

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Cockermouth U.D.C.

Contributors

Cockermouth (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dc6a32f8>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

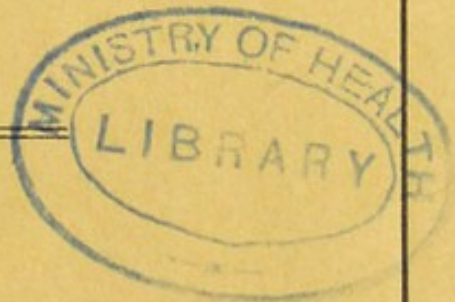
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

**COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



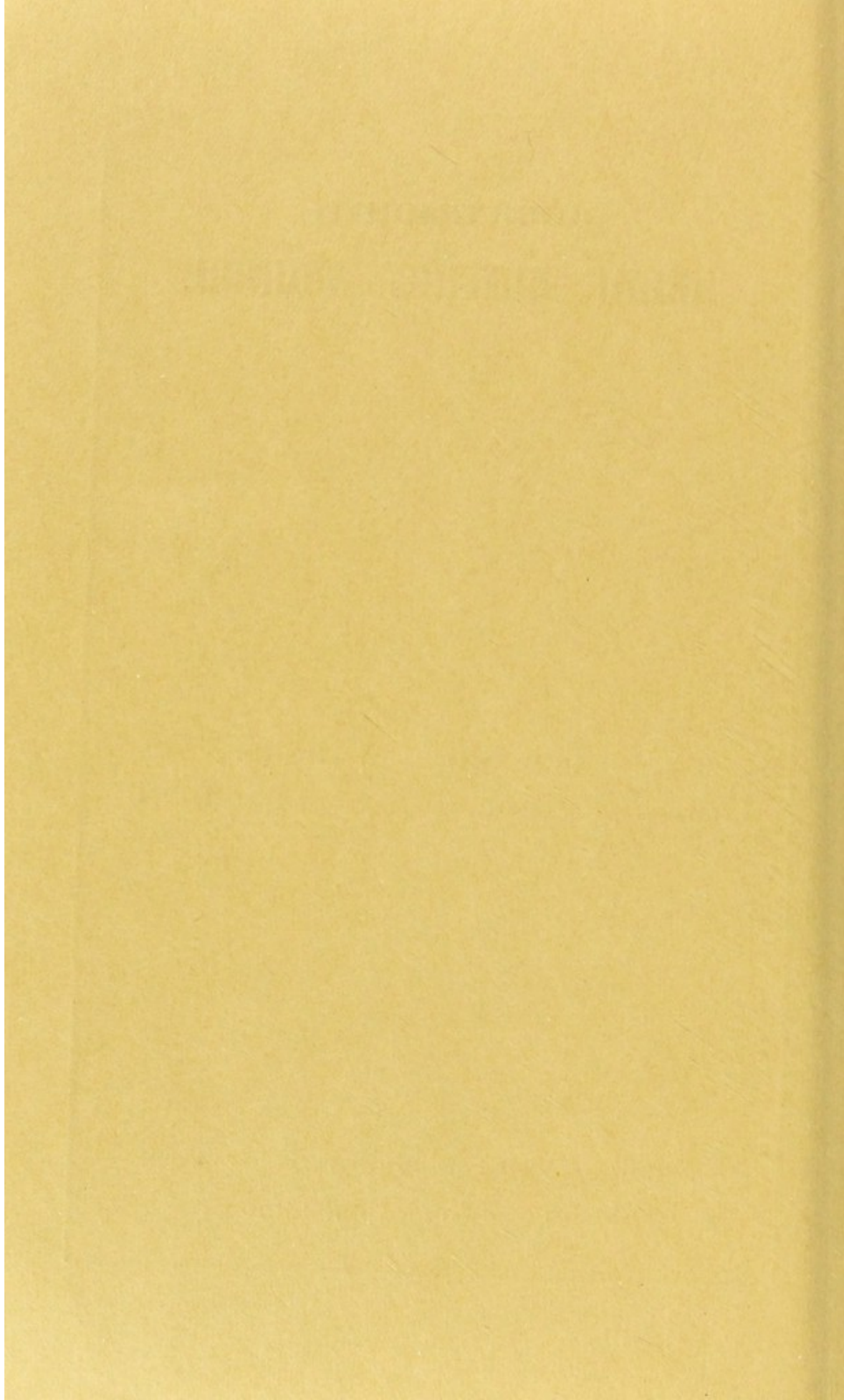
Annual Report

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR 1953

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector



**COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR 1953

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

Cockermouth Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1953, which has been drawn up in the usual manner and in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health.

This is my final annual report as Medical Officer of Health for the Cockermouth Urban District, my first having been presented for the year 1920.

I would like here, to express my appreciation of the courtesy and friendliness shown to me throughout my term of office by Councillors and Staff alike.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 2,040.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1953)
(see page 5) 5,250.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1953), according to Rate
Books, 1,934

Rateable Value £29,356.

Sum represented by Penny Rate (approx.) £113.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	82	36	46	} Birth Rate (R.G. (unadjusted) 15.6 per 1000 of the population
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Still Births	...	3	2	1	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 35.29.

		Total	M.	F.	
Deaths		62	28	34	Crude Death Rate (R.G.) 11.8 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	1	11.7
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total	1	11.7

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 3 (2m. and 1f)
(all legitimate).

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	37 (approx.)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37 (approx.)
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8

Cockermouth Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the year, 1953.

The area of the district in statute acres (and inland water) is 2,065.

RAINFALL.

Records,* taken at Sunscapes Reservoir, Cockermouth, 330 feet above sea level :—

1953	Inches of rain	Over 1 inch of rain fell on the following dates :—
January	2.04	
February	1.51	
March	0.54	
April	3.10	11th.
May	2.02	
June	1.53	
July	7.25	24th.
August	4.32	31st.
September	5.99	27th and 30th.
October	2.26	
November	7.00	14th and 26th.
December	2.69	
Total	40.25	

(5 years' average rainfall 1948-1952 inclusive—45.98 inches).

*Kindly given by Mr. Maurice Dixon, Surveyor, Cockermouth Urban District Council.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 5,250 is given for the year 1953 by the Registrar-General and called by him the "Home population" (i.e. —as in 1952—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 1952 was 5,170.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

Cockermouth is an old market town (its Royal Charter having been granted in the year 1221). For many years Saw-Mills, Building Contractors, a Brewery and the Railway have employed a considerable number of persons (mainly male) and since 1939 five new works of employment were commenced; one of these, a Blood Manure factory has ceased; the other four are made up of a Shoe and Slipper factory, a Clothing factory, a light Engineering works and a Precast Concrete works, employing altogether over 900 persons including a large number of female labour, particularly at the two first-named which also have workers from outside the Urban area. There are as well, of course, those individuals absorbed by the usual businesses and trades of a small country town. A few find employment about the large cattle Mart, whilst a few are engaged in agriculture, and in coal mines, quarries and steelworks outside the district.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—There were 82 Live Births (36 males and 46 females) registered as belonging to the district. Of these none was illegitimate. (1952—98 live births).

The net live birth rate was accordingly 15.6 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 18.9 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 0.98, adjusting the birth rate, therefore, to 15.2.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

	Adjusted:
Birth Rates, 1953—Cumberland	16.7
Rural District of Cumberland	16.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.5
England and Wales	15.5
Cockermouth Rural District	14.7
Cockermouth Urban District	15.6 15.2

The percentage of illegitimate live births was nil as compared with 3.06 in 1952.

Still Births.—There were three still births registered, so that the still birth rate per 1,000 of the population was .57 as compared with .19 in 1952. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.35).

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births, was 35.29 as compared with 10.1 for 1952.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 62. This gave a crude death rate of 11.8 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 14.7 for the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1953.

Causes of Death	All Causes	Males.	Females.
		28	34
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, Other	..	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease	..	0	0
4. Diphtheria	..	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	..	0	0
6. Meningo-coccal Infections	..	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	0	0
8. Measles	..	0	0
9. Other infective and Parasitic disease	...	0	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	0	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	0	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	0	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	..	0	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	3	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	0	0
16. Diabetes	..	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	4	4
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	8	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	0	0
20. Other heart disease	..	3	5
21. Other circulatory disease	..	1	0
22. Influenza	..	1	0
23. Pneumonia	..	0	1
24. Bronchitis	...	1	0
25. Other diseases of the Respiratory System	..	0	0
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	..	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	0	1
31. Congenital malformations	..	0	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	4	8
33. Motor-vehicle accidents	..	0	0
34. All other accidents	..	0	1
35. Suicide	..	1	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total	..	2	1
Legitimate	..	2	1
Illegitimate	..	0	0
<hr/>			
LIVE BIRTHS	} Total	.. 36	46
	Legitimate	.. 36	46
	Illegitimate	.. 0	0
<hr/>			
STILL BIRTHS	} Total	.. 2	1
	Legitimate	.. 2	1
	Illegitimate	.. 0	0

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths, 1953—R.G.—(see p. 5)

5,250.

The comparability factor given for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained under Births) is 0.94. The adjusted death rate for Cocker-mouth Urban District was, therefore, 11.09

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shown below :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1953—Cumberland	11.9	—
Rural Districts of Cumberland	11.9	—
Urban Districts of Cumberland	11.8	—
England and Wales	11.4	—
Cockermouth Rural District	11.9	11.4
Cockermouth Urban District	11.8	11.09

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 3 deaths (all legit. 2m. 1f.) among infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 40.8 per 1,000 births as compared with 4 deaths with a rate of 40.8 for 1952.

No death occurring among illegitimate infants, the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate for 1953 was, therefore, nil per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 37.0 per 1,000 legitimate births. These latter rates were, respectively, nil and 42 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1953 :—		
Cumberland	..	27
Rural Districts of Cumberland	..	24
Urban Districts of Cumberland	..	30
England and Wales	..	26.8
Cockermouth Rural District	..	28
Cockermouth Urban District	..	37

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

Cause of Death	under	1—2	Total				Total
	1 wk.	weeks	under 4 wks	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths under 1 yr.
Prematurity	1		1				1
Intra-Cranial Haemorrhage	2		2				2

The death of the premature baby occurred in 30 minutes; the remaining two babies in 2 and 5 days respectively.

SENILE DEATH RATE.

40 persons had attained the age of 65 years and upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 64.5 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 73.6 for 1952.

3 (1m 2f)	occurred among persons between the ages of 65 and 70 yrs.
10 (2m 8f)	" " 70 and 75 yrs.
13 (6m 7f)	" " 75 and 80 yrs.
7 (2m 5f)	" " 80 and 85 yrs.
5 (2m 3f)	" " 85 and 90 yrs.
2 (m and f)	in the 93rd and 95th years respectively.

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were three inquests (two of which were held outside this district).

Two Coroner's certificates were received in respect of cases where post-mortem examination had been made but no inquest held.

In 4 of the total deaths post-mortems were performed.

No death was "Uncertified."

Violence.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was .38 per 1,000 of the population in the Cokermouth Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, 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 1952 :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accident		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Deaths	1	nil	nil	1	1	nil	2	1
% of all causes	1.61	nil	nil	1.31	1.61	nil	3.22	1.31
D.R. per 1000 popln.	.19	nil	nil	1.93	.19	nil	.38	.19

The two violence deaths include one of fracture of femur caused by an accidental fall and the other from hanging (suicide).

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 8 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years old
Alimentary	Stomach	0	1	72
	Colon	1	0	59
Glandular	Breast	0	2	38, 73
	Thyroid	0	1	57
	Pancreas	1	1	53, 79
Brain	Cerebellum	0	1	3

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 1.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 15 cases with a rate of 2.9 in 1952, and 10 cases with a rate of 1.9 in 1951.

In 1952, out of every 8 deaths of persons in this district 1 was attributed to cancer (1952—1 in 8); 1951—1 in 8).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 17.

None of the deaths were attributed to Tuberculosis.

	Males.	Females.
Respiratory System	0	0
Non-Pulmonary	0	0

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate, therefore, was nil per 1,000 of the population, the same as for 1952.

Similarly, the death rate due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis was nil per 1,000 of the population, the same as for 1952.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector Mr. Maurice M. Dixon, M.Inst. Mun. E., C.R. San. I., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

Mr. James Goodfellow was still assistant in the Surveyor's office.

.....

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 adequate provision has been made for Cocker mouth Urban District.

.....

Other particulars under Provision of Health Services remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is obtained in bulk supply from Workington Corporation and a small quantity (1,800 gallons a day) from Cocker mouth Rural Authority. (Analyses are carried out by the Workington Corporation and the Cocker mouth Council).

All the houses in the Urban District are supplied with water from the public water mains with the exception of the following :— St. Helen's Private School and Lodge, Strawberry Howe Farm, Annfield Farm, Park House and Park House Farm, which have private piped supplies. Approximately 150 houses still obtain their water from common taps either in the yard or wash-house supplied from the public mains.

Scraping of the 15/13 in. trunk main from Crummock by the Workington Corporation commenced in June 1952 and was completed in 1953. This operation resulted in a marked improvement in the supply to the Council's Moor reservoir.

The chlorination and anti-incrustation plant (situated at Lorton, 4 miles from Cockermouth) was completed and came into use in 1953.

The amount of water taken from the Crummock trunk main totalled 98,862,000 gallons, equivalent to a daily consumption of approximately 51 gallons per head of the population. This figure includes trade supplies which account for about 10 per cent. of the total consumption.

The amount pumped to the high level areas (including Windmill Lane and Slatefell housing estates, Castlegate Drive, Lorton Road and The Moor), averaged 75,000 gallons per diem, being 28 per cent. of the total.

The length of distribution mains in the Cockermouth Urban District remains at approximately nine miles.

The North Cumberland Water Board's Caldewhead Scheme is not now to proceed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Negotiations with the Ministry continued during the year regarding the Council's scheme to improve the sewers and sewage disposal works, the Ministry having intimated that no grant would be available. A report was sent to the Ministry in February stressing the need for immediate replacement of sludge-pumping machinery (this eventually resulted in a Local Inquiry in January 1954).

The bulk of the dried sludge from the outfall works was taken to the Council's refuse tip.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse remains as carried out in 1952.

The collection and baling of waste paper for salvage was continued. 22 tons were disposed of for £169.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I again gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance given to me by Mr. Maurice Dixon, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the making of this report, at the end of which is his summary of work in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926; his ever friendly co-operation, too, is much appreciated.

My sincere thanks are due not only to him but also to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. E. Jennings, for frank and willing help in the various problems that have arisen during our colleagueship.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the position in Cockermouth Urban District at the end of 1953. No serious defects were noted by the Sanitary Inspector who made 61 visits.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Defects found	Defects Remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24*	9	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	30	25	1	0
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	—	—	—	—
	54	61	1	1

*9 of these relate to bakehouses.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—Renewal of licence to continue an Offensive Trade was granted to a firm of Knackers and Fellmongers. (The Blood Drying firm left the district during the year). No complaints were received and on inspections the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

There is no special action to report under the provisions of the above Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The provisions of this Act were implemented throughout the year, treatments being carried out at trade premises (food warehouses, etc.) and residential properties; with regard to the former the costs were recovered from the occupiers concerned.

Test baitings of the sewers were carried out six monthly, but there was, again, no indication of major infestation. The Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works were treated on several occasions.

Housing.

In 1953, fifty houses were completed and occupied on the Slatefell Estate.

Two houses were built by private enterprise.

At present there are 166 applications from persons residing or working within the Urban Area on the Council's waiting list. This figure is not truly indicative of the number of new houses required since a considerable proportion of the applicants (estimated at 25 per cent) are only prepared to accept the tenancy of a pre-war house.

304 Council and 38 private enterprise houses were built between the end of the war in 1945 and 31st December, 1953.

Housing Appendix

STATISTICS.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ..	45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	50

2 Action under Statutory powers:—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936— ..	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts— ..	2
c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	2
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	8
(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Closing Orders) ..	2

The position regarding house repair work particularly in connection with houses privately owned remains very difficult, chiefly because of the high cost of building repairs in relation to the maximum rent chargeable under the Rent Restrictions Act. The legislation which is pending, should result in owners being better able to maintain their properties in reasonable condition.

FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY**

The supervision of milk production is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the terms of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. As a matter of convenience samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector as requested, the tests being confined to Tubercle only.

Bacteriological examination is undertaken by the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Milk is distributed as follows :—

8 Producer-retailers licensed by the Ministry of Food to retail, including 1 Tuberculin Tested and 7 ungraded. 1 Tuberculin Tested producer does not retail in the Urban area.

2 firms retail milk purchased in bulk.

Of the producers referred to above only two have their premises in the Urban District.

One dealer is licensed to retail pasteurised milk in the area.

Ice-Cream—There were four producer-retailers and 14 retailers only. Attention of Producers is drawn to the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations.

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to whose Divisional Inspector, Mr. J. K. S. Elmslie, I am indebted for his yearly return (a 'nil' one for 1953) giving particulars of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. from premises in the Cockermouth Urban District.

1953 :—Total number of Animals Slaughtered	..	0
Cows in Milk	..	0
Other Cows or Heifers	..	0
Other Bovine	..	0
Types of Disease found at Post-mortem—		
Tuberculosis of Udder	..	3
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	..	0
Tuberculosis with chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs	...	0
Discharging or excreting tuberculous material	...	0

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—The two Private Slaughter-Houses (both registered), have not been used as such since the Ministry of Food on January 14th, 1940, suspended all slaughtering other than in regional abattoirs—the Maryport abattoir serving this district under this scheme. (At the time of writing licences have been granted by the Council for three private slaughterhouses following the derestriction of Meat Marketing).

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1953 :—6 lbs. tinned pork ; 30 lbs. tinned ham and 12 oz. ham and veil ; 40 lbs. tinned meat ; 7 lbs. bacon ; 16 lbs. of fish (tinned) ; 2 doz. fish cakes ; 10 lbs. of peas ; 11 tins of beans ; 42 tins carrots ; 10 lbs. tinned tomato soup and 5 lbs. of peeled tomatoes ; 5 tins of evaporated milk ; 1 lb. jar of marmalade ; 119 lbs. of tinned fruit (various) and 22½ lbs. of cheese.

All items were surrendered voluntarily. The Council's refuse collectors remove the items for burial at the refuse tip.

BAKEHOUSES.—No serious defects were found in the 9 bakehouses in the town, which are periodically inspected. (2 of the bakehouses were of the type considered as domestic).

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified among civilians during 1953 in the Cokermonth Urban District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis was 24.

Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number was 6, (1952—10).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1953.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases notified 1952 admitted to Hosp. or San.	Deaths of notified cases
Smallpox ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0
Erysipelas ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ..	12	0	0
(Ages : under 1 yr., 2; 1 to 2 yrs., 2; 2 to 5 yrs., 6; 5 to 10 yrs., 2).			
Measles ..	6	0	0
(Ages : under 1 yr., 2; 2 to 5 yrs., 2; 5 to 10 yrs., 2).			
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Meningitis ..	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Typhoid Group, etc.	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary Males	2	0	0
Females	2	2	0
Non-Pulmonary Males	0	0	0
Females	2	0	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1953.

Disease	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping Cough						4	8						12
Measles							4	2					6
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary						1		1	1	1	1	1	5
Other Forms						1							1

From notifications received it is deduced that one in every 892 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act and the Tuberculosis Regulations (Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chickenpox excluded). Last year's figures : 1 in 517.

No case of Scarlet Fever (1952—3) was notified—see foregoing tables.

The Scarlet Fever case and death rate per 1,000 of the population, therefore, were both nil, as compared with 0.58 and nil, respectively, for 1952. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1953) were 1.39 and 0.00.

There was, again, no Diphtheria notification or death, so that the case and death rate per 1,000 of the population were both nil, the same as in 1952. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1953) were 0.01 and 0.00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before. Most of the actual inoculations were given by me at the School Clinic (Hartford House, Main Street) as in previous years. The co-operation of local Medical Practitioners and Head Teachers, and particularly that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

According to figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical officer during the year under review 25 (1951—32) elementary school children 5 to 14 years and 81 (1952—84) infants under 5 years were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks) whilst 245 children received a single reinforcing dose (these are children who received two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously). Included in the above number of primary injections are three given by local Medical Practitioners.

It is essential that there should be a high level of immunisation among children generally and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age in the 0 to 5 years group.

There were no notifications of Polio-myelitis, Typhoid (including Paratyphoid) Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Erysipelas or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No notification was received. The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate was :—Puerperal Pyrexia 10.1 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births), the rate for 1952 being (1 case) .10. The corresponding rate (1953) for England and Wales was 18.23.

There was one Maternal death; the Maternal Mortality Rate therefore was 11.7 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the rate for 1952 being nil.

Pneumonia.—Although no notifications were received (as in the previous year), one death from Pneumonia (all forms) was registered in 1953.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 4 cases of Pulmonary (2 males and 2 females) and 2 of Other Forms (both females) of Tuberculosis were notified. There were also two Pulmonary inward transfers (1m, 1f.). Two (both females and previously notified) received Sanatorium treatment.

The Mass Radiography travelling 'Unit' of the Regional Hospital Board made their second annual survey in November to cover Cockermouth and the surrounding district.

The following table shows the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1953 :—

1953 Age	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—and upwards	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 10.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953 was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ..	13	16	29
Non-pulmonary ..	0	6	6
All cases	13	22	35

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was not very prevalent though one death was recorded from this disease, so that the Influenza death rate was .19 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with nil in 1952. The rate (1953) for all England and Wales was 0.16,

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939).—There were six cases of Measles and twelve Whooping Cough notified. No death was recorded from either disease. The case rates and death rates in 1953 were therefore, respectively, per 1,000 of the population as follows :—Measles 1.1 and nil; Whooping Cough 2.28 and nil. (England and Wales in 1953.—Measles 12.36 and 0.01; and Whooping Cough, 3.58 and 0.01).

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

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—During 1953 no elementary school in Cockermouth was closed on account of infectious disease.

Sanitary Inspector's Summary to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

NUISANCES :—

Nuisances reported to Council	...	2
Written Intimatory Notices served after inspection	...	5
Written Intimatory Notices complied with	...	4

DETAILED SANITARY WORK :—

Chocked Drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies	...	58
Housing Inspections	...	50
Factory Inspections	...	61
Visits to Knackery	...	4
Personal visits re condemnations of food stuffs	...	20

PLANS PASSED and BUILDING APPROVALS DURING 1953 :—

Mitchell's Auction Co.—Garage, Agricultural Hall.

Lapraik—Bathroom, 25, Wordsworth Terrace.

Cowpe—Garage, Parkside Avenue.

Young—Garage, Tarn Close.

Salkeld, Brigham—Bathroom, at 11, Skiddaw View.

Armstrongs Thomas—Office extension.

Mitchell's Auction Co.—Office extension.

Cockermouth R.U.F.C.—Extension of changing rooms, Laithwaite.

Millers Ltd.—Workrooms extension.

Snow—Garage, Beck Brow, Lorton Road.

- Cumberland C.C.—Decontamination Centre conversion.
 Pearson—Garage, Cocker Brows.
 Mason—Garage, Hill Street.
 Williamson—Kitchen extension, Fitz Road.
 Jennings Bros.—W.C. accommodation at Anchor Inn.
 Jennings Bros.—Bathroom at Wordsworth Tavern.
 Newcastle Regional Hospital Board—Addition to Hospital.
 Armstrongs—Pre-cast shed, Workington Road Depot.
 Cleator Moor Brewery Co.—Bathroom at Crown Inn.
 Bowden—18, 20 and 22, St. Helens Street, alterations.
 Anderson—Garage, Parkside Avenue.
 Lee—Garage, Parkside Avenue.
 Beattie—Garage, Brigham Road.
 Wilkinson—Bungalow, Park Lane.
 Williamson—Bungalow, Fitz Road.
 Mason—Conversion to flat and dwellings, Main Street Shop.
 Millers Ltd.—Change of use of Methodist Chapel, New Street.
 Cumberland C.C.—Temporary Classroom, Fairfield.
 Cumberland C.C.—Temporary Classroom, All Saints School.
 N.E.H.A.—20 houses, Windmill Lane.
 Nixon—House, Fitz Road.
 Midland Bank—New front.
 Henton—Garage, Kirkgate House.
 Wood—General Store, Windmill Lane.
 Graham—Bungalow, Parkside Avenue.
 Maryport Co-op. Society—Alterations to shop, Station Street.
 County Council—Alterations, Grecian Villa.
 Armstrong—Garage and Store, Derwent Street.
 Livingstone—Conversion of Fairfield House into 2 flats.
 Cavanagh—Bath, larder and scullery, Leonards Lane.

M. M. DIXON, M.Inst., Mun.E., C.R. San.I.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



