A. site at Broughton.

120 lin. yds. of 1 inch main from Low Barkhouse to Derwent View, Setmurthy.

6,119 lin. yds. of 3 inch main on Hause Ghyll extension from Bewaldeth to Isel.

1,366 lin. yds. of 1½ inch main on Hause Ghyll extension from Bewaldeth to Isel.

Improvement to works:

Booster pump fixed at Main Street, Great Broughton, to improve the supply to the Pumping Station, Great Broughton.

At Force Crag Reservoir the walls were rendered in cement and a new cement floor laid.

A new intake chamber was constructed for the Bassenthwaite supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Schemes completed during the year:

Mockerkin Public Sewer and Outfall works completed in June, at a total cost of £3,517. At the time of writing private drainage work and closet conversions are in hand.

Sewer Extensions:

116 ln. yds. of 6 inch sewer to N.E.H.A. site at Rosthwaite.

Thornthwaite.

The need for a public sewer and outfall works for Thornthwaite and Swan area was again considered and plans and estimates prepared by the Engineering Department. The estimate for the comprehensive scheme was £11,223.

This scheme which was submitted to the Ministry in April, 1951, was turned down by them on account of cost and the need for national economy.

In view of the urgency of this case the Council had a modified scheme prepared, deleting the Swan area which, it was estimated, would effect a saving of £2,350, and in March, 1952, this modified scheme was submitted to the Ministry. At the time of writing the Ministry have not sanctioned the scheme.

Branthwaite:

Plans for a public sewerage scheme for this village are in course of preparation by the Engineering Department, but in view of the national financial stringency the approval of any scheme at the present time by the Ministry appears doubtful.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Where public sewers have been provided the drainage of 41 houses was connected, and 16 closets were converted to the water carriage system, the remainder already having water closets but without suitable drainage outlets and treatment.

Court proceedings had to be taken against one property owner to enforce statutory notices in connection with the provision of drainage and sanitation for two dwelling houses, since which the notices have been complied with.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

As will be seen by the table below, the total cost of the service for the year was £3,661 4s. and covered approximately 5,282 houses. This gives a figure of approximately 13s 8d per house per annum or 3d per week.

The following Parishes or Parts are covered by the Council's vehicle with direct labour:—Dean (including Ullock, Branthwaite, Pardshaw, Deanscales and Eaglesfield), Bridekirk (including Dovenby and Tallantire), Papcastle, Seaton, Broughton Moor, Buttermere, Loweswater (including Mockerkin), Blindbothe (including Rogerscale and Mosser), Bassenthwaite (including Chapel Area and Castle Inn), Sunderland and Isel, Greysouthen and Lorton.

The remaining parts of the district where collection is made are covered by contractors :

Parish (or part)	Approx. No. of houses	Total Cost		
		£	s.	d.
Allerby & Oughterside	176	129	8	10
Above Derwent	325	332	16	6
Blindbothel	22	56	5	4
Borrowdale	126	174	13	4
Bassenthwaite	114	56	5	4
Bridekirk	111	127	19	7
Brigham (and Broughton Cross)	245	76	16	8
Broughton	389	111	17	1
Broughton Moor	233	114	11	1
Blindcrake	58	78	0	8
Bothel and Threapland	89	70	7	8
Buttermere	48	56	7	4
Crosscanonby	261	168	2	11
Camerton	60	35	7	7
Dearham	560	400	0	8
Dean	219	116	9	11
Embleton	47	69	0	0
Gilcrux	82	70	7	7
Greysouthen	146	70	14	1
Clifton, Great	392	149	3	3
Clifton (Little) and Bridgefoot	139	55	17	3
Lorton	92	114	11	2
Loweswater	48	56	5	4
Papcastle	89	136	11	2
Plumbland	140	99	9	0
St. Johns-in-the-Vale	132	137	8	0
Seaton	761	354	7	0
Setmurthy	21	18	14	0
Underskiddaw	102	126	6	0
Winscales (Furnace Row)	39	78	5	8
Wythop	16	18	14	0
	<u>5,282</u>	<u>£3,661</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The inclusive summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors, in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be found at the end of this report (commencing on page 31).

Duties additional to the normal routine continued to be undertaken as a result of Post-War conditions.

I again record my appreciation of the friendly co-operation of the Council's staff as a whole, and especially that of the two willing and very assiduous Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. G. Nelson and Mr. R. Mather. I am, also, again indebted to Mr. Nelson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his truly invaluable assistance in the compilation of my annual report.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are 120 shops on the register and 220 inspections were made.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1951 :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	29	87	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	45	59	2	1	0
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	5	0	0	0
TOTALS	75	151	2	1	0

(Section 1 refers to cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 to temperature, 4 to ventilation, 6 to drainage of floors, 7 to sanitary conveniences)

HOLIDAY CAMPING.

18 Camping licences were issued (or renewed), 10 for camping sites and 8 for individual caravans.

Experience shows that the provisions in the Public Health Act, 1936, have remained inadequate for the satisfactory administration of this branch of public health duties. The repeal of the adopted powers held by this Council prior to the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been a distinct disadvantage.

Housing.

PLANS PASSED :—

- (a) New Dwellinghouses 143 (including 98 N.E.H.A.)*
- (b) Enlargement or renovation of dwelling houses 36.
- (c) Other buildings 50.

20 private houses and 50 N.E.H.A. were completed during the year.

Difficulties in connection with housing repairs have not decreased since the last annual report was published.

*North Eastern Housing Association.

While the costs of repair work have further increased, nothing has yet been done to permit rents to be adjusted and brought more up to date to meet present day costs. So long as this position is allowed to remain it is obvious that many of the older houses will further depreciate and eventually fall into decay and thus make the general housing problem more acute.

40 licences were issued for repairs and necessary improvements where the cost exceeded £100 per house.

POST WAR HOUSING.

The many difficulties and shortages slowed up to some extent the building of new houses. Nevertheless 50 more municipal houses were completed during the year and 20 private housing bringing the total of post war houses actually completed at the end of 1951 to 540 municipal and 93 private houses, a total of 633 houses completed since the war.

The following is an extract from a special report dated 31st. December, 1951, which was prepared by the Council's Sanitary and Housing Officer (Mr G. Nelson) and submitted to the Council:

"In compliance with your request I submit for your consideration a comprehensive report on house building by and on behalf of the Council, and for information and guidance the following tables show the Council's achievements in this part of its administrative duties from 1921 to the end of 1951.

Houses built and owned by the Council—158			
Seaton (Lowca Lane)	12	Belle Vue	8
Seaton (Derwent Avenue)	28	Oughterside	12
Seaton (Leslie's Estate)	34 x	Broughton	12
Great Clifton	48	Braithwaite	4
Houses built and owned by the N.E. Housing Association—802			
Dearham (Croft Crescent)	40	Great Clifton (Gavels)	36
Dearham (Towncroft)	78 x	Gt. Clifton (Bowflatts)	70
Braithwaite	10	Gt Clifton (Stoneycroft)	44 x
Crosby (Suncroft)	30 x	Broughton Moor (Lucock Av.)	40
Crosby (agricultural workers)	2	Broughton Moor (Moorfields)	32 x
Seaton (Barncroft area)	70	Deanscales	6 x
Seaton (Hunters Drive area)	100 x	Plumbland (agricultural workers)	2
Bethel	12 x	Plumbland (The Muslins)	20 x
Bassenthwaite	14 x	Pardshaw	2
Brigham	46 x	Blindcrake	4 x
Broughton (Grange Avenue)	20	Allerby	2 x
Broughton (Ghyllbank)	60 x	Gilcrux	2 x
Little Clifton	32 x	Greysouthern	12 x
Oughterside	4 x		
Applethwaite	4 x		
Crosscanonby	2 x		
Camerton	6 x		

(Post-war schemes are denoted by x)

Total number of post-war houses built by or on behalf of the Council—540.

Total number of houses built by or on behalf of the Council 1921-1951—956.

It will be remembered that a year ago the allocation for 1951 was 100 out of which the Ministry permitted the issue of up to 20 licences to build private houses.

The Council decided on the following programme for the year, 1951:—

Private licences	20	Bridekirk	2
Braithwaite	14	Winscales	2
Dearham	6	Great Clifton	38
Lorton	4	Broughton	14

Every effort has been made to advise and assist applicants for licences to build private houses, but quite a number of applicants have been compelled to withdraw or postpone their applications on account of abnormal high costs including building materials, sites and development charges.

In all 19 licences have been issued and at the end of the year the applicant for the 20th licence was still in negotiation with respect to site purchase. If he is successful it is hoped the Ministry will agree to the issue of this licence as part of the 1951 programme.

Braithwaite.

Owing to further delay regarding the site it has not been possible to make any commencement with building. The District Valuer is still negotiating for purchase, but many interests are involved and he is having difficulties.

Dearham (six houses for agricultural workers).

Due to change in sites it was not until near the end of the year that the Housing Association were able to get revised tenders and even they are an abnormal figure. Efforts are being made towards reduction which may entail revising the plans on the lines of the new Circular 70/51, and when this is done and an acceptable tender received it is hoped that under the special circumstances the Ministry will agree to these being carried forward from the 1951 programme.

Lorton (2 for agricultural workers, 1 for district nurse, and 1 for general purposes).

The position with respect to the proposed 4 houses at Lorton is similar to that of Dearham.

Bridekirk and Winscales.

The 2 houses at each of these places (for agricultural workers) are in course of erection.

Great Clifton.

After protracted negotiations with the Planning Authority and other interests concerned, the Council has been unable to make any progress about No. 1 site (field 70) for the 38 houses and have been obliged to endeavour to expedite arrangements for the No. 2 site (Clifton Lodge). Through no fault of the Council it has not been possible to build any houses at Great Clifton during 1951, as intended.

Broughton.

Successful negotiations were carried through for the purchase of the 'allotments field' adjoining Ghyllbank Estate and a commencement has been made for the erection of 36 houses.

Rosthwaite.

A commencement has been made with the erection of the 12 houses at Rosthwaite.

From this review of 1951 it will be appreciated that owing to siting difficulties adjustments had to be made in order to save the allocation, and for this reason transfers were made to available sites at Seaton and Broughton. In this way and with the co-operation of the North Eastern Housing Association, the Council has been fortunate so far to safeguard its total allocation and clear the way to consider its policy for 1952.

The following tables shows the present figures on the waiting lists in the District, which total 518. This figure includes some 150 who have no separate home of their own while a number of applicants who already have a house require more accommodation or modern amenities or have other reasons for applying for a house.

Therefore, although the total on the waiting lists is 518, it does not follow that this number of new houses is required to meet the present needs, but on the other hand allowance must be made for occupied houses which are condemned or are condemnable and not likely to be renovated or modernised, and, it may be mentioned, some of these occupants have not applied for a new house.

Since Local Authorities are now responsible for providing houses to meet the needs of their respective districts, it is obvious there can be no finality in housing work

Waiting Lists.

Seaton	121	Great Clifton	99	Broughton	45
Broughton Moor	43	Brigham	31	Dearham	47
Oughterside	17	Braithwaite	24	Crosby	21
Borrowdale	15	Greysouthen	13	Little Clifton	12
Lorton	6	Plumbland	9	Others	15

(Note: While waiting lists are subject to constant variation, the above table does give some indication of the present position)"

Although housing work may rightly be regarded as high priority in the duties of all Housing Authorities the ever increasing building costs, shortages, siting and other difficulties, are retarding progress. With the constant additions to the waiting lists and the further deterioration of older properties the problem becomes more serious and the financial liabilities more and more burdensome.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

During 1951 approval was given in five cases where plans had been submitted and applications made for Improvement Grants under the above Act.

The two cases approved in 1950 were completed in 1951 and grants paid.

The full position is as follows :

Applications for grants approved to date.	Works completed and grants paid to date.	Applications approved in 1951.	Works completed and grants paid in 1951.
7	2	5	2

Housing Appendix.

STATISTICS.

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

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts | 325 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 652 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Brought up to date) | 0 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 0 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 15 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 306 |

2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	169
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 21
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 13
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948—SECTION 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the above Act provision is made for removal to suitable premises for care and attention any persons who :—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During the year no cases required to be dealt with.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Systematic inspections have been made and appropriate action taken in connection with the above and in order to comply with requirements it has been necessary to have assistance of some of the Council's workmen in connection with sewer baiting. Claims have been submitted to the Ministry for re-imburement in connection with cost of rat poisons and workmens' time and travelling.

Co-operation of the County Pests Officers has been very helpful throughout the year.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, new regulations came into force on the 1st October, 1949, when the duties and powers relating to the production of milk on the farms were transferred from County and Local Sanitary Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture. This transfer also meant the end of the joint sampling scheme (for the detection of T.B. and the estimation of cleanliness) between the Cumberland County Council and the Local Authorities in the County which had served a very useful purpose covering many years.

It was later found, however, that no arrangements had been made for sampling milk (for the detection of T.B.) from ungraded herds where milk was retailed in the County. The County Council were seriously concerned in this matter and being responsible under the Food and Drugs Act for the sampling for T.B., they called a conference of all local authorities within the County to consider what could be done as a measure of protection of the public against possible milk-borne infection by Tubercle Bacilli.

This resulted in a scheme of co-operation in the sampling of ungraded milk retailed to the public within the County, the appropriate Officers of the Local Authorities taking the samples and submitting them to the Cumberland Laboratory and the County Council paying the costs. This scheme was put into operation as from 1st. May, 1950, and during the year 1951, 87 samples were taken by your Public Health Department all of which proved negative for T.B.

Although under the new regulations the production side of this work (dairy farms) was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture the portions dealing with retail distribution and dairies (not farms) are still the responsibility of the local sanitary authorities.

Local Authorities must keep a register of retailers and their dairy premises. There are 92 registered retailers in this district of which 87 are producer retailers and 5 retailers only.

I am indebted to Mr J. K. S. Elmslie, the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture for the following return of figures relating to the eradication of tuberculous bovines:—

Particulars of Animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, from premises registered in the Cockermouth Rural District, during the year, 1951.

Total number of Animals Slaughtered	...	2
Cows in Milk	..	2
Other Cows or Heifers	..	0
Other Bovine Animals	..	0
Types of Disease found on post-mortem.		
Tuberculosis of Udder	...	1
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	..	0
Tuberculosis with Chronic Cough and showing definite Clinical signs	...	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering in private slaughter houses was suspended by the Ministry of Food as a war-time measure and all slaughtering has been (and is being) carried on in regional slaughter houses.

Private slaughter-houses in the district have therefore only been used as meat stores and for making-up purposes, the butchers receiving their supplies of meat from Maryport Abattoir.

By arrangement with the Maryport Urban District Council assistance continues to be rendered, as and when required, in the work of meat inspection at the Maryport Abattoir by the appropriate officials of this (C.R.D.) Council.

In addition, 121 inspections have been made of meat stores in the district.

A list of articles of food condemned will be seen in the Sanitary's Inspector's Report on Page 31.

BAKEHOUSES:—

There are 7 registered bakehouses in the district. 58 inspections were made during the year but no serious defects found.

ICE CREAM:—

Registered premises for manufacture or sale	...	24
Inspections made	.....	53

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1951.

Disease	Total cases notified in C.R.D.	Cases notified 1951 admitted to hospital	Deaths of 1951 notified cases
Small-pox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever	46	17	0
Enteric Fever (including nil Para-typhoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Measles	250	0	0
Whooping Cough	27	0	0
Dysentery (Sonne)	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary	Males 6	2 (San)	0
	Females 9	1	0
Non-Pulmonary	Males 0	0	0
	Females 1	1 (Hosp.)	0

[illegible]

From notifications received it is deduced that 1 in every 275 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chickenpox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and Tuberculosis Regulations. (In 1950 the figures were 1 in 329).

(Vide Post re Measles and Whooping Cough)

Diphtheria.—There was one notification (in March), that of a young woman aged 21 in Great Broughton; she was removed to hospital but was unconfirmed bacteriologically. This case makes a case rate of .05 per 1,000 of the population as compared with nil for 1950, 1949 and 1948. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was .02.

There has been no death from Diphtheria since 1944 (and that it may be remembered, was of a boy who had not been immunised.) The rate (1951) for England and Wales was 0.00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (still entailing, a great deal of unseen work) most of the actual inoculations again being given by me at the local public elementary schools and at Cocker mouth School Clinic; co-operation of local Medical Practitioners, Head Teachers, the various District Nurses, and in particular, the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby, again, gratefully acknowledged.

According to figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. J. L. Hunter, during the year under review 71 public elementary school children from 5 to 14 years of age, and 234 infants under 5 years old were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks)

261 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

Regarding Scarlet Fever there were 46 cases, and mainly mild in type (1950—32). Vide distribution table, page 29, seventeen were removed to Hospital. No death occurred so that the death rate per 1,000 of the population from Scarlet Fever was therefore, nil.

The case rate of Scarlet Fever per 1,000 of the population was accordingly 2.35 as compared with 1.64 for 1950. (The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 1.11, and death rate .00).

There being no notification of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fevers their case rates and death rates were respectively nil per 1,000 of the population. (For England and Wales in 1951 the Typhoid and Para-Typhoid case rates were respectively .00 and .00, and the death rates, respectively of these two fevers were 0.00 and 0.02).

Two cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 1 of these recovered. There was one registered death from this disease (all forms).

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) was notified in October, and was removed to hospital with ensuing recovery.

There was one case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis notified; after treatment in hospital the case recovered.

Encephalitis Lethargica, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Dysentery (Sonne).—No notifications.

No notification of Puerperal Pyrexia was received (this term includes Puerperal Fever).

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate was nil per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births) which is the same as last year. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 10.66.

No maternal death, again, was recorded, so that the Maternal Mortality (all causes) rate was therefore nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the same as for 1950, 1949 and 1948.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (7 males and 9 females) and 1 of Other forms of Tuberculosis (female) were notified during the year under review. Of those notified during the year four pulmonary cases (3 males and 1 female) were admitted to Sanatorium, whilst none died. Among previously notified and inward transfer cases (and including re-admittances) 10 cases (5 males and 5 females, pulmonary) were admitted to Sanatorium.

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 11.

The following table gives the number of new cases and Mortality (all cases) :—

1951		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
25—35	...	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—65	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
65—and upwards		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	6	9	—	1	2	0	1	2

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1951 was as follows:

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	..	42	49	91
Non-pulmonary	..	10	10	20
		—	—	—
All Cases	..	52	59	111

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease.—Influenza was prevalent again and four deaths (2 each in January and February) were attributed to this disease—1 in Seaton, 1 in Broughton, 1 in Borrowdale and 1 in Above Derwent—equivalent, therefore, to an influenza death rate of .20 per 1,000 of the population as compared with .25 (five deaths) in 1950. The rate for England and Wales (1951) was 0.38.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which both became notifiable as from 1st. November, 1939)—see monthly incidence table page 25. According to Measles notifications received eighteen parishes were affected—Pimbleland 13, Great Clifton 4, Brigham 9, Allerby and Oughterside 25, Crosscannonby 14, Borrowdale 16, Broughton 12, Broughton Moor 12, Camerton 8, Above Derwent 2, Dean 2, St. John's in the Vale 2, and 1 each, Bewaldeth, Bassen-thwaite and Greysouthen, Seaton 47, Dearham 79, Blindcrake 2—Notifications totalling 250. Notified Whooping Cough cases occurred in nine parishes, there being 27 notifications—Cross-cannonby 6, Dearham 5, Bothel 2, Above Derwent 4, Allerby and Oughterside 4, Great Clifton 2, and 1 each, Broughton, Seaton, Broughton Moor and Blindbothel.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications received) were respectively 12.7 and 1.38 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14.07 and 3.87 for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough; the death rate per 1,000 of the population for each disease, respectively, being therefore, nil, as compared with 0.01 and 0.01 in England and Wales.

Hospital accommodation as provided by the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases remains more or less unaltered.

During 1951 no public elementary school in the Cockermouth Rural District was closed on account of Infectious Disease.

The following table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever in the various parishes:—

1951					
Parish	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever		
Above Derwent	—	..	—	..	—
Allerby and Oughterside	—	..	—	..	—
Bassenthwaite	—	..	1	..	—
Bewaldeth, &c.	—	..	—	..	—
Blindcrake, incl. Isel Old Park and Sunderland	—	..	—	..	—
Bothel and Threapland	—	..	1	..	—
Bridekirk, (incl. Dovenby Tallantire)	—	..	6	..	—
Gt. and Lt. Broughton	1	..	—	..	—
Broughton Moor	—	..	1	..	—
Blindbothel incl. Mosser & Whinfell	—	..	—	..	—
Borrowdale	—	..	1	..	—
Brigham	—	..	—	..	—
Buttermere, incl. Brackenthwaite	—	..	—	..	—
Camerton, incl. Ribton	—	..	—	..	—
Great Clifton	—	..	—	..	—
Little Clifton	—	..	—	..	—
Crosscanonby	—	..	2	..	—
Dearham	—	...	27	...	—
Dean, incl. Eaglesfield &c.	—	..	—	..	—
Embleton	—	..	—	..	—
Gilcrux	—	..	1	..	—
Greysouthen	—	..	1	..	—
Lorton	—	..	—	..	—
Loweswater and Mockerkin	—	..	—	..	—
Papcastle	—	..	—	..	—
Plumbland, &c.	—	..	—	..	—
Seaton	—	..	3	..	—
St. John's-in-the-Vale	—	..	1	..	—
Setmurthy	—	..	—	..	—
Underskiddaw, incl. Skiddaw	—	..	—	..	—
Winscales	—	..	1	..	—
Wythop	—	..	—	..	—
Totals	1	...	46	...	0

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Sanitary Inspectors' Summary for the year ending December 31st, 1951.

NUISANCES:—

Complaints received	..	97
Nuisances observed	..	230
Nuisances abated	..	190
Nuisances unabated or work in hand	..	70
Sanitary conveniences repaired	..	14
Drains tested	..	51
New laid drains	..	34
New gully traps fixed	..	29
New chambers constructed	..	28
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private)	..	17
New water closets fixed	..	19
Court cases	..	1

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING:—

Licences issued respecting essential repairs to dwelling houses (where cost was over £100)	..	40
--	----	----

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

Visits to infectious cases	..	54
Patients removed to isolation hospital	..	16
Houses disinfected	..	47

WATER SUPPLIES:—

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	..	36
Houses provided with supplies from public mains (Including new houses)	..	83
Old connections and service pipes renewed	..	32
Samples of water taken for analysis (see page 13)	..	6

HOUSING:—

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	..	101
Number of inspections made	..	177
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	2
Houses with structural or other defects (exclusive of item 3).	..	99
Houses, defects remedied	..	37
Demolition orders served	..	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders (served prior to 1951)	..	13
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	..	224
Number of visits made under the Public Health Acts	..	475
Number of houses with defects (structural)	..	222
Number of houses with defects repaired	..	147

CAMPING:—

Licences issued under P.H.A. 1936 (Section 269) (Including renewals)	..	10
Individual Movable dwellings	..	18
Visits of inspection	..	53

SEWERING:—

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties) regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections ..	125
Private drains connected to public sewers (not including new houses) ..	44
Privies converted to water carriage system ..	16
New water closets built ..	17
New gully traps fixed ..	33
New chambers constructed ..	20

DAIRIES:—

On the register at the end of the year:	
Producers and retailers ..	87
Retail purveyors ..	5
Samples of milk taken (see page 23) ..	87

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION:—

Number of slaughter houses on the register (now used as meat stores) ..	14
Number of licenced slaughtermen ..	68
Inspections made ..	121
Condemned in private traders' shops or stores:	
43lb. 7oz. of tinned ham	
6lb. 15½oz. of tinned luncheon meat.	
20 tins (16oz. each) of evaporated milk.	
2 tins (16oz. each) of beans.	
1 tin (8 oz.) of baked beans.	
1 shoulder of bacon (weight 16lbs).	

FACTORIES:—

On the register at the end of the year ..	74
Visits of inspection ..	151

SHOPS ACT, 1934:—

Registered premises ..	120
Visits of inspection ..	220

BAKEHOUSES:—

On the register ..	7
Visits of inspection ..	58

ICE CREAM:—

Registered premises for manufacture and sale ..	3
Registered premises for sale only ..	21
Inspections ..	53

REFUSE REMOVAL:—

Foul ashpits reported and cleansed	8
Number of houses from which refuse is removed by Council's contractors and direct service	5,295

NOTICES:—

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory) ..	355
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory) ..	21
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory) ..	80
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory) ..	19

GEORGE NELSON, M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

