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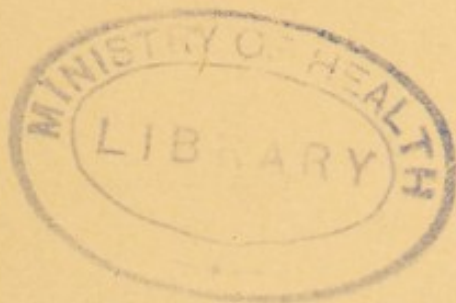
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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1953.

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From 1st October, 1953)—(Also Medical Officer of Health Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, Assistant County Medical Officer County Durham).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS ALICE BARRASS, Shorthand Typist—(Resigned August, 1953).

MISS J. M. CLARK (Appointed August, 1953).

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1953.

Throughout the year the health of the citizens, so far as it may be measured by the various indices available, appears to have been satisfactory.

The birth rate and death rate give little cause for comment and the infant mortality rate and still birth rate are the same as those for England and Wales as a whole. There were no maternal deaths.

There was no undue incidence of any of the notifiable infectious diseases and it is noteworthy that there were no cases of diphtheria. I hasten to add, and I have stressed in the pages of my Report, that this must not give rise to complacency about the continuing need for immunisation against this dreadful disease.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your encouragement and support. I am very grateful, too, to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Leslie Oates, and the staff of the Health Department for their co-operation and assistance since I assumed office in October of the year to which this Report refers.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1953.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—19,940.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1953 :—5,750.

Rateable value, 1952 :—£138,713. 1953 :—£140,034.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1952 :—£550 14s. 11d.

1953 :—£559 16s. 3d.

Registrar General's area comparability factors :—

Births 1.13.

Deaths 1.11.

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	284	140	144	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 14·9. adjusted 16·9.
Illegitimate	14	7	7	

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	7	4	3	Rate (per 1,000 popu- lation) 0·35.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

DEATHS.

	213	108	105	Death-rate (per 1,000 population) 10·7. adjusted 11·9.
--	-----	-----	-----	--

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 26·8.

Legitimate	...	8	2	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

4,029 Acres. The City borders on the North, East and South with Durham Rural District and on the West with Brandon and Byshottles Urban District.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 19,940 a decrease of 20 from 1952.

Unemployment.

The estimated number of unemployed persons in the City at 31st December, 1952 and 1953 was as follows:—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i> (Between 15 & 17 yrs.)	<i>Girls.</i>
1952 ...	120	40	3	4
1953 ...	142	24	6	3

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses, 5,750 represents an increase of 242 over the 1952 figure.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors for Births and Deaths are a means of adjusting the rates for Births and Deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted figures are those to be compared with the figures for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted figures for other areas.

Births.

During the year 298 live births were registered, 147 males and 151 females. Of these 14 were illegitimate.

There were 12 fewer births than in 1952.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 16.9 is to be compared with that of 17.6 for last year.

Deaths.

213 deaths were registered, 10 more than in 1952 and the death rate (adjusted) of 11.9 is slightly higher than in 1952 when it was 11.3

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 75 of the deaths registered, or 35% as in 1952. Deaths from Cancer number 37 as opposed to 25 in 1952.

61% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

Infant Mortality : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

The rate of 26.8 per 1,000 live births was higher than last year when it was 19.4 (the lowest recorded rate in the City). It equals that for England and Wales of 26.8 for 1953.

8 children died before reaching one year of age, as compared with 6 last year.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1944	23	1949... ..	11
1945	14	1950... ..	13
1946	15	1951... ..	14
1947	17	1952... ..	6
1948	8	1953... ..	8

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in the table and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years. As the numbers of infant deaths each year are comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Of the 8 children who died before reaching one year of age, five were less than one month old.

Maternal Mortality.

Again there were no maternal deaths during the year.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
213	8	—	—	1	3	15	55	131

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY OVER TEN YEARS.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Birth Rate	17.9	15.5	21.7	20.0	17.9	15.4	16.8	14.4	17.6	16.9
Death Rate	14.3	11.3	12.2	13.3	9.9	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.3	11.9
Infant Mortality	66	55	38	49	32	35	22	47	19.4	26.8

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1953 OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.35	11.4	1.1	26.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17.0	0.43	12.2	1.3	30.8
160 Smaller Towns, (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.7	0.34	11.3	0.9	24.3
London	17.5	0.38	12.5	1.1	24.8
Administrative County of Durham	17.7	0.43	11.0	1.68	31
Durham City	16.9	0.35	11.9	—	26.8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1953.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	213	108	105
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	4	—	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	12	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	2	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	5	12
Coronary disease, angina	31	17	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	—
Other heart disease	31	16	15
Other circulatory disease	12	6	6
Influenza	2	1	1
Pneumonia	7	4	3
Bronchitis	11	9	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	34	11	23
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	6	5	1
Suicide	5	2	3
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Diphtheria : There were no cases of diphtheria. While this is very satisfactory it must not be assumed that the disease has been eradicated. The danger of infection is present and complacency will foster that danger. The need for immunisation of children against the disease is as great as ever and it will be regrettable if absence of cases leads parents to neglect the use of this method of control, the facilities for which exist as before.

673 children under 5 years of age had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1953. It is estimated that this figure represents only about 51% of the number of children under 5 years and over 8 months old, the latter being the age from which immunisation is usually performed.

Scarlet Fever : 22 cases were notified with most of the cases occurring in the 5-10 year age group as in the previous two years. The disease continues to be mild in character.

Enteric Fever : Both cases were regarded as " imported," one having been admitted with the disease to a hospital in the City from another district and the other being found to have the infection while on leave in the City from the Tropics.

Poliomyelitis : Of the two cases one was the non-paralytic form of the disease.

Tuberculosis : There is no obvious trend in either the number of deaths from the disease nor in the number of notifications but the numbers are small.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	22	16	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.....	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	23	23	—
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection.....	6	6	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Whooping Cough.....	73	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	231	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever.....	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	4	1	12	2	—	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10 — 15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 — 55	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	9	1	2	1	3	1	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council,
20, New Elvet, Durham.

2. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board,*

"Dunira," Osborne Road,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2.

Durham Hospital Management Committee,
Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

(a) *General.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
- (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital.
- (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Smallpox).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
- (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House Hospital.
- (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Gilesgate Hospital

(e) *Mental.*

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield.
- (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
- (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
- (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
- (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(f) *Convalescent.*

Brandon Hospital.

(g) *Venereal Disease Clinic.*

County Hospital, Durham.

3. *Durham County Council Health Services.*

(a) *Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act*
Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(b) *Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.*

(i) Ambulance Depot, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

(ii) Ambulance Headquarters, The Vennel, Old Elvet,
Durham.

(c) *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

(d) *Domiciliary Midwifery.*

(e) *Health Visiting.*

(f) *Domestic Help.*

(g) *Home Nursing.*

(h) *Care of Mothers and Young Children.*

(i) Child Welfare Centres—

Belmont Parish Hall.

Durham, 14, Old Elvet.

Gilesgate, Vane Tempest Hall.

(ii) Artificial Sunlight Clinic—

Durham.

(iii) Birth Control Clinic—

Durham.

(iv) Post Natal Clinic—

Durham.

(i) *Prevention of illness, care and after-care, Loan of equipment
and appliances.*

4. *Laboratory Services—*

(i) Dryburn Hospital Dept. of Pathology.

(ii) Public Health Laboratory,
Government Buildings,
Ponteland Road, Newcastle, 5.

(iii) Public Analyst,
Victoria Road,
Darlington.

DURHAM,
August, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1953.

The work of the Department during the year has been mainly of a routine character.

Applications for improvement grants though not at all as numerous as expected, showed some increase and, as the advantages to be gained by house owners in modernising their properties becomes more widely known a great increase in such applications can be expected. There is no doubt that the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to improvement grants can make a quite important contribution to the Council's housing programme by providing amenities such as bathrooms, internal waterclosets and modern kitchenettes in many of the properties which are at present termed "sub-standard." Any efforts to augment the number of good houses in the City by the proper use of this particular Act should prove to be invaluable.

The number of dairymen holding licences for special designation milk is increasing and it would appear that Durham will, in the near future, become a "specified area" where the use of a special designation will be essential for all milk sold by retail for human consumption.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Gordon Drummond for their kindly support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Bittlestone and the Staff of the Health Department and other Officials of the Council.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE
YEAR 1953.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Notices Complied.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	1	—	1
Structural Defects	75	20	63
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	—	—	—
Cowsheds	—	—	—
Bake houses	2	—	2
Slaughter-houses	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	1	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	8	1	8
Waterclosets	19	—	19
Defective Yard Paving	2	—	1
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	5	—	5
No Disconnection from Sewers	2	—	2
Other Faults	38	6	38
Water Supply	1	—	1
Pigsties	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	5	—	5
Lack of proper Dust Bins	7	—	4
Fishfriers	3	—	3
Factories	13	—	13
Shops	26	—	26
TOTALS	209	27	193

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	32
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	30
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	nil

III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	251
Number of such Houses occupied during year	241
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District	6,544
Total number of Ash-closets in District	30
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	26

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	1,161
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	2,036
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	nil
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	152

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	121
--	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	27
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners...	21
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	6

B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners...	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil
---	-----

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,698 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 221 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 27 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 21 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in six cases.

875 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 251 houses were erected in the City area comprising ~~225~~ council houses and 26 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1953 the number of council houses erected since the war totalled 860.

The total number of houses built for and controlled by the Council, was, at the date mentioned, 1,500. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 365 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

Fifteen families in urgent need of housing accommodation were found temporary homes in slum clearance properties.

In accordance with the instructions of the Housing Committee a survey of houses considered to be "irredeemably unfit" was carried out in November, 1953.

A report on these houses together with information relating to the position regarding slum clearance properties in confirmed areas and closing and demolition order houses was subsequently submitted to the Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

81 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 30 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

48 premises, of which 22 were council houses, were disinfested.

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer Maintenance Treatments : In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two maintenance treatments of the City's sewers were carried out during the year. A total of 798 manholes were baited showing pre-bait takes in 130 manholes and poison takes in 126.

Surface Infestations : All Council properties likely to become infested received periodical visits and treatments as required. The River Banks also received attention.

All cases of infestations in school canteens and hospitals were promptly attended to.

The Council continue to take full advantage of the Ministry's offer of grant aid, which, for the year under review will be half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in the performance of functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals.
No. of Premises Visited	242	101	101	444
No. of visits	800	295	318	1,413
No. of Pre-baits	1,522	1,415	1,464	4,401
No. of Poison-baits	1,187	683	605	2,475
No. of Post-baits	676	201	478	1,355

DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	19
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	3
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	—
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	2
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	7
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	20
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	95
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	25

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Only one licence granted by the Council under the provisions of Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of a trailer caravan, was in force in the year 1953.

Nuisances arising from caravans using sites for short periods received the prompt attention of the Department.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS,
1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	28	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	70	73	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	6	—	—
TOTAL	103	96	13	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	5	5	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	7	7	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	14	—	2	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Bakers		9
Butchers		14
Confectioners		33
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk		27
Fish, Game and Poultry		5
Fried Fish		13
General Dealers		29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers		13
Grocers and Provisions Merchants		30
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars		18
Ice Cream dealers		48

MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949 :—

“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	8
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	8
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	26
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers’ Supplementary Licences	1

2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	1
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	4

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

ICE CREAM.

Five applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were approved by the Council making a total of 48 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. All such samples proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Bacon 2 lbs.	Junior Swiss Rolls 12 doz.
Biscuits 2 pkts. 7½ lbs.	Liquid Egg 44 lbs.
Butter 3 lbs.	Lobster 1 tin.
Cereals 6 tins.	Meat 558 tins. 132 lbs.
Cheese Spread 105 pkts.	Meat Paste 26 jars.
Chickens 6.	Milk 62 tins.
Chutney 1 jar.	Parsley and Thyme 5 pkts.
Coconut Ice 567 lbs.	Pickles 184 tins.
Cream 3 tins.	Pig Carcase 170 lbs.
Fish 9½ cwt.	Puddings 15.
Fish Cakes 13.	Rabbits 2 tins.
Fruit 809 tins. 26 lbs.	Sausage 3 tins. 18 lbs.
Health Salt 34 tins.	Sheep Carcase 41 lbs.
Ice Cream 9 galls.	Soup 11 tins.
Jam 2 jars.	Vegetables 314 tins.

FOOD PREMISES — GENERAL.

Inspections :—

During the course of the year 349 visits were made to food premises.

Lectures :—

Any requests from organisations for talks on public health matters receive attention. Food hygiene is always stressed and is invariably a matter which receives much interest during discussion following the talks.

Food Poisoning :

During the year 1953, no notifications of food poisoning occurring in the City Area were received.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

52 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	3
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	7
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects	...	...	...	...	21

PREVENTION OF LITTER.

The Health Committee gave particular attention to this matter during Coronation Year and inaugurated a " Keep Durham Tidy " campaign which was launched on the 8th May, 1953.

The campaign took the following form :

1. Preparation of a propaganda film in colour drawing attention to the indiscriminate deposit of litter in the City's streets and open spaces.
2. A Slogan competition.
3. Complete check of sitings of litter bins and provision of additional bins where required.
4. Publicising of campaign by posters and press notices.
5. Distribution of suitable badges to children.

The campaign was opened by holding a public meeting which was attended by the Press and various organisations in the City.

The campaign caused a good deal of interest in the City and the demand for the film was particularly good. In addition to its being shown to 17 organisations where it was seen by a total of 698 persons it was also shown at public meetings attended by 185 persons.

The County Education Authority co-operated by showing the film in all the schools in the City and surrounding rural district areas. The film is still in good condition and available for showing to interested organisations.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,161
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	875
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	349
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Smoke, water and colour tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	767
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,413
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	363

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

					<i>Brought forward</i> ...	27
Baking Powder	...	...	1	Lard Compound	...	1
Bread (White)	...	...	1	Lunch Tongue	...	1
„ (Brown)	...	...	1	Margarine	...	1
Butter	...	...	1	Meat Loaf	...	1
Cakes	...	...	4	Milk (Pasteurised)	...	45
Cocoa	...	...	1	Mincemeat (Sweet)	...	3
Coffee	...	...	2	Mustard	...	1
Cornflour	...	...	1	Pickling Spices	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	2	Preserved Ginger	...	1
Demerara Sugar	...	...	1	Rice	...	1
Dried Mixed Herbs	...	...	1	Sage and Onion Stuffing		1
French Coffee	...	...	2	Sago	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	1	Salt	...	1
Ground Rice	...	...	1	Semolina	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	1	Shredded Beef Suet	...	2
Iced Lollies	...	...	3	Tapioca	...	1
Icing Sugar	...	...	1	Tea	...	2
Lard	...	...	2	White Pepper	...	1
					<i>Carried forward</i> ...	27
						93

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. A. C. Wildsmith, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board, has kindly submitted the following brief report on water supplies :—

Although precautionary measures had been taken to minimise the consumption of water in the area, heavy rainfall in the middle of the year prevented any real shortage of supplies. Generally speaking, bacteriological quality was satisfactory but following adverse results in certain districts additional sterilising equipment was installed and is maintained in regular use. A number of the service reservoirs were cleaned and sterilised and all new mains and repaired mains were sterilised before being put into service.

The rainfall at the end of 1953 was very small and as a result the storage reservoirs are not yet full. There is yet time for this deficiency to be made good, but if the present dry weather continues there may well be a severe shortage of water in the coming summer and it is essential that waste and undue use of water is kept to a minimum. The various schemes put in hand by the Board to aug-

ment supplies are proceeding but no measurable help can be anticipated from these sources during the coming year. During the past twelve months total lengths of 130 yards of 6" diameter pipes, 80 yards of 4" and 3,350 yards of 3" diameter pipes were laid in connection with new housing schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

Refuse Collection.

Regular weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required.

Public Baths.

A four hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

Sewage Disposal.

Plans for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh Sewage Works have been prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

