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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

HEALTH
A 26 SEP 1960
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1959.



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.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

80, CLAYPATH,

Telephone : Durham 3520.

DURHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

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

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

RODENT OPERATIVE :

MR. F. C. SUMMERS (Resigned 25.4.59).

MR. A. FOX (Commenced 1.6.59).

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS J. M. CLARK, Shorthand Typist.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1959.

This, it will be recalled, was a fine year with a mild spring and hot dry summer and there were no unusual influences otherwise likely to operate adversely upon the health of the citizens. Viewed in this context, therefore, the vital statistics are somewhat disappointing, with a raised infant mortality rate (higher than the average for the previous ten years) and high perinatal mortality. No cause for these increases can be adduced and it may well be that they are not significant because of the small numbers involved. Certainly there is a general fall over the years as the relevant table shows in the case of the infant mortality. There is little change in the Birth Rate and Death Rate.

In the matter of notifiable diseases the only notable occurrence was the outbreak of food poisoning. It is pleasing that there were no cases of poliomyelitis; in view of the dread with which this disease is regarded generally and as an indication possibly of the effectiveness of the vaccination campaign. This in its turn, will depend in the future upon the readiness with which those who are eligible take advantage of the measure for themselves and their families. It is not sufficiently understood that a high rate of vaccination protects not only the individuals vaccinated but the community at large. The same is true of other diseases including diphtheria and smallpox and it is held to be unfortunate that insufficient attention is paid to the protection available.

Tuberculosis has declined to the point where it is permissible to speculate whether it can be eradicated altogether. B.C.G. vaccination of the older groups of schoolchildren should confer a substantial degree of protection in the early adult years—the period when a number of the cases occur. The extension of the arrangements to include students attending universities, teacher training colleges, technical colleges and other establishments of further education (which was notified during the year under review although it could not be implemented at once here) is to be welcomed as another measure to this end. It is a task of some magnitude in this City but arrangements are in hand to carry it out.

The needs of the older people—and they are a large and increasing section of the community—are well catered for here and mention is made in the Report of the work of the Chiropody and Domiciliary Laundry Services which together with the Meals on Wheels Scheme operated from one of the hospitals are very valuable adjuncts to that great domiciliary service provided by the Local Health Authority—the Home Help Service. The statement that no

action was taken during the year involving Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention is perhaps misleading, it does not do justice to the efforts of many persons acting on behalf of agencies involved in the care of old people, both statutory and voluntary, who by their kindness and patience averted situations where such action might have been required.

As in former years the co-operation with other interests including the other parts of the National Health Service has continued to be good and thus to play an essential part in the work of the Department. In particular I value the cordial relations maintained with medical practitioners, both in general and hospital practice, and the County Medical Officer and his staff.

I welcome this further opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for your support and encouragement, the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. Oates, and the staff of the Health Department for their assistance throughout the year and the officers of the council for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Number...	...	...	...	...	...	...	287
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.0

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of total live births 2.4

STILL BIRTHS.

Number...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.1

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS 295

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year) 9

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ... 31.4

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births... .. 27.9

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 3.5

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 27.9

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 20.9

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 47.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths 1

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 3.4

Area in acres ... 4,578.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—21,360.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1959—6,193.

Rateable value :—1958 :—£315,057. 1959 :—£329,731.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1958 :—£1,188. 9s. 9d.
1959 :—£1,247. 14s. 8d.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

4,578 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 21,360 an increase of 220 from 1958.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 6,193.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's area comparability factors :—

Births	0.97.
Deaths	0.91.

Births.

During the year 287 live births were registered. 144 males and 143 females. Of these 7 were illegitimate.

There were 28 fewer births than in 1958.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 13.0 is to be compared with that of 14.5 for last year.

Deaths.

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	...	11.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	51
Deaths from measles (all ages)	... ..	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	—

275 deaths were registered, 9 more than in 1958 and the death rate (adjusted) of 11.7 compares with that for 1958 when it was 11.2.

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 108 of the deaths registered, or 36%. Deaths from Cancer number 51 compared with 48 in 1958.

73% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

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

The rate is 31.4 per 1,000 live births. Last year this rate was 15.9.

The figure for England and Wales for 1959 is 22.2.

9 children died before reaching one year of age.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1950	13	1955	6
1951	14	1956	6
1952	6	1957	8
1953	8	1958	5
1954	13	1959	9

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 9 children who died before reaching one year of age eight were less than one month old, six being less than 1 week.

Consideration of the infant mortality is not complete without consideration at the same time of the still births. The number of still births and the number of deaths in the first week of life taken together represent the mortality occurring at or about the time of birth—the perinatal mortality rate, the combined still-births and deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total births.

In the year under review this was 47.5.

The following table shows the perinatal mortality rate in recent years compared with the rates for Durham County and England and Wales :—

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Durham City	42.1	30.4	37.2	31.0	47.5
Durham County	42.0	40.1	39.8	37.8	39.1
England and Wales	37.6	36.8	36.2	35.1	34.2

Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death during the year.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
275	9	—	—	2	4	6	52	202

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total
Congenital Malformations ..	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Prematurity ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Haemolytic Disease of newborn ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Infection ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1959 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. COMPARATIVE TABLE
WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY FOR PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 population.			Death Rate per 1,000 population.			Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
	Durham City.	England & Wales.	Durham County	Durham City.	England & Wales.	Durham County	Durham City.	England & Wales.	Durham County
1949	15.4	16.7	18.7	11.0	11.7	11.5	35.0	32	44
1950	16.8	15.8	17.8	10.9	11.6	11.8	37.2	29.8	40
1951	14.4	15.5	17.6	11.0	12.5	12.4	47.9	29.6	42
1952	15.5	15.3	17.3	10.1	11.3	10.9	19.3	27.6	33
1953	16.9	15.5	17.7	11.9	11.4	11.0	26.8	26.8	31
1954	14.3	15.2	17.3	11.8	11.3	11.5	45.3	25.5	31
1955	13.1	15.0	17.2	11.9	11.7	11.2	21.7	24.9	32
1956	13.8	15.6	17.8	10.8	11.7	11.3	20.5	23.8	27
1957	13.4	16.1	18.4	11.4	11.5	11.3	27.7	23.1	27
1958	14.5	16.4	18.6	11.2	11.7	11.3	15.9	22.6	25
Mean for 10 years 1949-58	14.8	15.7	17.8	11.2	11.6	11.4	29.7	26.5	33
1959	13.0	16.5	18.0	11.7	11.6	10.9	31.4	22.2	27

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1959.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	275	141	134
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	31	21	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	44	15	29
Coronary disease, angina	54	33	21
Hypertension with heart disease	8	2	6
Other heart disease	34	14	20
Other circulatory disease	12	6	6
Influenza	2	1	1
Pneumonia	13	4	9
Bronchitis	9	8	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	5	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	14	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	4	1	3
Suicide	7	6	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever : There were 34 notifications. Of these 26 were admitted to hospital. Last year there were notified 21 cases.

Whooping Cough : There were 6 cases notified, compared with 17 last year. An immunising agent exists which is administered by family doctors or at the Child Welfare Clinics.

Acute Poliomyelitis : There were no cases notified. (three in the previous year).

During the year vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued, with two important innovations. One was that for the first time in this Area general medical practitioners participated directly by carrying out the injections of their patients in their surgeries under their own arrangements. This measure coincided with a greatly increased demand for vaccination (which regrettably has proved to be of short duration) consequent upon considerable publicity given to the measure at the time.

The other new factor was that 3rd injections were commenced and were offered to those who had received two injections not less than seven months previously.

The following table indicates the scope of the vaccination programme and the numbers involved in the area of the three Districts.

*Vaccination against Poliomyelitis, 1959.**Durham County No. 7 Health Area.*

(City of Durham, Rural District of Durham, Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles).

	No. vaccinated with TWO injections.	No. who had received only ONE injection, 31.12.59.	No. awaiting vaccination, 31.12.59.
Total	10,910	63	44

Total number of persons who since the inception of the scheme had received three injections at 31st December, 1959—7,062.

Measles : 260 cases were notified in contrast to four last year.

There were no deaths.

Diphtheria : For the seventh successive year there were no cases of diphtheria.

The tables of diphtheria immunisation figures show that records were received of 235 children under the age of five having received during the year a full course of primary immunisation as against 167 in 1958.

656 children under five years old had completed a full course of immunisation by the end of the year. It is estimated that this represents only about 53% of those children eligible for immunisation. This is a low figure. Parents should understand that absence of cases does not constitute grounds for discontinuing immunisation against diphtheria.

During 1959 in England and Wales there occurred 103 cases with no deaths.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges that propaganda leaflets drawing attention to the need for children to be protected against smallpox, whooping cough and diphtheria are sent to parents by post when their children attain the age of three months. Further propaganda regarding immunisation against diphtheria is despatched when children are one year old and again at four years and nine months. All such propaganda gives details of the facilities available for vaccination against immunisation.

Dysentery : There were 11 cases notified, one arising in the City, the others notified following admission to hospital here from elsewhere.

Food Poisoning : The cases of food poisoning constituted an outbreak which occurred from 25th to 27th August. The food causing the outbreak was identified as pressed beef and the agent responsible was shown by laboratory investigation to be the organism staphylococcus.

The pressed beef had been prepared in premises in the City for sale and consumption elsewhere. The majority was consumed in the homes of the purchasers but some was consumed at places of work, in sandwiches.

A contributory factor was that at the time of the outbreak the maximum and minimum temperatures in the Durham City Area were as follows :

				<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
24th August	...	...	...	75°	61°
25th	„	...	...	78°	51°
26th	„	...	...	75°	64°
27th	„	...	...	78°	41°

The estimated number of consumers at risk was 31. Seven cases of food poisoning were notified and twelve cases otherwise ascertained. The severity of the illness may be characterised as severe to mild and its duration three to thirteen hours, the main symptoms being abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Meningococcal Infection : The one case notified was a child admitted to hospital here from another district.

Acute Encephalitis : The case notified was a young adult admitted to hospital from another district.

Paratyphoid Fever : The diagnosis was made in a case admitted to hospital here from another district.

Tuberculosis : There were 14 new cases notified, all pulmonary forms. Reference to the table showing the position over the past 10 years indicates that these are satisfactory figures in this context, although the numbers tend to vary widely from year to year.

B.C.G. Vaccination of older school children : 1959 was the second year in which B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis of certain groups of school children attending schools in the City was carried out, although, of course, this type of protection has been offered for some years to home contacts of the disease and to certain other groups.

The Heaf Multiple Puncture skin test was used.

The following tables show the numbers involved :—

DURHAM CITY B.C.G. VACCINATION OF
SCHOOLCHILDREN.

No. of Consents	Given Skin Tests.		Positive Reactors.		Negative Reactors given B.C.G.		No. absent at time of readings.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
853	691	81.0	123	17.8	541	78.3	27

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN PAST 10 YEARS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	New cases.	Deaths.	New Cases.	Deaths.
1949	11	2	1	0
1950	25	8	3	0
1951	24	5	4	1
1952	9	3	3	1
1953	20	4	3	1
1954	12	3	1	0
1955	13	5	2	1
1956	20	4	1	0
1957	20	4	4	1
1958	8	1	3	—
Average for 10 years ..	16.2	3.9	2.5	0.5
1959	14	—	—	—

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31st December, 1958	95	70	13	14	108	84
31st December, 1959	101	75	13	14	114	89

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1959

Live Births Registered.		Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1959.		Records received during the year of full courses of primary immunisation.			Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
1958	1959	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15	Total.	0—15
315	287	656	1644	235	29	264	71

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1959.

Under	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
38	155	134	182	147	185	165	183	177	210	182	207	138	107	90

Age as at 31.12.59 i.e., born in the year.

CHIROPODY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

GILESGATE CENTRE.

Introduction.

1959 was the sixth year of operation of this chiropody clinic conducted at the Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate, on behalf of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association.

Sessions were held on Monday mornings and afternoons and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 8 appointments being made for each session.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S. continued as chiropodist.

Voluntary Assistance.

The British Red Cross Society provided a total of 804 hours attendance.

The Durham Samaritan Society which furnished the equipment at the outset continued to subscribe the cost of dressings.

Treatment.

During the year clinics were held on 147 days during which there were 195 clinic sessions of three hours.

At the full number of 8 per session this would have allowed 1,560 treatments, but there were 97 missed appointments so that the actual number given was 1,463, or 93% of the possible.

The average number of treatments given each session was 7.5.

The number of persons on the list on the 1st January, 1959 was 166 and on the 31st December 169, there having been 37 new patients and 34 withdrawals during the year.

SHAKESPEARE HALL CENTRE.

Introduction.

This was the third year of operation of this Chiropody Clinic which is held at the Shakespeare Hall in North Road, Durham.

Like the one at Gilesgate it is conducted on behalf of the Durham Old Peoples' Welfare Association and Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S., is the Chiropodist.

Sessions were held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each week.

Voluntary Assistance.

The British Red Cross Society provided a total of 478 hours attendance.

The Durham Samaritan Society which provided the equipment have also continued to subscribe the cost of dressings.

Treatment.

Clinics were held on 102 days, there being 102 clinic sessions of three hours. 816 treatments would have been possible, but there were 50 missed appointments so that the number given was 766 or 94% of the possible.

The average number of treatments given each session was 7.5.

There were 112 patients on the books on the 1st January and 116 on the 31st December, 21 new names having been added and 17 withdrawn.

SUMMARY.	<i>Gilesgate.</i>		<i>Shakespeare Hall.</i>	
	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>
Sessions	198	195	103	102
Days on which sessions held ...	150	147	103	102
Treatments given :				
Possible	1,584	1,560	824	816
Actual	1,510	1,463	758	766
	(95%)	(93%)	(92%)	(94%)
Treatments per session :				
Possible	8	8	8	8
Actual average	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5
Hours by Red Cross Voluntary Workers	847	804	447	478
Charge (per treatment) ...	2/-			

REMARKS.

Fortunately, in view of the efficient service rendered there is little change in the position this year so that former remarks are still applicable. The two Chiropody Clinics have continued to operate well throughout the year, contributing to the health and comfort of many old people in the City. That this is so reflects great credit on all those associated with the scheme—Chiropodist, Voluntary Helpers and the old people themselves who attend so well, sometimes in the face of considerable difficulty because, for example, of inclement weather or indifferent health. The operation of the scheme in its present form is made possible by the financial aid given to the Durham Old People's Welfare Association from various sources, details of which are contained in the financial statement which has been furnished by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. L. Watkins.

The total number of those receiving chiropody increased slightly at both Clinics during the year and while the actual number of treatments given fell slightly at one, it rose at the other.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the fact that the figures on which this report is based were furnished by Mrs. B. P. Eley, Divisional Officer, from the clinic records which are kept by the British Red Cross Society.

The final item in this report is the sad task of recording the loss to the scheme by her untimely death of Mrs. S. E. Allan who served it in her position as Deputy Divisional Director of the British Red Cross Society, her association commencing shortly after the inception of the scheme in 1954. Mrs. Allan played a great part in shaping its present form. She knew personally many of the old people who attend and there must be many who will recall gratefully her cheerfulness and ready sympathy and interest.

DOMICILIARY LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

The operation of this Service which was commenced during 1957 with the aim of helping elderly sick people in the Area was described in the Annual Report for 1958. It is provided by the British Red Cross Society, the Hospital Authority and the Local Health Authority acting in conjunction.

I am indebted to Miss Duff of the British Red Cross Society for the following figures relating to its operation during 1959 :—

12 households received the service at one time or another throughout the year.

5 of them received it regularly throughout the year.

3 others were accepted during the year.

5 had it discontinued at some time during the year (2 cases when the recipient was admitted to hospital, in 2 others owing to death and in the 5th it was relinquished).

At the end of the year there were 7 households being served.

The mileage covered by the British Red Cross Society ambulance on each day of operation was about 40.

Review of the cases shows that all but one of the recipients are elderly and infirm. Six live on their own. The circumstances in most of the households are such that it may fairly be said that there is one member who would probably require hospital care were it not for the domiciliary services provided—not always the laundry service alone, in some the Home Help service also.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Public Health Services of the Local Authority.*2. *Laboratory Services.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) County Analyst, Shire Hall, Durham.

3. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council, Green Lane, Old Elvet,
Durham

Ten medical practitioners in general practice reside in the City and an approximately equal number who reside elsewhere have part of their practices within it.

4. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.*

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

*Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital,
Durham.*

(a) *General.*

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

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Emergency Fever Reserve).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

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

(e) Mental.

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

(f) Pre-Convalescent.

Brandon Hospital.

(g) Venereal Diseases Clinic.

County Hospital, Durham.

5. *Durham County Council, Health Services.**(a) School Health Services.*

Since September, 1957, the school clinic has been housed in new premises at Kepier Crescent.

(b) Ambulance Services.

The ambulance control is situated at County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, and there are nine ambulances, one light sitting case vehicle and two cars. In an emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephone by asking to be connected to the nearest ambulance control (no telephone number need be given).

(c) Health Visiting.

There is one Health Visitor, parts of the City being served by the Student Health Visitors.

(d) Home Nursing.

Three nurses, all residing in the City, are engaged in this work.

(e) Domiciliary Midwifery.

There are four midwives practising thus.

(f) Domestic Help.

This is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, an expectant mother, lying-in, mentally defective, aged or a child not over school age.

(g) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| (i) Child Welfare Centres | } 14, Old Elvet, Durham.
Kepier Crescent, Durham |
| (ii) Artificial Sunlight Clinics | |
| (iii) Birth Control Clinics | |
| (iv) Post Natal Clinics | |

(i) Prevention of Illness, care and after care.

Under this heading comes the provision of nursing equipment for sick persons. Invalid chairs are also available.

(j) Welfare Services.

Services are provided for Blind Persons and other Handicapped Persons.

Residential accommodation is provided for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or other circumstances, are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.

(k) Mental Health.**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.**

No action was taken during the year involving Section 47 relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention.

DURHAM.

July, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1959.

The first post-war slum clearance areas received formal attention during 1959 namely, the Sidegate No. 3 and Lovegreen Street Areas comprising 22 houses.

A Hearing was held on 23rd October and subsequently the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Order without modification.

A further 14 houses were the subject of closing or demolition orders and 13 houses were demolished.

A reduction in the number of cases dealt with by the Department relating to repairs to dwelling houses is probably due to works carried out by owners under the provisions of the Rent Act. The average number of such cases is 140 per year whereas in 1959 the figure was 91.

Owners and employees in food premises have continued to maintain a high standard of cleanliness, and complaints relating to such premises are, fortunately, a rare occurrence.

With the coming into force of the Slaughterhouse Regulations a review of the position as to slaughtering facilities in the City will be required and a report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1960. The amount of slaughtering in the City is quite small and no difficulty has been experienced in carrying out 100% inspection. As in previous years the quality and freedom from disease of animals slaughtered has been excellent.

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 Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY
SUBMITTED TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR 1959.

	No. of inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied after Notice.
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts	1,287	103	3	89
Overcrowding	13	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Defective	39	19	—	19
Drainage	165	58	2	58
Water Supply	4	14	—	14
Food Premises	502	26	—	26
Shops Act	19	—	—	—
Dairies	4	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses :				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private	276	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	21	2	—	2
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Factories & Workplaces	120	8	—	7
Keeping of Animals	63	2	—	2
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	32	21	—	21
Smoke Nuisances	3	3	—	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	892	—	—	—
Totals	3,440	256	5	241

DRY CLOSETS IN DISTRICT ... 28.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949/59.

	No. of separate houses	
	Discretionary Grant.	Standard Grant.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	12	6
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	2	—
(c) Total Number of applications approved since inception of scheme	66	2
(d) Total Number of grants paid since inception of scheme	57	—

It appears to be the experience of many local authorities (Durham City included) that applications for grant aid for the improvement of dwellings is generally confined to owner/occupiers.

It is a matter for regret that this is the case as it was anticipated that a more general use of grant aid would have resulted not only in individually owned and occupied houses in a street being brought up to a reasonable modern standard but that whole streets might be provided with modern amenities.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

General Inspection of District.

1. Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 594
2. Dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... 11
3. Dwelling houses (exclusive of two above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 91
4. Total number of visits to houses including re-inspections 1,287

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

A. Houses Demolished.	Number.	Displaced.	
		Persons.	Families.
In Clearance Areas (Housing Acts 1936/57)	12	11	8
Not in Clearance Areas and as a result of formal or informal procedure (Housing Acts 1936/57)	1	2	1
B. Unfit Houses Closed.			
In pursuance of undertaking under Section 11 H.A. 1936 or Section 17 H.A. 1957 ..	10	24	10

C. Repairs to Houses.	Number.
Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) After informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts	86
(b) After formal action under P.H. Acts	3
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	2

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,418 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 154 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 five cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in three cases, and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in two cases.

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

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 69 houses were erected in the City Area comprising 31 council houses and 38 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1959, the number of council houses and flats erected since the war totalled, 1,172.

The total number of houses built for and controlled by the Council was, at the date mentioned, 1,812. 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.

Pre-war slum clearance areas : At 31st December, 1959 10 occupied properties (one family and 9 single persons) remained to be dealt with. This figure compares with 16 properties, 5 families and 13 single persons in 1958.

A further 27 properties were vacant—demolition having been deferred in most cases because of occupied adjoining houses.

Post war slum clearance areas : The Lovegreen Street and Sidegate No. 3 Areas comprising 22 houses were declared by the Council clearance areas. Objections and claims for well maintained payments were received by the Minister and a Hearing was held by the Minister's Inspector on 28th July, 1959. Subsequently the order was confirmed without modification and the Council were directed to make well maintained payments in four cases.

Individually Unfit Houses : 10 dwellings were closed and 2 houses were the subject of demolition orders.

The following table summarises the position as at 31st December, 1959 :

	<i>Occupied houses</i>	<i>Vacant pending demolition</i>
Pre-war slum clearance	10	27
Post war slum clearance	20	2
Individually unfit houses (where included in future clearance programmes) ...	—	18

The 18 individually unfit properties were closed under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 as "closing orders in lieu of demolition orders" so providing a temporary protection to adjoining properties in those streets which it is anticipated will be the subject of future slum clearance orders.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

Certificates as to families displaced from clearance areas and individual unfit houses have been submitted to the City Treasurer as follows :—

YEAR	Individual Unfit Houses.			Clearance Orders.			Totals.		
	No.	Per-sons.	Fami-lies.	No.	Per-sons.	Fami-lies.	No.	Per-Pers.	Fami-lies.
1955	—	—	—	3	11	3	3	11	3
1956	11	34	11	7	19	7	18	53	18
1957	10	30	10	5	16	7	15	46	17
1958	4	13	4	6	11	6	10	24	10
1959	15	41	15	3	7	3	18	48	18
							64	182	66

RENT ACT, 1957.

Since the above Act came into force on 6th July, 1957, surprisingly little statutory action has proved necessary.

During the year under review enquiries received at the Department were for advice only and the only statutory action related to an application for cancellation of a certificate of disrepair.

The following table shows the position as to applications dealt with since the commencement of the Act :—

	1957	1958	1959
(1) Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	7	7	Nil
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	7	7	Nil
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	5	3	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	2	4	Nil
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	6	3	Nil
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued ...	1	3	Nil
(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	Nil	2	1
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil	Nil	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	Nil	2	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES INVESTIGATION, DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

37 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 10 houses where bedding and articles of clothing, etc. were also treated.

47 premises, of which 43 were council houses, were disinfested. The majority of the 43 council houses referred to were disinfested because of beetle infestations which have been a cause for concern among many of the tenants on the estate concerned since the houses were erected.

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 796 manholes were baited and final results showed poison takes in 148. The results show an increase in sewer infestation as compared with previous years.

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 infestation in school canteens and hospitals were promptly attended to.

Grant Aid : In previous years half the irrecoverable cost incurred in the performance of functions under Part 1 of the Damage by Pests Act, 1949, i.e. treatment of sewers and domestic premises, has been re-imbursed by the Ministry.

This direct aid ceased on 31st March, 1959, but the Ministry expect all local authorities to continue the proper exercise of their functions under the provisions of the above Act.

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 ...	163	69	228	460
No. of visits ...	332	145	415	892
No. of Poison-baits	1,260	1,169	2,516	4,945
No. of Post-baits ...	91	49	82	222

Wherever necessary owners of premises were requested to carry out rat-proofing after completion of treatments.

DRAINAGE.

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

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	5
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	48
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	20
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	1
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	23
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	1
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	35
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	8

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Two licences were granted during 1959 for the use of moveable dwellings.

These two trailers were sited on land at Quarry House Farm. The trailers were maintained in an excellent condition and no public health nuisance arose from their use as dwellings.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Observations were made of smoke emissions from boiler chimneys followed, where conditions were not satisfactory, by visits to the plant concerned and interviews with management or plant engineers.

There are only eleven steam raising plants of any size in the City and of these, three plants in particular tend to cause smoke nuisance.

In two of the cases concerned the plant is to change over from coal to oil firing and in the remaining case some improvement in the amount of smoke emission must be achieved.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS,
1937 AND 1959.**

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 ..	24	5	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	71	101	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	14	14	—	—
TOTAL	109	120	8	—

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) ..	2	2	—	—	—
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	6	5	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	7	—	1	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Bakers	9
Butchers	15
Confectioners	35
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk	50
Fish, Game and Poultry	7
Fried Fish...	14
General Dealers	29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	15
Grocers and Provision Merchants	32
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars	21
Ice Cream dealers	76

MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations :—			
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	12
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			9
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	36
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			4
2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations :—			
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	...		2
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	...	5

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

REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

ICE CREAM.

Three applications for registration under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream was approved by the Council making a total of 76 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Two samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. In the case of one of the producers the sample was found to be below the recognised standard. The producer concerned was interviewed and he decided that as his plant was not working satisfactorily he would, for the time being, discontinue manufacture of ice-cream.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-57.

Since the re-opening of the covered market the Department has been concerned as to the best method of providing suitable hand washing facilities and conveniences for the use of stallholders with particular reference to those handling food.

Such facilities have now been provided by way of separate conveniences for male and female stallholders with outer compartments containing handbasins with supplies of hot and cold water.

Food stalls in markets and particularly those open on only one day per week, present difficulties in relation to food hygiene that are not present in permanent food shops. Efforts have been made, however, to ensure reasonable protection particularly for those foods exposed for sale which come within the definition of "open food".

The hygiene standards achieved by food traders in the City are in general very satisfactory and only rarely is it found necessary to draw attention to infringements of the Regulations.

There were no prosecutions for infringements of the Regulations.

264 visits were made to premises affected by the Regulations and the following works were completed during the year :—

Equipment—repairs and renewals	...	...	...	...	4
Protection of open foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary conveniences :					
Re-decoration	...	...	...	...	—
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of hot water supply	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of handbasins	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of sinks	...	...	...	...	1
Provision of first aid equipment	...	...	...	...	—
Provision of accommodation for clothing			...	...	—
Re-decoration and repairs	...	...	...	...	11
Improved ventilation	...	...	...	...	—
Waste bins supplied	...	...	...	...	1
Refrigerators fitted	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous works and improvements...	...	...	...	...	15

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, 113½ lbs.	Chocolate Rolls, 43.
Biscuits, 3 pkts.	Christmas Pudding, 1.
Butter, 1½ lbs.	Cream, 1 tin.
Cakes, 5 and 5 lbs.	Dates, 6 boxes.
Cheese, 42 lbs.	Fish, 32 tins.
Chicken, One and 4 tins.	Frozen Eggs, 3 tins.
Chocolate, 5 cartons.	Fruit, 443 tins.

Gammon, 9 lbs.	Porridge 1 tin.
Halibut, 14 lbs.	Prawns, 30 pkts.
Ham, 14 lbs.	Prunes, $10\frac{3}{4}$ doz. tins.
Jam, 1 jar.	Rice, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and 3 tins.
Lard, 28 lbs.	Sausage, $39\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Margarine, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Soup, 13 tins.
Meat, 438 tins.	Spaghetti, 2 tins.
Cooked Meat, $65\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Sugar, 1 lb.
Milk, 19 tins.	Syrup, 2 tins
Pies, 35.	Vegetables, 100 tins.
Pork, 82 tins.	

MEAT INSPECTION.

All animals slaughtered in local slaughter-houses were inspected

276 visits were made in connection with such inspections and the following table gives details of animals slaughtered and meat and offals condemned :—

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed ..	349	2	1	1525	186	—
Number inspected	349	2	1	1525	186	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	17	—	—	4	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	4.87	—	—	.33	.54	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	5	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis ..	1.43	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

A total of 40 st. 10 lbs. of condemned meat and offal was destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Three slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council.

All the carcasses passed were of excellent quality and the standard of slaughtering carried out by the nine persons holding slaughtermen's licences was satisfactory.

Inspections :—

During the course of the year 502 visits were made to food premises.

Water Supplies.

Four samples of tap water from Durham County Water Board mains and one from a spring in Framwellgate were obtained for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The resultant laboratory reports showed the samples to be very satisfactory.

Swimming Baths.

Ten samples of water from the large and small swimming pools were obtained for bacteriological examination. All samples proved to be most satisfactory.

Results of such sampling were immediately notified to the Bath's Superintendent.

The baths consisting of a large and small pool are the property of the Durham City Corporation and the water used is the same as that supplied by the Durham County Water Board to domestic users.

The City Engineer reports that a four hour turnover with filtration and breakpoint chlorination is maintained and he further reports that extensive alteration to the changing accommodation has been commenced and will be completed by the end of 1960.

Lectures.

As in the past, talks on public health matters were given to interested organisations, and boy scouts examined for their Public Health Man Badge.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

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

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of all household refuse has been maintained throughout the year.

Sewage Works.

Draft proposals for a new sewage works at Barker's Haugh have been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and work on the design of new proposals is proceeding.

Tenders are being invited for the construction of Newton Hall outfall sewer to drain this area to the Barker's Haugh Works.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In his Annual Report for 1959 the Chief Engineer to the Water Board, Mr. A. C. Wildsmith, refers to the drought of 1959 as being the most severe on record.

The supply by the Board (over its whole area) amounted to daily consumptions per head of population of 19.15 gallons unmetred and 9.85 gallons metered (trade).

Regarding bacteriological examination of the Board's supply the following figures are also taken from his report :—

CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION SAMPLES.

(Total Number 831).

Class 1	...	...	...	...	65.6%
Class 2	...	...	...	...	23.9%
Class 3	...	...	...	...	4.2%
Class 4	...	...	...	...	6.3%

Percentage free from Bact. Coli Type 1—96.3%.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1959.

DURHAM CITY.

The work under this Act is performed by a Sampling Officer of the County Council, and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for analysis :—

Black Grape Jelly (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Bread (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	1
Cachous (Cake Decorations)	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	1
Coffee with Fig Flavouring	...	...	...	1
Corned Beef (Tinned) (Informal) wire contained in	...	...	...	1
Currants	...	...	...	1
Garden Peas (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	2
Lemon Crystals	...	...	...	1
Luncheon Meat (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Maple Syrup	...	...	...	1
Meat Pudding (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Meatless Steaks (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	2
Non-brewed Condiment	...	...	...	1
Pork Luncheon Meat (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	2
Prunes	...	...	...	1
Ravioli with Tomato Juice (Tinned)	...	...	...	1
Red Salmon (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	3
Rice	...	...	...	1
Sago	...	...	...	1
Sausage (Beef) (Preserved)	...	...	...	2
Slimming Tablets	...	...	...	2
Stew Mix (Mixed Cereals)	...	...	...	1
Stuffed Pork Roll (Tinned) (Informal)	...	...	...	1
Sugar	...	...	...	1
Sweets	...	...	...	2
Tea	...	...	...	1
MILK :				
T.T.	...	...	...	8
Pasteurised T.T.	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	...	7
TOTAL				60

One sample of pasteurised milk, originally delivered to a private purchaser, was certified to contain some small insect larvae. A letter of caution was sent to the dairy company concerned.

The sample listed as "Corned Beef etc." consisted of a piece of iron wire alleged to have been found in a tin of corned beef bought by a private purchaser. After investigation, a cautionary letter was sent to the manufacturers.

The remaining 58 samples were genuine.

(In addition to the samples listed above, 18 Pasteurised T.T. and 27 Pasteurised Milk samples, all reported genuine, were taken at the Milk Marketing Board's dairy at Langley Bridge).



