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CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

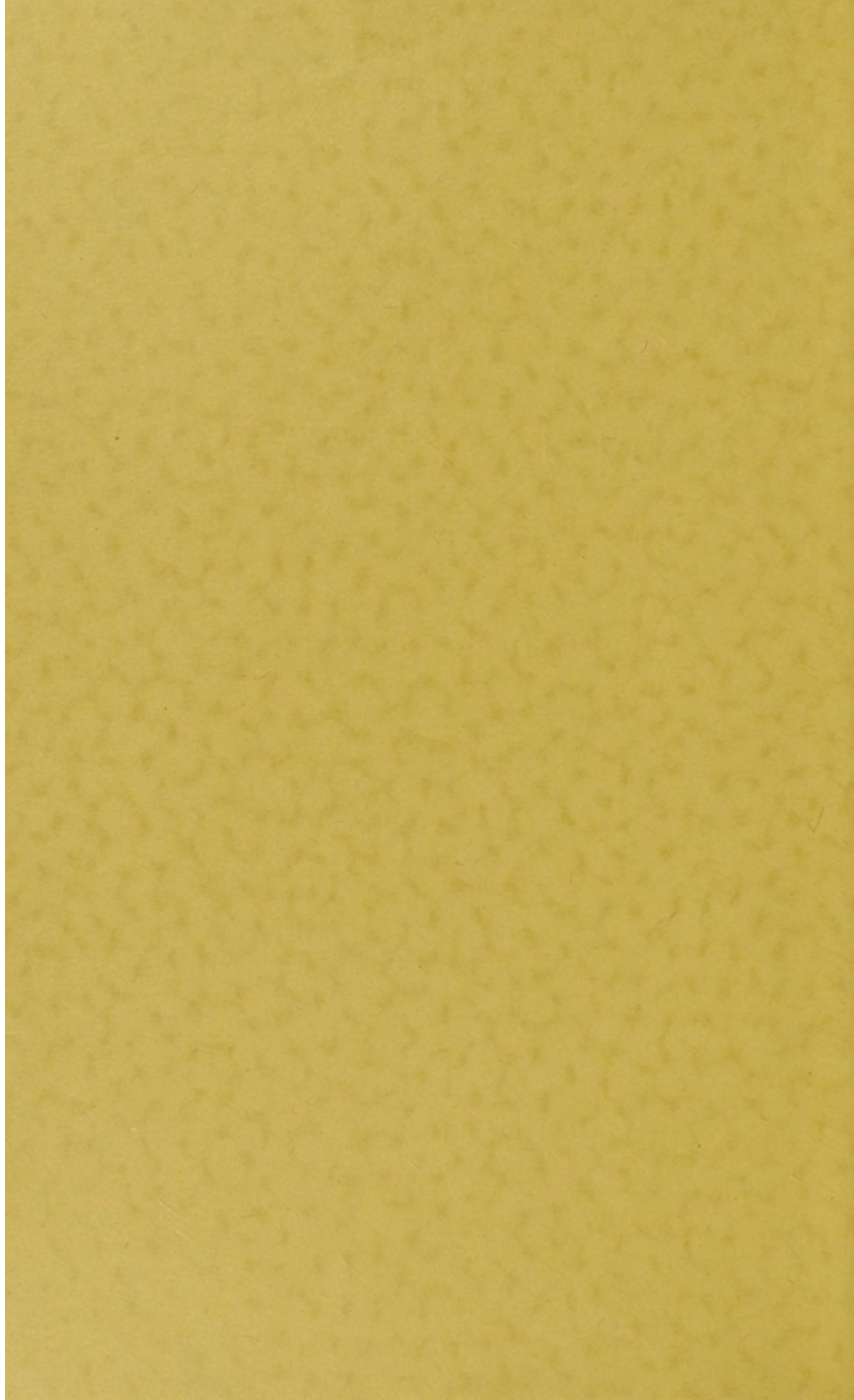
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1957



S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.



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NORMAN WARD LTD.
LOW FELL.

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Health Department,
Council Offices,
Medomsley Road,
Consett,
Co. Durham.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year 1957.

It has been a satisfactory year with an increase in the birthrate and a decrease in the infant mortality rate. This latter rate normally regarded as an index of the state of health of a community and therefore indirectly the environmental circumstances and the efficiency of the health services is the lowest ever recorded in the urban area.

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified, and while the four-yearly mass diphtheria immunisation programme usually carried out at the schools had to be postponed, full use was made of all available poliomyelitis vaccine by arranging sessions at schools and clinic premises. An outbreak of measles—mainly in the 3 to 7 year olds—occurred during the first half of the year, but there were no deaths. A nation wide influenza epidemic also reached this district during October, but while affecting all ages, the majority falling ill were school children. Fortunately the disease was of a relatively mild nature and short duration in most instances. Only 3 confirmed cases of food poisoning were notified during the year and only 4 deaths from tuberculosis registered.

Regular surveys and inspections of property were made and we pressed ahead with the programme of submitting to the Council lists of sub-standard houses for demolition. Although because of shortage of staff the less essential duties were curtailed, 100 per cent. inspection of meat for human consumption slaughtered in the area was ensured.

The liaison, both with the general medical practitioners and the hospital authorities was continued, and for the sake of completeness I have included some details of these services.

Finally, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement and support and the Staff of the Department for their loyal assistance and enthusiasm.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT

Area (Acres)	10,042
Population (Estimated)	38,780
(i) Estimated number of children:—	
Under 5 years	3,000
5-14 years	6,100
Marriages in the Area during 1957 (Estimated)	405
Number of Inhabited houses	11,559
(i) Number of Aged Miners' Homes	56
(ii) Number of Council Aged Persons' Homes	229
(iii) Number of Council houses	3,257
(iv) Number of Houses and Shops combined	144
(v) Number of Lock-up Shops	304
(vi) Number of Occupied Houses under Closing or Demolition Orders	61
(vii) Estimated number of Houses unfit for human habitation	76
Rateable Value, April 1st, 1957	£406,031
Net Product of a Penny Rate April 1st, 1957	£1,485

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Iron and Steel Manufacture, etc.	5,400	350	5,750
(ii) Mining	4,100	90	4,190
(iii) Building, Brick Manufacture	1,060	90	1,150
(iv) Professional Services (Medicine Education)	330	1,190*	1,520
(v) Distributive	280	500	780
(vi) Transport (Road, Rail Haulage)	450	170	620
(vii) Chemicals, Bye-products, Coke Tar	370	20	390
(viii) Vehicle building and Maintenance	350	30	280
(ix) Catering, Baking, etc.	90	240	330
(x) National & Local Government	260	20	280
(xi) Textile	10	140	150
(xii) Other Industries	800	220	1,020
	13,400	3,060	16,460

* Includes hospital domestic staff.

UNEMPLOYED AND DISABLED

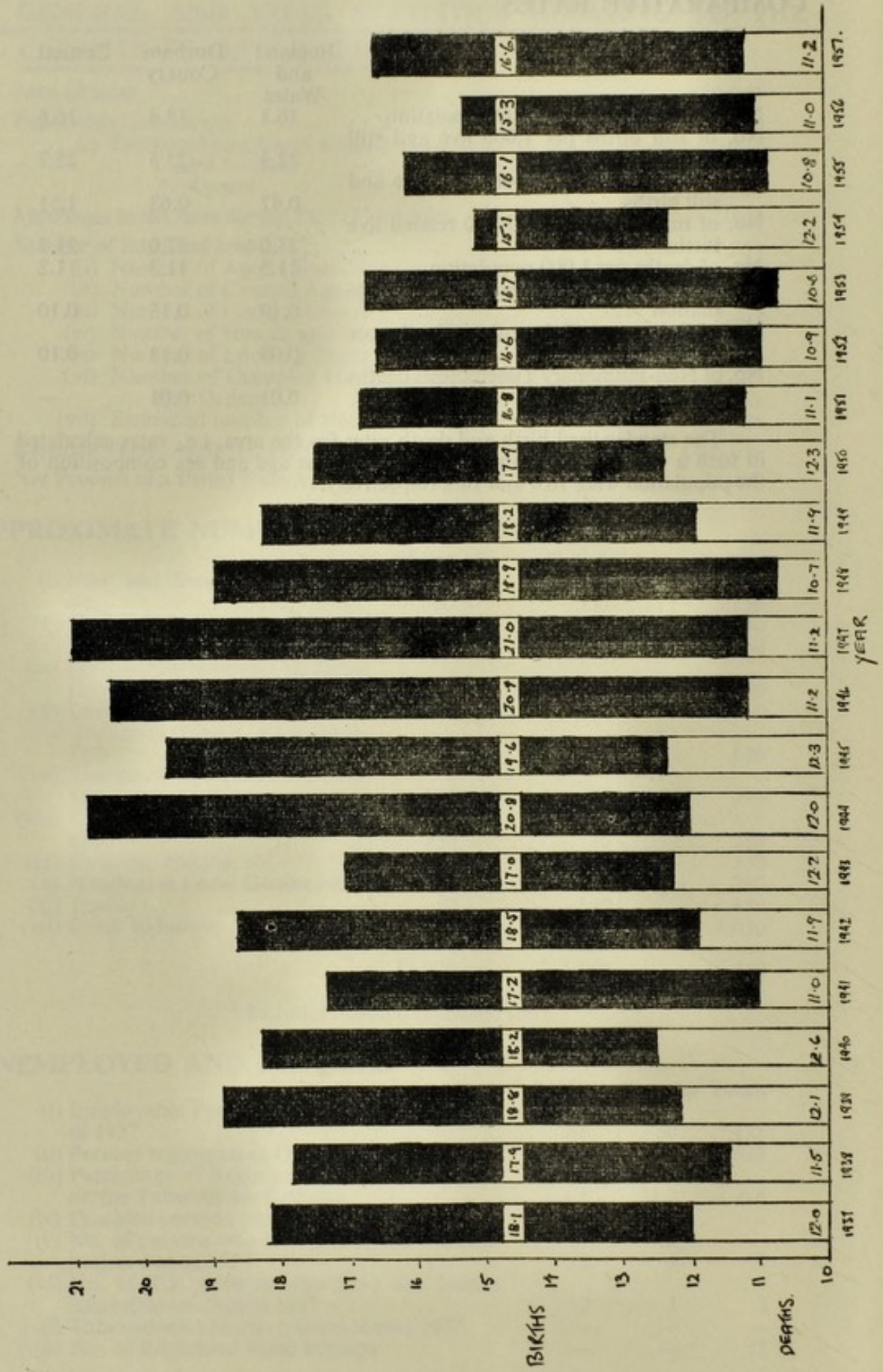
	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Employable Persons out of work at the end of 1957	85	50	135
(ii) Persons registered as Disabled	634	64	698
(iii) Percentage of Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register	4.1	31.2	6.6
(iv) Disabled persons trained	—	—	—
(v) No. of persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1957	8	1	9
(vi) No. of T.B. persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1957	2	1	3
(vii) Tuberculosis persons trained during 1957	—	—	—
(viii) No. of Registered Blind Persons	—	—	73

COMPARATIVE RATES

	England and Wales	Durham County	Consett
No. of Live Births per 1,000 population ..	16.1	18.4	16.6
No. of still births per 1,000 live and still births	22.4	25.3	25.7
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	0.47	0.63	1.51
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 related live births	23.0	27.0	21.7
No. of deaths per 1,000 population ..	11.5	11.3	11.2
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 pop- ulation	0.10	0.15	0.10
No. of Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.09	0.13	0.10
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.01	0.01	—

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, i.e., rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 16.4 and 14.2 respectively.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION SINCE THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE PRESENT URBAN AREA



DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

(See Appendix A)

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	304	328	632
Illegitimate	5	7	12
	309	335	644
(b) Still Births			
Legitimate	8	9	17
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	8	9	17

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population ..	0.43	0.66	0.46	0.38	0.33	0.30	0.38	0.43	0.43	0.43
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population ..	19.4	18.3	17.9	17.2	16.9	17.0	15.5	16.6	15.8	16.2
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births ..	22.8	35.4	25.6	22.2	19.7	18.1	24.9	26.3	26.1	25.7

During the year there were 17 still births, (25.7 per 1,000 live and still births), the same number as in the two previous years.

In 1937, when the Urban District was formed, the stillbirth rate (53.1 per 1,000 live and still births) was considerably higher than that of the County (45.3) and England and Wales (39.0) but up to 1950 the rates slowly approximated each other all remaining more or less the same since that date.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Deaths during year	238	198	436
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ..	—	1	1

(a) Infant Deaths

The number of infant deaths for the year was 14 (21.7 per 1,000 live births). Eight of these occurred within the first week of life.

Our infant mortality rate, although initially higher in 1937 (70.9 deaths under one year per 1,000 live births, as compared with 70 for Durham County and 53.0 for England and Wales) has steadily fallen, and now this year with the lowest rate ever recorded (21.7) is below that for the County (27.0) and also that for England and Wales (23.0).

The problem of infant deaths these days is now however different in kind as well as in size. The more rapid drop which has occurred over the years in the number of deaths after the first week of life has not been associated with a similar drop in the number of deaths of those children under one week of age.

Whether a child is still born or dies within the first week of life is frequently a matter of chance and as the causes are usually the same, the 17 recorded in the first category and the 8 in the second should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has been the hardcore of wasted infant life, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice, medical attention and care of expectant mothers together with the education of the nursing mother in the principles of child care, nutrition and prevention of infections.

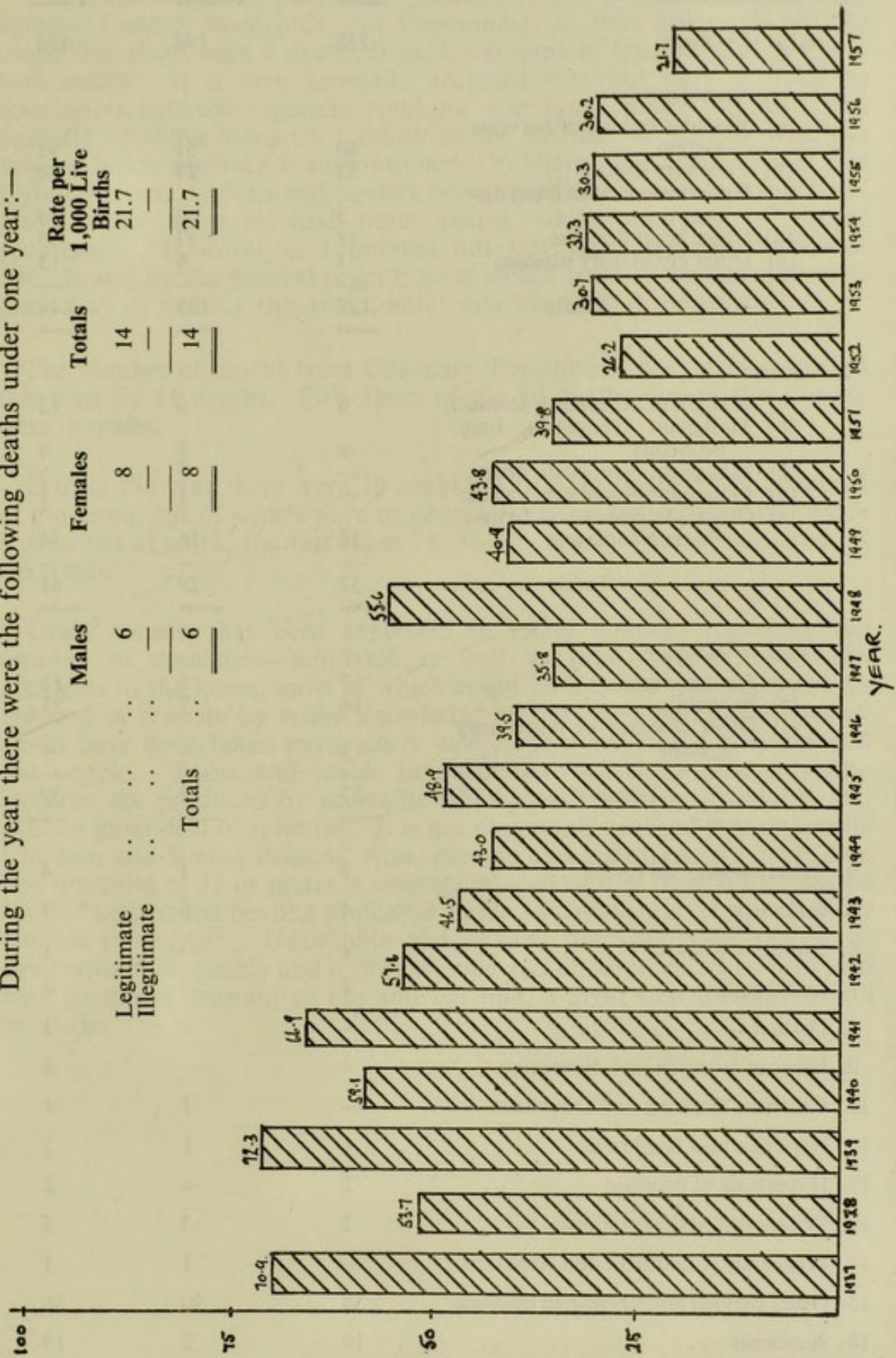
Analysis of Infant Deaths during First Year of Life (1957)

Cause.	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 12 months
Prematurity	4	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	2	2
Asphyxia	1	—	—
Broncho pneumonia	1	1	1
Birth injury	1	—	—
	8	3	3

INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS SINCE 1937

During the year there were the following deaths under one year:—

	Males	Females	Totals	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate	6	21.7
Illegitimate	8	—
Totals	14	21.7



(b) Deaths (General)	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES	238	198	436
1. Cardio vascular:—			
(a) Vascular lesions of nervous system	40	51	91
(b) Coronary disease	53	27	80
(c) Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
(d) Other heart diseases	18	37	55
(e) Other circulatory diseases	7	6	13
Totals	<u>121</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>244</u>
2. Cancer:—			
(a) Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	6	6	12
(b) Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
(c) Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
(d) Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
(e) Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	18	16	34
Totals	<u>32</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>61</u>
3. Chest Diseases:—			
(a) Pneumonia	7	5	12
(b) Bronchitis	16	7	23
(c) Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	4
Totals	<u>27</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>39</u>
4. Tuberculosis—all forms	3	1	4
5. Influenza	4	3	7
6. Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
7. Leukaemia	4	—	4
8. Diabetes	—	1	1
9. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—	4
10. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
11. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
12. Hyperlasia of prostate	2	—	2
13. Congenital Malformations	2	3	5
14. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	1	1
15. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	20	38
16. Accidents	16	2	18
17. Suicide	3	1	4

The main causes of death were disease of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, in that order. It will be noted that there were 9 deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung, 8 of whom were males. It is now generally accepted that not only is there an association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer but also that cigarette smoking increases liability to the disease—a liability which is reduced when smoking is discontinued. Publicity was given to this fact during the year, leaflets and posters being distributed to libraries, general practitioners' surgeries and other places where numbers of people congregate. However as I pointed out last year, personal advice at schools and by the general practitioners would seem to be essential until some way of making this social habit safe has been discovered.

The number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis has again increased this time by 11 deaths. Fifty-three of the 80 deaths due to this disease were in males.

During the year there were 18 accidents causing deaths; five occurred in the home (all of which were in people over the age of 65 years) while 8 occurred at work, the rest (ages 74, 31, 17, 6 and 4 years) occurred on the roads.

Great concern has been expressed in many quarters regarding the number of casualties—non-fatal as well as fatal—which arise from accidents in the home, most of which could be avoided and many others reduced in severity by wider knowledge of risks and precautions which could have been taken particularly where there are young children and old people. Burns and scalds in particular, especially among young children are produced by accidents which are frequently avoidable and cause a great deal of suffering. It is not commonly realised that under the Children and Young Persons' Acts, parents and guardians are liable to a fine if a child of 12 or under is severely injured or dies from burns caused by an "unguarded heating appliance liable to cause injury to persons by contact therewith". Unsuitable and ill-sited fire appliances should be dealt with immediately and if only women and children could be provided with garments resistant to fire and burning, a great step forward would be made.

11. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

A. Environmental Circumstances and Local Authority Services

Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural District:

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. WALTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.INST.R.A., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

T. E. HODGSON, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

C. E. DAVISON, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate. (Terminated appointment 2nd March, 1957) D. HUBBICK, Pupil Public Health Inspector (Appointed 7th January, 1957).

Rodent Officer and Market Inspector:

S. ROBINSON.

Clerical Staff:

MISS P. E. BARROW, MRS. E. WINTER, D. HUBBICK (Terminated appointment 5th January, 1957), MISS M. VICKERS (Appointed 7th January, 1957).

Because of the depletion of the inspectorate staff after the end of April, with the Council's approval the Surveyor kindly arranged for a member of his staff to carry out most of the inspections connected with housing improvement grants and granting of petroleum and carbide licences. This was of considerable help to us in ensuring that the more essential inspectorate duties of the Department were attended to. It was also found necessary to inform the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that it was impossible for us to continue to carry out inspections involved in the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme (pigs)—a responsibility which we had accepted temporarily to assist the Ministry Inspectors.

(a) **GENERAL**

Water. The Durham County Water Board provide a public supply from their reservoirs at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, filtration and chlorination being carried out at Honey Hill, Waskerley. We found a residual of approximately 0.1 p.p.m. of chlorine in all the samples examined.

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company together with the Durham County Water Board have now obtained consent from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to construct a new large impounding reservoir in the Derwent Valley near Edmundbyers. It is estimated that this reservoir will be able to supply about twenty million gallons of water per day.

The supply of water during the year has been sufficient and analysis (chemical and bacteriological) satisfactory. Incidentally the natural fluorine content was found to be 0.1 parts per million during the winter and fluctuating between 0.1 and 0.5 parts per million during the summer—an amount which would have to be supplemented if the maximum benefit is to be derived from this chemical substance in the prevention of dental caries and the premature loss of teeth in children and adolescents.

During the year the Board laid 892 yards of 3" iron main and renewed 145 yards of 2" main with 3" spun iron pipe, 765 yards of 15" main were scraped and a pressure reducing valve was fitted at Moorside to reduce fluctuations in mains pressure to the new housing site.

Five houses and a weekend cottage however still rely on spring water. During the year a house without a proper piped supply was demolished.

DETAILS OF SPRING SUPPLIES

Ward	No. of		Type of Supply				Method of Distribution				
	Houses	Occu- pants	Public	Private	Spring	Well	Carried	Gravi- tation Piped	Pumped	House Service	
										Inside	Out
Medomsley	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ebchester	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Consett South	2	4	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	1
Leadgate	2	4	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	6	13	—	6	6	—	3	3	—	2	4

Eight samples were forwarded to the Bacteriologist and results graded in accordance with the Ministry of Health Report, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, 1949" are as follows:—

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Public Water Supply	3	—	—	—	3
Other Sources of Supply (Springs, Wells, etc.)	3	—	—	2	5
Totals	6	—	—	2	8

In the case of the samples which indicated contamination occupiers were warned to boil all water before use.

Drainage and Sewage. Sewer extensions have been carried out for the development of the various housing estates and the new Knitsley Sewage Works are nearing completion.

Work has commenced on a new pumping station and pumping main from Hamsterley Mill Estate to Hamsterley Colliery Pumping Station.

Appendix C indicates the number and sites of sewage works, also the approximate number of properties draining there together with the population which they serve.

Sanitary Conveniences

During the year, 8 conversions of earth closets to W.Cs. were carried out.

The types of closet in use in the Council's Area are as follows:—

Water-closets	..	..	..	..	13,214
Ash-closets	..	..	..	..	95
Privy Middens	..	..	..	..	13

Of the remaining ash-closets and privy middens, 53 are in such a situation that it is impossible to connect them with a sewer, while 6 are part of slum properties which we hope will be demolished within the next few years.

Atmospheric Pollution

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 relating mainly to smoke control areas, requirements regarding new furnaces and colliery spoil banks were brought into operation on 31st December, 1956, the remainder of the provisions becoming operative on 1st June, 1958.

Until all miners' concessionary coal is of the smokeless variety I am afraid the problem of pollution from domestic chimneys will remain with us while the effects of industrial atmospheric pollution in this area will always be accentuated by the fact that the town's major industry is unfortunately to the windward side of the town centre. By regulation, the Minister of Housing and Local Government has now extended the list of works subject to control under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906. This extended list now includes iron and steel works, gas and coke works and ceramic works, and certain electricity works with the result that after 1st June, 1958 virtually all forms of air pollution from premises controlled under the Alkali Act will be subject to control under that Act by the Alkali inspectorate.

The recording of atmospheric pollution in various parts of the district was continued throughout the Area. In the case of the four deposit gauges we now have records for the last four consecutive years and for the last three years in the case of the sulphur dioxide gauges.

The close and friendly contact and co-operation between the Department and the representatives of The Consett Iron Company has continued as before.

Prevention of Damage by Pests

During the year 813 inspections were made to private dwellings, business premises, Local Authority's properties and agricultural premises. (See Appendix D).

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in May, 95 manholes were pre-baited and poisoned, and 36 were found to be infested. In the October treatment, 238 manholes were treated and 52 were found to be infested.

Treatments to sewage disposal works and pump houses were also carried out during the second treatment to the sewers and minor infestations were found at three sewage works. (See Appendix E.).

Twenty-two foodshops and food preparation rooms and schools were dealt with because of rat and mice infestations. Where necessary owners were asked to carry out works of repair and rat-proofing to their premises. Eighty-eight private dwellings received treatment for the eradication of these pests.

Disinfestation

Seventy-one houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs, insects, beetles, etc.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year, two licences for the keeping of pet animals were issued and three routine inspections were carried out.

In order to avoid unnecessary distress to animals sold from pet shops resulting from ignorance on the part of the purchaser, the Council made it a condition of issue of a licence that the proprietors of pet shops should also issue leaflets dealing with the feeding, care and management of each animal sold.

(b) HOUSING AND FACTORIES

(i) General

During the year, the following Council houses were erected:—

Locality	Two Bedroomed	Three Bedroomed	Aged Persons (Two Bedroomed)	Total
Delves Lane	6	36	—	42
Moorside	—	41	10	51
Ebchester	7	30	—	37
	13	107	10	130

In addition, certificates of completion were issued in relation to 58 private houses.

Since the war a total of 2,115 houses have been completed in the district:—

	Council Houses	Private
1946	58	10
1947	238	16
1948	268	29
1949	195	12
1950	134	13
1951	109	12
1952	116	12
1953	146	29
1954	170	35
1955	136	35
1956	107	47
1957	130	58
	<u>1,807</u>	<u>308</u>

(ii) Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants as provided for by Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 were brought into force on 1st January, 1955 and 66 applications have been approved since the inception of the scheme. Forty-two of these have been completed and the properties brought up to the necessary standard.

(iii) Medical Priority for Re-housing

The Council's practice of allocating a number of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases has continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of this allocation was granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances who had, in addition, one or more members suffering from Tuberculosis. This year seven such families were re-housed.

(iv) **Houses Unfit for Human Habitation**

Individual

One hundred and fifty eight individual demolition orders and 4 closing orders were made, the majority of these being at Hamsterley Colliery. From these, by the end of the year, 48 families had been re-housed and demolition works are proceeding.

Clearance Areas

All the tenants in the Chapel Street—Walton's Row, Blackhill, area which was dealt with by Compulsory Purchase (10 houses) have now been re-housed and tenders have been invited to have these houses demolished.

The inclusion of fourteen houses at Messenger Bank and Wood Street, Shotley Bridge in a Clearance Area was confirmed by the Minister. Detailed surveys and inspections have also been carried out for a further 19 houses at Wood Street in order to deal with them in a similar way, and proposals have now been submitted to and approved by the Council.

Fifteen houses at East View, Templetown, were scheduled as a Clearance Area, the houses have been seen by the Ministry Inspector and Ministry approval with modification has now been received.

Thus a total of 39 houses had been included in Ministry approved Clearance Areas by the end of the year. Nineteen houses in Clearance Areas however are still awaiting Ministry approval.

The total number of families rehoused by this Authority in 1957 under Slum Clearance, Demolition Orders and Closing Orders was 79.

(v) **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	164
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,260
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	76
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	150

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 ..	39
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(i) Proceedings under the appropriate sections of the 1936 and 1957 Housing Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(iii) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	158
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	60
(3) Number of houses made fit as the result of Undertakings	1
(iv) Proceedings under the appropriate sections of the 1936 and 1957 Housing Acts:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(v) Number of houses closed by Informal Action	Nil

(vi) **Disrepair Certificates—Rent Act, 1957**

After notice of increase of rent, seven tenants served Form G certificate upon their landlords specifying defects existing in their houses. Three of these landlords had not after six weeks given any undertaking in the statutory form to remedy these defects and applications were therefore received from the tenants for disrepair certificates. Form J certificate was then served upon the landlords but as no works were carried out in the required period of time, disrepair certificates were served. One landlord carried out works of repair to two of his houses within three weeks of the service of Form J certificate.

In the remaining two houses, the landlord gave this Authority an undertaking to carry out the works and these have now practically all been completed.

Factories

One hundred and four visits were made to factories in which persons were employed. (See Appendix F).

Outworkers. Only one person (altering wearing apparel) was notified as being an outworker.

(c) GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Analysis of inspections and notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts:—

	Inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served	No. of STATUTORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing:				
Public Health and Housing Acts ..	1,260	248	—	169
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Defective	60	22	—	15
Water Supply and Samples	10	2	—	—
Food Premises:				
Ice Cream Vehicles	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream Samples and Retailers ..	33	5	—	5
Grocer/General Dealers	184	12	—	9
Confectioners	36	5	—	5
Food Manufacturing Premises (Section 14)	201	33	—	22
Bakehouses	41	3	—	3
Greenfruit	31	3	—	3
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	38	5	—	3
Catering Establishments	31	2	—	2
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses ..	7	—	—	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers	39	4	—	4
Miscellaneous	16	—	—	—
Market:				
Food Stalls	160	4	—	4
Fruiterers	80	—	—	—
Drainage	180	75	—	60
Private Slaughterhouses	2,361	22	—	22
Tents, Vans, Sheds	67	6	—	4
Factories and Workplaces	104	4	—	3
Keeping of Animals	18	3	—	3
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ..	280	265	—	262
Smoke Nuisances	37	6	—	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act ..	813	147	—	147
Cinemas	1	—	—	—
Pet Stores	3	1	—	1
Petroleum and Carbide	12	1	—	1
Miscellaneous	139	33	—	33
Interviews	72	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	9	—	—	—
Marine Stores	3	—	—	—
Shops Act	5	—	—	—
Deposit Gauges	147	—	—	—
Totals	6,479	911	—	782

(d) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) General

Inspection of the 375 premises (food preparation rooms, shops, cafes and public houses) was severely curtailed due to the depletion in staff of Public Health Inspectors. Attention was mainly devoted to premises where food is prepared while meat inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption was also considered one of the priorities.

One bakehouse which required extensive alterations and modernisation was voluntarily closed. A general dealer occupying a wooden shop and selling open foodstuffs could not comply with the regulations and after many interviews and warnings, decided to dispose of his business and close the shop.

In all, 658 visits were made and Appendix G shows the various types of food establishments visited and the circumstances found which warranted notices being served on the owner or occupier to conform with the appropriate Acts and Byelaws.

Two cases of food being sold in contravention of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (not of the nature, substance or quality of the food demanded by the purchaser) were referred to the Food and Drugs Department at Durham County Council and legal proceedings were instituted at Consett Magistrates Court. In both cases the defendants being found guilty and fines imposed.

(ii) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1957:—

Distributors	81
----------------------	----

(iii) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review:—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" with regard to raw milk	3
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	2

(iv) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review:—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	44
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	47
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)"	34
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "T.T. (Pasteurised)"	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	1

(v) **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

Routine inspections (659) were carried out at all premises used for the manufacture, sale and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act:—

Ice Cream manufacture	8
Ice Cream Sale and Storage	129
Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Food ..	36
Preparation or Manufacture of Fish and Potatoes	16

In addition there are the following premises:

Bakehouses	12
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	19
Shops:—	
General Dealers	93
Grocers	40
Green Fruit	29
Confectionery	30
Wet Fish Shops	7
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	17
Licensed Premises (Hotels, Public Houses, Inns)	73
Miscellaneous	2

Appendix G gives the number of notices served and the defects remedied.

(vi) **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948**

All premises used for the manufacture and storage of ice cream were regularly inspected and a very high standard of hygiene has been maintained. Periodic sampling provided the following satisfactory results.

Ice Cream Sample Results:—

	No. of Samples
Grade I	28
Grade II	1
Grade III	3
Grade IV	1
Total	33

(vii) **Meat and Other Foods**

SLAUGHTERHOUSES—Ten privately owned slaughterhouses situated at Consett, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge, have been in constant use throughout the year. Two thousand three hundred and sixty one visits have been made for post mortem and ante mortem inspection and 100% inspection of all dressed carcasses was obtained. Details of carcasses and their organs which were condemned are given in Appendix H.

Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposal is arranged by a by-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

Plans and application were received from a butcher to build an abattoir within this district and these were submitted to the Town and Country Planning Authority at Durham and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for their approval. Consultations with the Architect and owner were made in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as laid down in their "recommended minimum standards for the construction and layout and equipment of slaughterhouses in England and Wales for the purposes of securing humane slaughtering and hygienic conditions". This slaughterhouse is now nearing completion and has a floor area of 5,000 sq. ft. containing all the necessary equipment and requirements.

Byelaws for the "Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses" came into force on 18th March, 1957 and this was brought to the attention of all the owners of slaughterhouses; reconstruction of drainage was carried out at one slaughterhouse, modification of the electric lighting systems and the cleansing of wall surfaces are some of the main defects which have been rectified.

FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME—It was not possible for the Public Health Inspectors to carry on grading pigs under this scheme due once again to staffing difficulties and the Ministry were notified of the Council's decision in June. One hundred and twenty five pigs were graded during the first part of the year.

Altogether 7,711 animals were slaughtered during the year.

	Animals slaughtered from Collecting Centres	Animals slaughtered as Casualties
Bulls	—	—
Bullocks	450	—
Cows	25	1
Heifers	945	1
Calves	21	3
Sheep	3,439	31
Pigs	2,793	2
Totals	7,673	38

Food found to be unfit for human consumption:—

412 tins Fruit	18 tins Pudding
306 " Vegetables	10 jars Sandwich Paste
274 " Tomatoes	3 jars Jam
223 " Meat	2 tins Fruit Juice
162 " Fish	2 bottles Sauce
93 " Milk	1 tin Syrup
89 " Ham	1 box Dried Fruit
37 " Soup	

The total weight condemned was 1 ton 3 cwt.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Amendment Act, 1954

There were 39 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

Market Square

Saturday is the main trading day with some 30 stalls in use. A green-grocery, grocery and baker's van are trading every day, but at the time of writing this report, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have approved the Council's resolution enabling them to operate the market on two days a week only, namely, Friday and Saturday.

(e) PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 1,098 cases of notifiable diseases during the year as compared with 242 in 1956. The difference in these figures being due to an epidemic of measles which occurred during the second quarter of 1957.

For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newcastle General Hospital.

All specimens for animal inoculation are sent to the laboratory attached to the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The service of the Public Health Laboratory has continued to be used extensively by General Practitioners.

Year	Specimens Submitted	Positive
1947	111	32
1948	54	18
1949	71	14
1950	99	35
1951	64	22
1952	431	83
1953	1,325	484
1954	773	175
1955	589	81
1956	584	83
1957	433	21

The following tables gives particulars of specimens sent in by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the Area for examination during the year. It is significant that over the last few years there has been a change in interest and emphasis from throat infections to gastro-intestinal infections.

Bacteriological Examinations.

	Number of Specimens Submitted	Positive
Faeces :		
(a) Enteric Fever }	22	—
(b) Dysentery }		—
(c) Food Poisoning }		3
(d) Other Organisms }		—
Swabs (Throat Nasal and Ear) :		
(a) Diphtheria }	—	—
(b) Haemolytic Streptococci }	—	—
(c) Other Organisms }	—	—
Sputum for Tuberculosis	368	18
Water	8	—
Ice Cream	33	—
Miscellaneous	2	—
Totals	433	21

Communicable Diseases in Hospitals

Each Consultant has been designated Medical Officer for his own Department so far as the control of infection is concerned, and the Medical Advisory Committee acts as the Control of Infection Committee.

During the year all infectious diseases needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases reported during the year 1957

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year:—

Diseases	Total Number of Cases Notified	Total Number of Cases Confirmed	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	41	41	—	—
Whooping Cough	45	45	—	—
Measles	997	997	1	—
Pneumonia	2	2	—	—*
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	10	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	—	—
	1,098	1,098	1	—

* Notified Cases.

Scarlet Fever. There were 41 cases notified compared with 6 last year. The infections were mild in type, none were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Measles. An outbreak of measles occurred first becoming evident at the end of March and reaching its peak towards the end of April with only small numbers being notified in June. In all there were 997 cases notified, the majority in the 3—7 year age group (see Appendix B.). There were no deaths from this disease.

Whooping Cough. Forty-five cases were notified throughout the Area. The use of whooping cough vaccine either alone or combined with diphtheria antigen has now been proved to be of value in the protection of the very young infants with the result that immunisation against this disease is becoming more and more popular. At the time of writing this report, the County Council have agreed to provide both whooping cough vaccine and combined diphtheria-whooping cough antigen under the Council's arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.

Poliomyelitis. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year and an opportunity was taken to vaccinate as many as possible of those eligible as and when vaccine was delivered. Unfortunately the original scheme was considerably hampered by the irregularity and uncertainty of the supply of vaccine but now that large quantities of salk vaccine from America and Canada have been ordered and some already delivered, it is hoped that the programme should run much more smoothly. During the year 1,171 children received a complete course of injections and 390 received 1 injection.

There are many questions in connection with immunisation by killed vaccine which remain to be answered and for which only time can supply the solution. How long for example does immunity last? How frequently must booster doses be given, if at all? In spite of these uncertainties however it can be fairly claimed that such immunisation has provided a protective effect so far for the first year or two following inoculation. Vaccines when subjected to rigorous safety tests have proved to be safe and have not caused undue reactions. It would appear therefore that if a large enough proportion of the susceptible childhood population becomes adequately protected, great changes are to be expected in the epidemiology of the disease and the present pattern of infection and natural immunity may be permanently altered with possible further shift of incidence to the older age groups. Nevertheless with large numbers protected one would expect a limitation in the number of cases and rate of spread to the non-immune. The object of the Ministry of Health is to have as many as possible of the susceptible population immunised and with a little luck all those between the ages of six months and 15 years whose parents have consented should have had a complete course of primary injections before the autumn of 1958.

Food Poisoning. During the year only three cases of food poisoning were notified, the first being an isolated case which occurred during the second quarter and was probably due to *Clostridium Welchii*. The source of this infection was never traced and while none of the family contacts were infected, one was a food handler and was transferred

temporarily to purely supervisory duties. The second and third cases occurred in the third quarter. Both of these were members of the same family unit and the responsible organism was *Salmonella Thompson*. Again no infected foodstuff was discovered. All were treated at home and recovered from the disease fairly rapidly.

Influenza. A wave of influenza spread across parts of the country during the year, first appearing as far as this area is concerned in Stanley Urban District and then very rapidly afterwards in both Lanchester Rural and Consett Urban Districts at the beginning of October. Sickness benefit claims rose rapidly, absenteeism in the various factories and works ranging from 3.5 to 20.0%. While affecting all ages of the population, the vast majority of those falling ill appeared to have been school-children with an absentee rate of 30—40% at the various schools. Specimens of blood and pharyngeal swabs were taken from the first cases occurring in the district and sent to the Public Health Laboratory. The disease was of a relatively mild nature but with sudden onset and severe malaise, sore throat, headache and aching in limbs, the majority taking to their beds but feeling fit enough to get up within two to three days. Convalescent serum showed a considerable increase in titre to influenza "A" antigen, thus indicating the cause of the infection. Vaccine was made available for General Practitioners, Health Visitors, Midwives, District Nurses, Ambulance Personnel and Home Helps but since the epidemic was practically over by this stage, only a limited number took advantage of the offer. There were seven deaths from influenza during the year.

Diphtheria. No cases of this disease were notified. The last case in the district occurred in 1952 and the last death in 1943. It is, however, still important to ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. Unfortunately the percentage of those immunised under one year is low. At the end of 1957 only 45.1% of children under five years of age had received the necessary injections within the last four years and only 16.9% of school children could be considered to have adequate immunity. The accumulating numbers of susceptibles will therefore be exposed to considerable risk should an epidemic occur.

The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows:—

Primary Injections	..	..	..	..	..	328
Boosters	..	..	..	..	..	167

Number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria since 1937 are as follows:—

	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1937	180	15
1938	154	14
1939	73	11
1940	10	3
1941	18	1

	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1942	18	2
1943	29	2
1944	33	—
1945	13	—
1946	14	—
1947	1	—
1948	2	—
1949	1	—
1950	—	—
1951	—	—
1952	1	—
1953-1957	—	—

Tuberculosis. Thirty new cases were notified during the year—an indication that while the size of the reservoir of infection is diminishing, highly infectious cases are still abroad in the community. The importance of prevention with early diagnosis and treatment is therefore as essential to-day as ever it was. Indeed, with the smaller incidence of tuberculosis, well tried public health measures adopted in the prevention of spread of infectious diseases generally, come into their own and early diagnosis becomes even more important now that chemotherapy and other remedial methods are so readily available.

Four deaths occurred, 1 female and 3 males, their ages at the time of death being 62, 49, 51 and 57 years. Two died within two weeks of notification both being advanced cases of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, the third also a chronic case, had refused adequate treatment on two occasions.

All the milk retailed in the area is now either heat treated in such a way that the tubercle bacilli are killed, or comes from herds that are free from this infection.

1. Statistics

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a) No. of new cases notified during the year:—			
Males	10	4	14
Females	14	2	16
Totals	24	6	30
(b) No. of deaths registered:—			
Males	3	—	3
Females	1	—	1
Totals	4	—	4
(c) No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register:—			
Males	189	96	285
Females	208	80	288
Totals	397	176	573

Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows:—

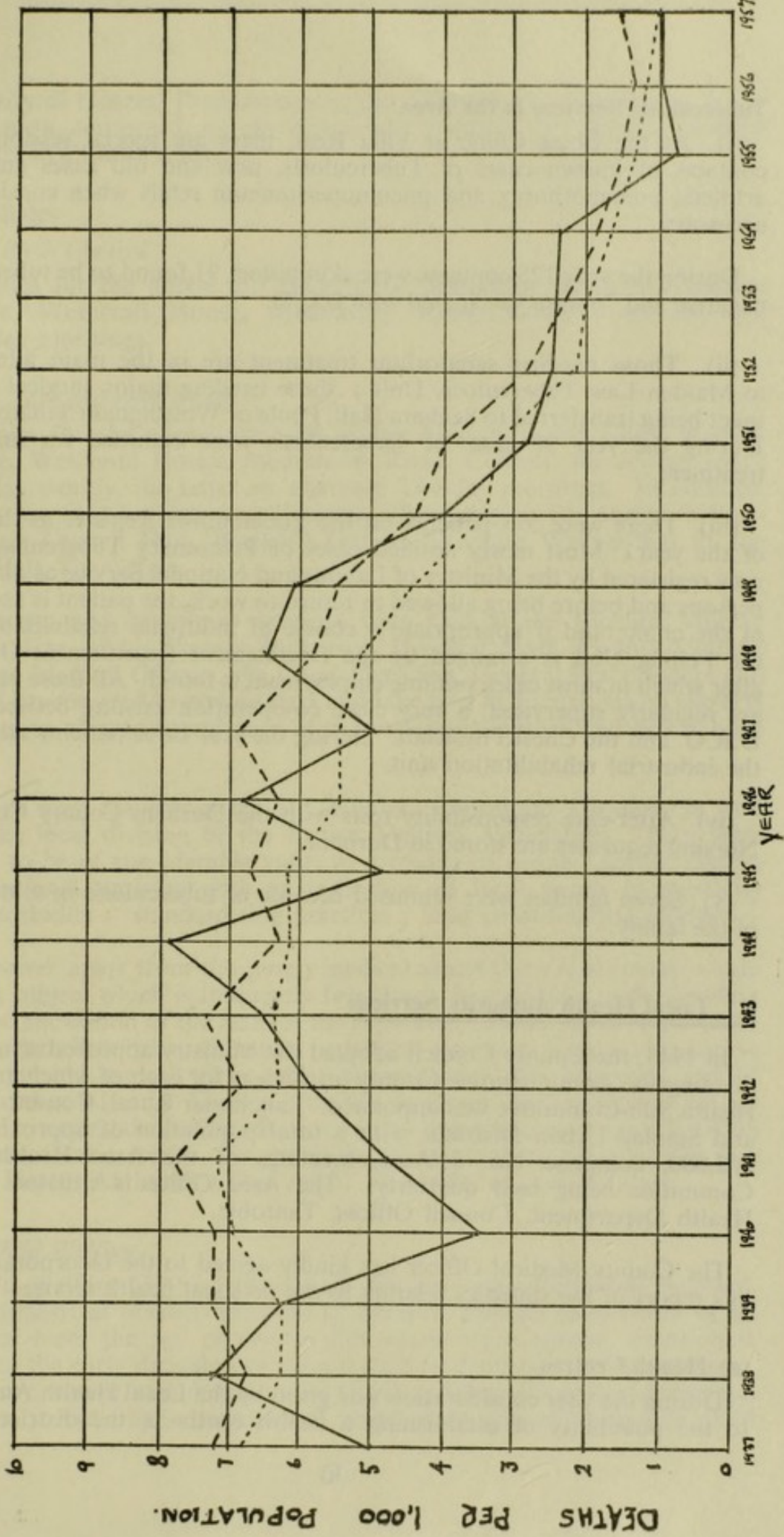
Age Period	CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
16-20	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
46-50	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
51-55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
56-60	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
61-65	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
66-70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71-75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76-80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	14	4	2	3	1	—	—
Totals ..	24		6		4		—	
	30				4			

Cases and Deaths since 1937.

Year	No. of Notifications	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Sanatoria Admissions
1937	53	1.4	15	.51	
1938	49	1.3	27	.72	
1939	49	1.3	23	.66	
1940	39	1.0	13	.43	
1941	39	1.0	18	.51	
1942	39	1.0	12	.58	
1943	43	1.2	24	.67	
1944	77	2.1	18	.79	
1945	54	1.5	28	.48	
1946	47	1.2	17	.68	
1947	59	1.5	20	.50	
1948	72	1.8	22	.66	
1949	49	1.2	25	.61	
1950	91	2.3	11	.40	
1951	76	1.9	11	.28	
1952	47	1.2	10	.25	34
1953	40	1.0	10	.25	42
1954	38	0.97	10	.25	37
1955	26	0.67	3	.07	34
1956	34	0.87	4	.10	34
1957	30	0.77	4	.10	30

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY RATES 1937-1957

CONSETT U.D.C. ———
 DURHAM COUNTY - - - -
 ENGLAND & WALES ·····



Tuberculosis Services in the Area

(i) At the Chest Clinic at Villa Real, there are special sessions for contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis, new and old cases and for artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum refills when considered necessary.

During the year 125 contacts were skin tested, 91 found to be tuberculin negative and 76 were vaccinated with B.C.G.

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are in the main admitted to Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit ; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole or Wolsingham Sanatorium. During the year 30 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for hospital treatment.

(iii) There were 573 patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year. Most newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are now registered by the Ministry of Labour and National Service as disabled persons and before being allowed to return to work, the patient is assessed at the clinic, and if appropriate a course of industrial rehabilitation at the Felling Unit is arranged by the Disablement Resettlement Officer, after which in most cases suitable employment is found. All these patients are regularly supervised, a very close co-operation existing between the D.R.O. and the Chest Physician. During the year three patients attended the industrial rehabilitation unit.

(iv) After-care responsibility rests with the Durham County Council. Nursing requisites are stored in Durham.

(v) Seven families were rehoused because of tuberculosis in a member of the family.

B. Local Health Authority Services

In 1948, the County Council adopted the Ministry approved scheme of dividing the Administrative County into Areas for each of which an Area Health Sub-Committee was appointed. Lanchester Rural, Consett Urban and Stanley Urban Districts, with a total population of approximately 102,000, comprise No. 3 Area, meetings of the Area Health Sub-Committee being held quarterly. The Area Office is situated at the Health Department, Council Offices, Tantobie.

The County Medical Officer has kindly agreed to the incorporation in this report of the statistics relating to the personal health services.

(a) Health Centres

During the year consideration was given by the Local Health Authority to the possibility of establishing a health centre in the district. The

majority of General Practitioners in the Area felt however that as far as they were concerned no provision was required for general medical services in a health centre.

(b) Clinics

(i) *Birth Control*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Tuesday mornings.

(ii) *Ante and Post-Natal*

Clinics for the above are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, the former every Tuesday weekly, the latter on alternate Tuesday mornings. In addition clinics are held on alternate Thursday afternoons at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, Blackhill and on alternate Wednesdays at the W.I. Hall, The Grove.

Separate and combined meetings were held at the Richard Murray Hospital to which County Midwives, Hospital Staff, County Council Welfare Medical Officers, the Chest Physician, General Practitioners and myself were invited to present data and take part in discussions on subjects relating to obstetrics and care of the expectant mother and newly born child.

These were sponsored by Mr. Hunter, Consultant Obstetrician and also the local division of the British Medical Association. They were found to be of considerable value as a means of giving relevant district and national statistics with an indication of local trends in mortality and morbidity ; standardising practices ; and co-ordinating services.

However apart from the purely medical aspect there is of course a side to this subject which is frequently forgotten. Sympathetic understanding and the alleviation of the fears of the expectant mother, particularly those having their first baby, education in general nutrition, hygiene, the course of labour and gas and air or trilene analgesia are all a necessary part of good ante-natal care. Thus, if hospitals or family doctors themselves are unable to undertake health education or to organise classes for relaxation and ante-natal exercises, the possibility of undertaking this centrally at a Local Health Authority Clinic might be worthy of consideration.

(iii) *Child Welfare*

Child Welfare Clinics have a dual medical and educational function, the emphasis at present being on (i) periodic medical supervision of all children from the age of one to five years, when special attention is given to the early detection of defects such as deafness, speech problems, spasticity, squint and dental caries ; (ii) prophylaxis against infectious diseases ; and (iii) individual and group education of parents in child

care. Included in this health education programme is accident prevention, advice on behaviour difficulties with special consideration given to premature babies, illegitimate, deprived or neglected infants and members of problem families. These services should supplement and not replace the General Practitioners' Service.

Clinics are held as follows:—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Fridays all day.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL, THE GROVE, CONSETT—Alternate Wednesdays.

(iv) *Artificial Sunlight*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons weekly.

(v) *Immunisation and Vaccination*

This has been carried out at:—

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics throughout the Area and
- (b) By General Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents.

When a child reaches the age of three months propaganda material is sent through the post to all parents. Details of facilities together with consent forms for smallpox vaccination and diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation are enclosed with this literature. When a child reaches the age of twelve months and 4 years 9 months, further propaganda pamphlets regarding diphtheria immunisation are sent.

Particulars of Immunisation and Vaccination during 1957.

	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination
	Primary	Booster	
General Practitioners	270	131	201
Local Health Authority Clinics ..	58	36	50
Total	328	167	251

(vi) *School Clinic*

Separate accommodation is set aside in Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, for this clinic. It is open daily and is attended on Tuesdays and Fridays by the full-time Medical Officer who also carries out the routine medical inspections of children at the schools in the Urban District.

(c) Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services

(i) Midwifery

During the year 661 live and still births were assigned to the Area, 49% occurred in hospital and 51% at home, 20 cases of the latter being delivered in the presence of a doctor. There was one maternal death—a 33 years old married lady who died due to accidental haemorrhage while giving birth to her second child—17 stillbirths and 8 deaths in the first week of life.

Of the six County Midwives carrying out domiciliary midwifery in the district, 4 own cars which they are authorised to use in the course of their official duties. All are trained in the use of and possess apparatus for gas and air analgesia. Thirty nine per cent of domiciliary cases were given gas and air analgesia.

(ii) Domiciliary Nursing

Six nurses made a total of 16,196 home visits during the year, 10,023 (61.2%) of which were made to patients over the age of 65 years. Since these aged people usually require general care and general toilet, the time spent at each visit is frequently much longer than at the homes of younger patients and obviously with an ageing population, the case loads are going to become heavier even if the minimum attention is being given to ensure comfort. The following is an analysis of these visits and the types of cases nursed.

	AGE GROUPS			CLASSIFICATION						
	0—5 yrs.	5—65 yrs.	65+ yrs.	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Complica- tions	Injections only	Others
New Cases	7	183	227	228	173	1	15	—	—	—
Visits	88	6,085	10,023	9,896	4,929	30	1,109	—	2,310	232

(d) Health Visitor Service

There are five Health Visitors in the Consett Urban District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year:—

Maternity and Child Welfare	8,262
Tuberculosis	1,145
Mental Deficiency	319
Schools	600
General Health	11
Aged People	156

(e) Ambulance Service

The Urban District is served by the County Ambulance Depot situated at Villa Real, Consett. The establishment of personnel and vehicles at this depot is as follows:—

Driver Attendants	18
Ambulances	6

The depot comes within the area served by the Consett Ambulance Control which has a staff of four clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken in the Consett area during the year 1957:—

Journeys Undertaken	Cases carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
4,716	4,055	17,317	21,372	145,328

It should be noted that the conveyance of cases actually resident in the Urban District is not restricted to the Consett Depot but planned reorganisation of this service is now being implemented with the introduction of radio control. Requests for ambulances are made to the Stanley Messenger Receiving Centre (Tel. No. STANLEY 570).

(f) Prevention of Illness—Care and Aftercare

There are no voluntary District Care Committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the home nurse if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

(g) Domestic Help Service

This service has been used even more extensively during the year than previously.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household.

At the beginning of January, 1957, 248 cases in this district were being served by a Home Help. There were 54 new cases during the year and of the total of 302 receiving the service, 278 (92%) were old age pensioners; 20 were suffering from sickness; and there were 4 maternity cases.

This service together with the Home Nursing Service is probably of most benefit to the aged person, for either alone or together these services allow old people to remain longer in their own homes among familiar faces and places and delay their admission to hostels and hospitals.

(h) **Mental Health Services**

After attending a course at the Psychiatric Clinic, Newcastle General Hospital, and Durham University, preceded and followed by periods of observation, your Medical Officer was approved by the County Council Mental Health Sub-Committee for the purpose of giving certificates under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Occupation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children

A wing of the former I.D. Hospital at Villa Real converted in June, 1953, has continued to be used for mentally defective children excluded from school under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. Eleven boys up to the age of 15 and 12 girls up to the age of 21 from the North West of Durham travel daily to this centre. The Education Department have arranged from the onset provision of school meals and free milk to these pupils. From September, 1956, a special bus commenced to collect pupils each morning and return them to their home each afternoon.

This centre by relieving parents of continuous strain and by teaching discipline, sense of social responsibility and elementary training in good habits, social behaviour, handicrafts such as rug-making and needlework and road safety, provides a very valuable service to the community.

(i) **Local Health Authority Hostel Accommodation**

Admissions of those needing care and attention to local health authority hostels are arranged directly with the Welfare Department at Durham or after reference to the District Health Departments—up-to-date waiting list for this accommodation being held locally.

During the year five old people were admitted, one to each of the following hostels—Stanley, Lanchester, Chester-le-Street, Stanhope and Sedgfield. This unfortunate scattering should be avoided however once the Consett Hostel now in the course of construction has been completed. Many more than those actually admitted were also referred to the Department, but by means of visits, provision of home helps and home nursing facilities, many were able to continue in their own homes, indeed, it was frequently only when grave illness and constant nursing attention was necessary that they had to be removed. Quite often old people are reluctant to go to hospital even though apparently everyone but themselves realises that this is the only course open to them. Four such people (ages 77, 78, 81 and 87 years) were however persuaded to go voluntarily and the powers of compulsory admission and detention were not used.

C. Hospital and General Practitioners' Services in the Area

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.

Maiden Law Hospital

At 31st December, 1957, the following number of beds were available:—

Ear, Nose and Throat	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis)	84
Total	<u>108</u>

Lee Hill Hospital

This Hospital, with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows:—

Orthopaedic	28
Mental	44
Chronic Sick	173
Part III Accommodation	62
Total	<u>307</u>

Shotley Bridge General Hospital

Out-patients facilities for all the Specialities exist at this Hospital. The 533 beds are allocated as follows:—

Surgical	121
Medical	98
Gynaecological	43
Orthopaedic	45
Paediatrics	4
Thoracic Surgery	114
Radiotherapy	50
Plastic Surgery	58
Total	<u>533</u>

Richard Murray Hospital

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

Patients in the Area suffering from infectious diseases were admitted to the Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Chest Clinic, Villa Real

This clinic, operating from the converted wing of the old Infectious Diseases Hospital, provides a full chest clinic service including screening, refills, B.C.G. vaccination and resettlement sessions as follows:—

Tuesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Wednesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Wednesday afternoons—2 p.m. each week

Friday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Friday afternoons—2 p.m. each week

Contacts of known cases of T.B.
—Males.
Artificial Pneumo-thorax and
Pneumo-peritoneum refill.
Females.
Children up to 16 years of age
and B.C.G. Vaccination.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by Clinics outside the Area as follows:—

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.
Males and Females:—

Monday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon ; 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday (Emergency only): 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Females: Monday and Thursday: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Males: Monday and Thursday: 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

5. Executive Council Service

There are 18 general medical practitioners (8 being in a group practice), 7 chemists and 8 dentists operating in the urban district.

III. ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, ETC., 1957.

The Surveyor and Engineer has kindly provided me with the following information:—

Month (1957)	Rainfall in ins.		No. of days rain fell		Heaviest Daily Fall	
	West- wood	Crook- hall	West- wood	Crook- hall	Ins.	Date
January	1.94	1.99	21	20	.38	31st
February	2.53	2.57	15	13	.65	13th
March	1.35	1.42	16	14	.16	6th
April .. ..	.35	.34	7	7	.14	21st
May	1.83	1.78	12	12	.54	11th
June	1.67	1.56	12	12	.63	30th
July	3.14	3.89	19	18	.76	12th
August	4.43	4.97	16	16	1.10	15th
September	3.18	3.49	18	17	.78	22nd
October	1.94	1.73	15	15	.57	29th
November	1.96	2.20	11	12	.64	4th
December	2.60	2.03	11	12	.96	10th
	26.92	27.97	173	168	—	—

The heaviest daily rainfall of 1957 was on 15th August, when 1.10 inches of rain fell, and the wettest month was August when 4.97 inches of rain fell. The driest month was April with .34 inches.

APPENDIX A

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infan- tile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Deaths	Neo- Natal Death Rate	No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.										Tuber- culosis							
										Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myeli- tis	Dysen- tery	Enteric	Food Poisoning	Pul.	Non Pul.								
1937	37,280	448	12.0	677	18.1	48	70.9	—	—	147	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	29
1938	37,340	435	11.5	670	17.9	36	53.7	—	—	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	26
1939	37,420	453	12.1	705	18.8	51	72.3	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	14
1940	37,040	469	12.6	676	18.2	40	59.1	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	14
1941	37,040	409	11.0	639	17.2	42	66.9	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	13
1942	36,210	433	11.9	671	18.5	40	59.6	—	—	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	22
1943	35,320	432	12.2	602	17.0	28	46.5	—	—	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	12
1944	35,050	434	12.0	732	20.8	32	43.0	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	32
1945	35,310	435	12.3	694	19.6	34	48.9	—	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	20
1946	36,760	415	11.2	751	20.4	30	39.5	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	14
1947	37,040	415	11.2	780	21.0	28	35.8	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	16
1948	38,820	417	10.7	737	18.9	41	55.6	—	—	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	19
1949	38,900	463	11.9	708	18.2	29	40.9	—	—	111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	9
1950	39,130	482	12.3	684	17.4	30	43.8	17	24.01	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	12
1951	39,020	435	11.1	659	16.8	23	34.9	15	23.39	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	9
1952	38,840	427	10.9	647	16.6	17	26.2	17	25.79	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	12
1953	38,740	413	10.6	650	16.7	20	30.76	10	15.45	61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	14
1954	38,830	477	12.2	587	15.1	19	32.3	10	15.38	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	8
1955	38,770	419	10.8	627	16.1	19	30.3	11	18.7	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	8
1956	38,770	430	11.0	596	15.3	18	30.2	12	19.1	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	11
1957	38,780	436	11.2	644	16.6	14	21.7	11	21.8	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	5
									17.0	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	5
										41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	6

APPENDIX B

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Name of Disease	Under 1 Year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and Over		Age not Known		Totals		
	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	
Scarlet Fever					1	1	2	2	1	1	6	6	22	22	8	8	1	1											41	41	
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	2	2	7	7	11	11	6	6	10	10	7	7																45	45
Measles ..	31	31	77	77	121	121	155	155	162	162	230	230	209	209	7	7	1	1	1	3	3	1	1					997	997		
Pneumonia													1	1								1	1					2	2		
Food Poisoning																				1	—	—	1			2	2		3	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia																		1	1	8	8	1	1					10	10		
Totals ..	33	33	79	79	129	129	168	168	169	169	246	246	239	239	15	15	3	3	3	12	11	3	4		2	2	1098	1098			

APPENDIX C

DETAILS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

Location of Sewage Disposal Works	Type of Treatment	Area Drained	No. of Properties Draining to Works (approx.)		Population (Approx.) for which Designed	Existing Population (Approx.)
			Houses	Bldgs.		
Westwood	Percolating Filter Treatment	Grove, Moorside, Consett ; part of Castleside (Lanchester R.D.C.) ; Blackhill, Derwent Cottages, Medomsley, Shotley Bridge, Ebchester Allendale and Hamsterley Colliery.	8,096	293	28,700	26,680
Crookhall	do.	Part of Consett, Crookhall, part of Leadgate	1,486	43	5,500	4,893
Pont Burn	do.	Part of Leadgate, Bradley Cottages, Pont	1,369	32	4,550	4,517
Knitsley	do.	Delves, Knitsley and part of Templetown	824	9	1,500	2,706

APPENDIX D

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
I. No. of Properties in Local Authority's District	35	11,559	32	1,588	13,214
II. No. of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1957, as a result of:—					
(a) Notification ..	8	73	—	34	115
(b) Otherwise ..	27	223	15	163	428
III. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	7	58	—	18	83
IV. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	8	30	—	17	55
V. No. of Infested Properties (under III and IV) treated by Local Authority ..	15	88	—	35	138
VI. No. of informal notices served under Section 4:—					
(1) Treatment ..	—	16	—	5	21
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing) ..	8	39	—	21	68
VII. No. of visits made by Local Authority during treatment and inspection of Properties	75	422	15	301	813

APPENDIX E
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS

Date of Sewer Campaign	No. of Manholes treated	Showing Signs of infestation	No. infestation
May, 1957	95	36	59
October, 1957	238	52	186
Test-baiting	—	—	—
Sewage Works and Buildings treated in conjunction with Sewer Campaign		Showing signs of infestation	
October, 1957			
Pont		Minor	
Knitsley		Minor	
Crookhall		—	
Ebchester		Minor	
Hamsterley Pump House		—	

APPENDIX F
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	21	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	100	102	4	Nil
Total	121	104	4	Nil

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences: Unsuitable or Defective	4	3	—	2	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	Nil	2	Nil

APPENDIX G

Premises	Structural		Cleansing and Re-decoration		Water Closets		W.C. Notices		Lack of Refuse Containers		Drainage		Wash-up Sinks		Wash-hand Basins		Towels, Nailbrush and Soap		Clothing Accommodation		First Aid Equipment		Smoking		Constant Hot Water		Food Exposure		Other Defects		Visits
	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A			
Bakehouses			2	2																							1	1			41
Food Manufacturers	5	4	6	5					1		1	1	3	2	1	1				3	2	3		2	2		4	4			201
Fried Fish Shops and West Fish Shops			1	1											1	1										1				38	
Ice Cream Manufacturers			3	3																										39	
Caterers and Snack Bars	1	1	1	1																										31	
Grocers and General Dealers			2	2				1	1	2	2														1	1	4	3	2	1	184
Confectioners	1	1																												36	
Greengrocers									1	1	1																1	1		31	
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses																														7	
Total	7	6	15	14	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	—	3	2	3	—	3	3	7	4	13	11	3	1	608

•S—Notices Served

A—Notices Abated

Notices Served 67

Defects Remedied 51

APPENDIX H

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	1,396	26	24	3,470	2,795	—
No. Inspected	1,396	26	24	3,470	2,795	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	—	—	3	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was Condemned ..	183	—	—	12	22	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci ..	13.10	—	—	.43	1.0	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcasses Condemned ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	46	—	—	—	38	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.36	—	—	—	1.35	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

