

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Cockermouth U.D.C.

Contributors

Cockermouth (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

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

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.



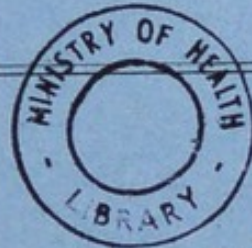
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

HEALTH
A 27 DEC 57
C.R. 57

**COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

burns



Annual Report

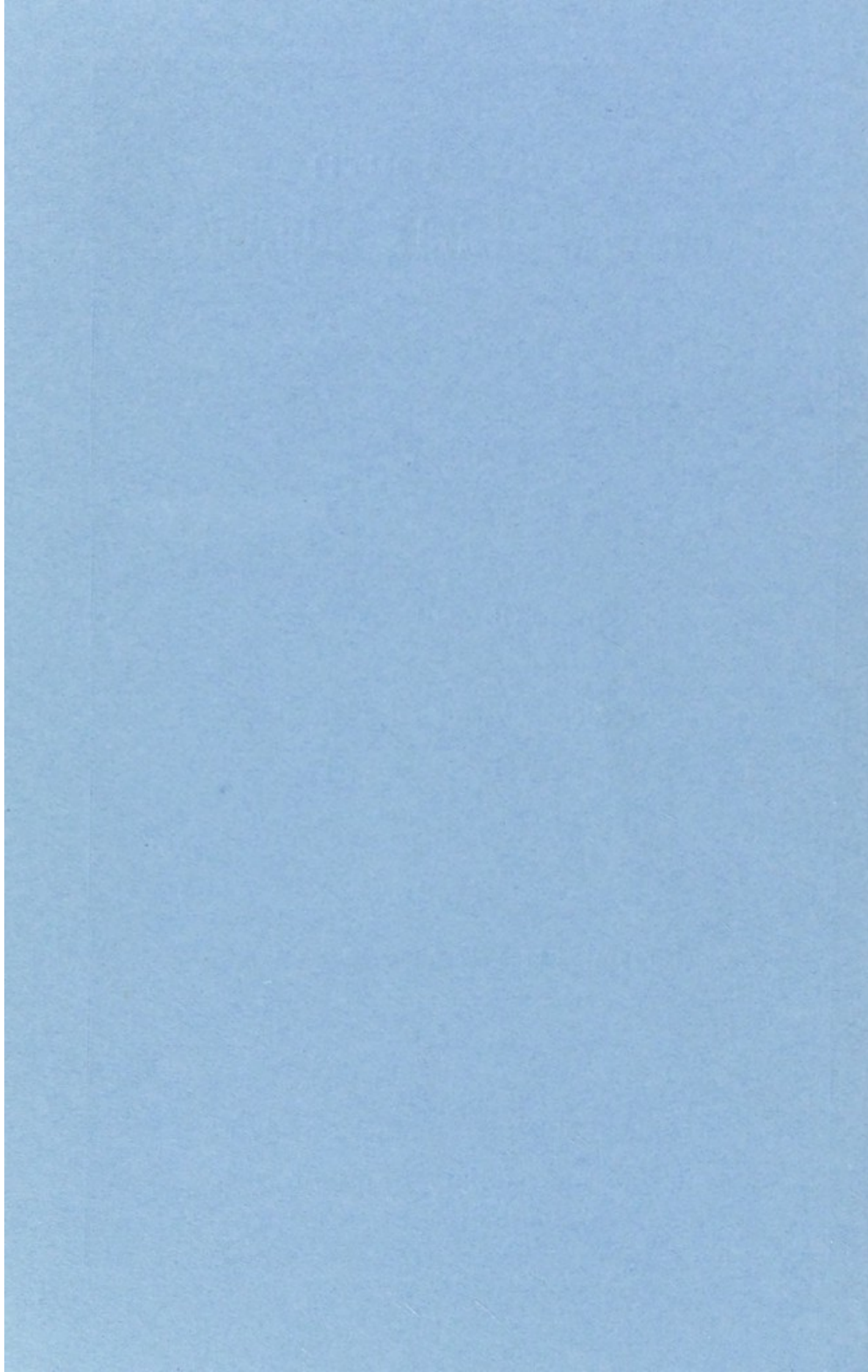
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

John Patterson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1956

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector



Urban District Council of
Cockermouth

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the year

1956



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

<https://archive.org/details/b29118360>

Cockermouth Urban District Council

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Cockermouth Urban District Council.

A full account of the many and varied types of work undertaken in the year is included, mainly in statistical form.

The Poliomyelitis epidemic in neighbouring areas caused some alarm but the expected spread to this district did not materialise.

My thanks are again due to Mr. M. M. Dixon, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, for his continued co-operation and help.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the continued help given to me by the Clerk to the Council and his staff and the kindness shown to me by the Members of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

J. PATTERSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

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

COCKERMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area :—

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1956)	5,310
Number of inhabited houses (end 1956) according to Rate Books	1,925
Rateable Value	£46,382
Sum represented by Penny Rate (approx.)	£179

RAINFALL.

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

	Inches of rain	Over 1 inch of rain fell on the following dates :—
1956		
January	2.80	
February	0.71	
March	1.46	
April	1.15	
May	3.17	
June	1.79	
July	4.70	29th
August	8.64	27th
September	3.98	
October	3.18	19th.
November	1.74	
December	5.73	
Total	39.05	

(5 years' average rainfall 1952-1956 inclusive—42.15 inches)

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

POPULATION.

The population figure of 5,310 is given for the year 1956 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home Population". On this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

The population figure for 1955 was 5,300.

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 1,100 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.

STATISTICS.

The Tables of vital statistics are set out below showing birth rates, death rates and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for varying age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is 1.02 and for deaths 1.00

The total live births were 98, an increase of 14% above the figure for 1955, resulting in a birth rate of 18.5 (18.9 corrected), compared with 16.2 in 1955. Four of the births were illegitimate.

There was 1 still birth which represents a rate of 10.1 per thousand live births. In 1955 this figure was 11.5 and in 1954, 22.7. The National rate for 1956 is 23.0 per thousand live births.

The number of deaths at all ages was 77 giving a death rate of 14.6 (14.6 corrected) per thousand of population compared with 15.5 (14.2 corrected) in 1955.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year of age all of the deaths resulting from congenital defects.

Deaths from cancer increased from 10 in 1955 to 12 in 1956, only one of which was due to lung cancer. These figures are too small to have any statistical significance however.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Population of the Urban District is 5,310.

LIVE BIRTHS :—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1000 pop. Uncor.	Rate per 1000 pop. Cor.
1951	Legitimate	45	31	76			
	Illegitimate	2	1	3	79	15.1	14.7
1952	Legitimate	40	55	95			
	Illegitimate	0	3	3	98	18.9	18.5
1953	Legitimate	36	46	82			
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	82	15.6	15.2
1954	Legitimate	41	43	84			
	Illegitimate	2	0	2	86	16.3	16.6
1955	Legitimate	45	38	83			
	Illegitimate	2	1	3	86	16.23	16.55
1956	Legitimate	49	45	94			
	Illegitimate	2	2	4	98	18.5	18.9

STILL BIRTHS :—

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
1951	Legitimate	2	0	2		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	24.6
1952	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	10.1
1953	Legitimate	2	1	3		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	3	35.29
1954	Legitimate	0	2	2		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	22.7
1955	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	11.5
1956	Legitimate	0	1	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	10.1

DEATHS :—

Year	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop Uncorrected	Rate per 1000 pop Corrected
1951	41	39	80	15.3	14.3
1952	38	38	76	14.7	13.8
1953	28	34	62	11.8	11.09
1954	37	35	72	13.7	12.6
1955	45	37	82	15.5	14.2
1956	35	42	77	14.6	14.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births.
1951	0	—
1952	0	—
1953	1	11.7
1954	0	—
1955	0	—
1956	0	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES :—

Year	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 live Legitimate Births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live Illegitimate Births
1951	4	51	53	—
1952	4	41	42	—
1953	3	37	37	—
1954	1	12	12	—
1955	4	46	48	—
1956	3	31	32	—

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE :—

Year	Pulmonary T.B. Deaths	Other T.B. Deaths	Total T.B. Deaths	Pulmonary T.B. Death Rate per 1000 pop.	Total T.B. Death Rate per 1000 pop.
1951	2	0	2	.38	.38
1952	0	0	0	—	—
1953	0	0	0	—	—
1954	0	1	1	—	.19
1955	0	0	0	—	—
1956	0	0	0	—	—

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES (Uncorrected) :—

BIRTH RATE.	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
County of Cumberland	17.1	17.3	16.7	16.4	16.4	16.9
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.2	17.6	17.5	17.5	16.7	17.5
Cockermouth Urban	15.1	18.9	15.6	16.3	16.2	18.5

DEATH RATE.

England and Wales	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7
County of Cumberland	13.2	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.2	12.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	13.2	12.9	11.8	11.4	12.2	12.3
Cockermouth Urban	15.3	14.7	11.8	13.7	15.5	14.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

England and Wales	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8
County of Cumberland	34.0	32.0	27.0	27.6	28.4	30.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	32.0	29.0	30.0	24.9	27.3	32.5
Cockermouth Urban	50.6	40.8	37.0	12.0	46.5	30.6

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1956.

Causes of Death	Males. Females.	
	All Causes	...
	35	42
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 diseases	.. 0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	.. 0	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. 1	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	... 0	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	.. 0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.. 3	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.. 0	2
16. Diabetes	.. 0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	.. 2	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	.. 10	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	.. 0	1
20. Other heart disease	.. 6	3
21. Other circulatory disease	.. 2	0
22. Influenza	.. 1	0
23. Pneumonia	.. 0	2
24. Bronchitis	.. 2	1
25. Other diseases of the Respiratory System	.. 1	0
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	... 1	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.. 0	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	.. 1	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	.. 0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.. 0	0
31. Congenital malformations	.. 1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.. 4	7
33. Motor-vehicle accidents	.. 0	0
34. All other accidents	.. 0	3
35. Suicide	.. 0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	.. 0	0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths under 1 year showing varying causes and ages.

Cause 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 under 1 year.
Congenital Stricture of the aesophagus	1				1					1
Congenital Spina Bifida						1				1
Congenital Heart Defect							1			1
Total	1				1	1	1			3

SENILE DEATH RATE.

Age at Death.	Males	Females	Total
65—70 years	6	4	10
70—75 years	9	13	22
75—80 years	2	5	7
80—85 years	11	6	17
85—90 years	1	2	3
Totals	29	30	59

Senile Death Rate 77% of Total Deaths (1955—75.6).

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

Cause		No. of Deaths	% of all causes	Rate per 1000 of population.
Suicide	1955	1	1.2	.19
	1956	0	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	1955	0	—	—
	1956	0	—	—
Other Violence	1955	4	4.8	.75
	1956	3	3.9	.57
Total	1955	5	6.0	.94
	1956	3	3.9	.57

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Site of Cancer.		Males	Females
Alimentary :	Stomach	0	1
	Colon	1	2
Glandular :	Breast	0	2
	Lymphatics	0	1
Respiratory :	Lung	1	0
Reproductive :	Uterus	0	1
	Ovaries	0	1
Other :	Bladder	1	0
	Brain	1	0
Totals		4	8

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
Between 30—40	0	1	1
40—50	0	1	1
50—60	0	2	2
60—70	2	0	2
70—80	1	4	5
80—90	1	0	1
Totals	4	8	12

CANCER DEATH RATE 2.2 per 1,000 population (1955 : 1.9 per 1,000 population).

Approximately 1 death in 7 was due to Cancer.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1956 was 163. Excluding measles and whooping cough the number is 12.

There were no notifications or deaths from Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid, or Puerperal Pyrexia.

Although no notifications of Pneumonia were received, 2 deaths were attributed to Pneumonia.

Two notifications of food poisoning were received. No organism was discovered in either case, nor was the source of infection found. Both cases made a rapid recovery.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	22	28	50
Non Pulmonary	6	6	12
Totals	28	34	62

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease :—

Influenza was prevalent and one death was recorded from the disease, so that the Influenza death rate was 0.2 per thousand of the population.

Poliomyelitis :—

During the year, Poliomyelitis was fairly extensive in the North West, and the neighbouring areas of Whitehaven and Ennerdale Rural District were heavily involved. No cases occurred in this district.

At the end of the year, a vaccine was produced and distributed by the Ministry of Health, but because of the small amounts available, only selected age groups were given the vaccine and even then a further selection at random was made with the result that the number who had a complete course (i.e. 2 injections at monthly intervals) in the district was 1 (a female aged 2 years).

Those children whose parents have given consent but were not selected in this first group will be vaccinated when more vaccine becomes available.

IMMUNISATION.

DIPHTHERIA.

Figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer are given in tabular form, showing the number of Diphtheria Immunisations carried out and the position at the end of 1956.

SMALLPOX.

Age when vaccinated or re-vaccinated	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-vaccinated
Under 1	10	—
1	—	—
2—4	—	—
5—14	—	—
15 or over	1	—
	—	—
	11	—
	—	—

Vaccination against Smallpox is not carried out at any of the local authority clinics in this county, and the figures in the table, therefore, relate to vaccinations carried out by general practitioners.

B.C.G. (Tuberculosis).

Mantoux testing, Mass Miniature Radiography and B.C.G. vaccination was continued in 1956, the age group concerned being those born in 1942. Of the children in this age group attending the Secondary schools in Cocker mouth, consent was given in 102 cases. Of those, 101 were tested, 23 found to be positive reactors and of the 78 negative reactors, 76 were given B.C.G. vaccination.

The figure of 23 positive reactors i.e. 22.7% compares favourably with results obtained elsewhere in the county.

Diphtheria Immunisation undertaken during 1956.

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Primary Inoculation			2		1			1	3		1	3	4	26	3
Booster			1		1	1	16	15							

State of Immunisation at end of 1956.

Number of children under 15 years of age known to have been inoculated in the district

Age on 31/12/56	under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15
Year of Birth	1956	1952-55	1947-51	1942-46	
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1952-1956	3	213	398	292	906
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed prior to 1952.			72	161	233

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS 1956.

Total Cases	Age Distribution.										Monthly Incidence of Disease												Deaths of Cases
	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—44 years	45—64 years	over 65 years	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Scarlet Fever	1			1									1										
Whooping Cough	11	1	2	4	4											3	8						
Acute Poliomyelitis																							
Paralytic																							
Non-Paralytic	140	4	21	35	79	1										1	34	82	21		2		
Measles																							
Diphtheria																							
Acute Pneumonia																							
Dysentery																							
Smallpox																							
Acute Encephalitis																							
Infective																							
Post-infections																							
Enteric or Typhoid																							
Fever																							
Erysipelas																							
Meningococcal																							
Infection																							
Food Poisoning	2							2										1	1				
Puerperal Pyrexia																							
Ophthalmia																							
Neonatorum																							
Tuberculosis																							
Respiratory	7					1	3	3													1		
Meninges																							
and C.N.S.																							
Other forms	2		1	1													1						
Totals	163	5	23	40	85	1	1	5	3					2		3	10	34	83	23	3		

ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
M. M. DIXON, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I.**

For the year 1956.

WATER SUPPLY

The method of obtaining water by bulk supply from Workington Corporation's trunk main from Crummock continued as before. The total amount abstracted during the year into the Council's Moor reservoir was 96,000,000 gallons, equivalent to an average daily consumption per head of just under 50 gallons. This figure includes trade supplies which account for approximately 10% of the consumption. Treatment of the lake water continued as set out in my 1955 report. The Workington Corporation and my department continued sampling for bacteriological analysis and received consistently good reports from the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory. The amount supplied to the high level areas of the town via the Sunscles reservoir averaged 78,000 gallons per day which was 28% of the total consumption.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The improvement scheme at the sewage disposal works was completed and enabled a much greater degree of efficiency to be obtained in the running of the works. It can now be said that the effluent discharged to the River Derwent is consistently satisfactory.

REFUSE REMOVAL

There was no alteration in the service of scavenging and refuse removal. The Council gave consideration to the purchase of an additional mechanical vehicle, having in mind the provision of a bi-weekly collection in all parts of the town.

FACTORIES ACT - 1937.

There are 41 factories registered in the area all of which are periodically inspected to ensure compliance with the regulations.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The firm of fellmongers continued to trade in the Urban area. The premises were regularly inspected and were found to be efficiently maintained.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Act continued to be administered as detailed in my 1955 report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT - 1938.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on the 1st July, 1955. The purport of the regulations was conveyed to all firms concerned and inspections are being made of all premises in the area. It is hoped that it will be possible in future years to report continuing improvements in the standard of food premises, following the implementation of these regulations.

Condemnation of unsound food was continued, the following being the main items of food condemned:—

- 6 lbs. Tinned Tongue.
- 56 lbs. Tinned Beef.
- 11 lbs. Boiled Ham.
- 24 tins Vegetables.
- 4 tins Fish.
- 26 tins Fruit.
- 18 tins Evaporated Milk.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are three slaughterhouses in the Urban area, licenced by the Council. As a result of inspection of the carcasses dealt with at these premises, it is possible to say that the standard of meat concerned has been good.

HOUSING.

It is reported with regret that there were no houses completed by the Council during the year. Six houses were built by private enterprise.

During the past twelve years, 356 Council and 60 private enterprise houses have been built in the Urban area.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council received six applications for Improvement Grants all of which were approved. In five cases the works were completed and the Grants paid.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

NUISANCES :—

Nuisances reported to Council	...	...	...	6
Written Intimatory Notices served	...	...	...	9
Written Intimatory Notices complied with	...	...	...	9

SANITARY WORK :—

Choked Drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies	...	...	...	29
Factory inspections	...	...	...	51
Visits to Offensive Trades	...	...	...	7
Visits re food condemnation	...	...	...	16

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED — 1956.

Williams—Extensions, 8, Princes Road.
 Knight—Bathroom, Holly Square.
 Hospital Board—Sanitary Annexe, Hospital.
 Routledge—Bathroom, Goat Road.
 N.P. Bank—Garage, High Sand Lane.
 Graves Bros.—Toilets, Grand Theatre.
 Millers Ltd.—Stores, Derwent Mills.
 Cumberland C.C.—Secondary Modern School, Castlegate Drive.
 T. Armstrong Ltd.—Precast Concrete Factory, Workington Road.
 Williamson—Garage, Hill Street.
 Mayson—Alterations, Fern Bank.
 Bank—Bungalow, Windmill Lane.
 Loan—Bathroom, Goat Road.
 Snaith—Bathroom, Crown Street.
 Chambers—Bathroom, Henry Street.
 Hazelton—Alterations, Windmill Lane.
 Various—Garages, Market Hall.
 Various—Garages, Slatefell Drive.
 Twiname—Bungalow, Beech Lane.
 County Garage Co.—Agricultural Workshop, Lorton Street.
 Blatherwick—Classroom, St. Helen's School.
 Twiname—Twelve Houses, Isel Road.
 Davison—Garage, 2, Fell View.
 Canterbury—Garage, Castlegate Drive.
 Thirkell—Bathroom, Henry Street.
 Fearon—Bathroom, Henry Street.
 N.P. Bank—Alterations, N.P. Bank.
 Cooper—Bathroom, 57, Kirkgate.
 Kirkpatrick—Garage, Sunscapes Avenue.
 Crellin—Garage, Kirkbank.
 Swindle—Garage, 76, Brigham Road.
 Fallows—Bungalow, Beech Lane.
 N.E.H.A.—Garage, Windmill Lane.
 Tyson—Garage, Kirkbank.
 Stamper—Two Bungalows, Oakhurst Road.



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO : THE DIRECTOR

FROM : THE CHIEF OF BUREAU
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text block]

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

[Extremely faint and illegible text block containing multiple lines of administrative details, possibly a list or report.]

