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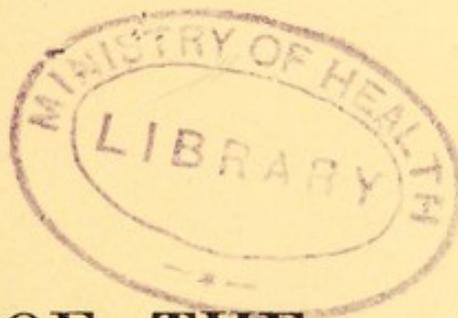
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**Hetton Urban District Council**



**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1953

**L. A. M. JOHNSTON,**  
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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Health Department,  
Hetton House,  
Hetton-le-Hole.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting my Thirteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics for Hetton Urban District therewith being the report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The year may be regarded as having been satisfactory and it is with pleasure that one observes that the problem of slum clearance has been slowly and effectively tackled.

I tender my sincere gratitude to all members of the Council and fellow officers for their ever ready help whenever required.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

**SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER.** Whole time. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring and Washington Urban Districts, and Assistant County Medical Officer for Area No. 5.

## Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination	Child Welfare and Maternity
Immunisation against	School Medical
Diphtheria	Welfare of the blind

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

**FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS.** Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

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## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—4,527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—18,390 mid 1953.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to Rate Books—5,995.

Rateable Value—£71,057.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£249.

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## Vital Statistics

### Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1953 was 289 as compared with 303 for 1952.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:—

		Total	Male	Female		
Live Births	}	Legitimate	279	133	146	}
	}	Illegitimate	10	4	6	
} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.71						

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.5 for 1953.

Still Births—during 1953 there were 3 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female		
Still Births	}	Legitimate	3	1	2	}
	}	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
} giving a Rate of 10.11 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births						

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.16 in the district as compared with 0.35 for England and Wales.

### Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 219 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 114 males and 105 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.9 the population being estimated at 18,390.

In order to compare the death rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.16 giving a death rate of Hetton Urban District of 13.7 compared with 11.4 for England and Wales.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1953 there were 172 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 89 males and 83 females. Of these 2 males and 4 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 87 males and 79 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 27 males and 26 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 219, being 114 males and 105 females.

### Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1953, 7 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 3.19 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

The following table shows:—

1. (a) males (b) females (c) total births (d) rate per 1,000.
2. (a) males (b) females (c) total deaths (d) rate per 1,000.
3. Total increase of population.

Year	BIRTHS				DEATHS				
	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Total Increase
1944	213	202	415	23.13	96	82	178	9.92	237
1945	201	176	377	20.65	107	85	192	10.52	185
1946	176	189	365	19.24	101	93	194	10.22	171
1947	229	207	436	23.04	120	101	221	11.68	215
1948	172	183	355	19.02	121	86	207	11.09	148
1949	180	158	338	17.95	116	97	213	11.31	125
1950	158	173	331	17.71	137	111	248	13.27	83
1951	147	167	314	17.08	139	117	256	12.84	58
1952	165	138	303	16.53	113	100	213	11.62	90
1953	137	152	289	15.7	114	105	219	11.9	70

**Deaths in Institutions.**

Of the 53 residents who died outside the district, 1 died in a private house, 1 at South Hetton Colliery and 1 in a field at Ingolmells, Spilsbury.

Sunderland Royal Infirmary ... ..	19
General Hospital, Sunderland ... ..	17
Maternity Hospital, Chester Road, Sunderland	1
Infectious Diseases Hospital, Sunderland ...	1
Children's Hospital, Sunderland ... ..	1
General Hospital, Ryhope ... ..	6
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street ... ..	1
Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Dunston Hill ...	1
Dryburn Hospital, Durham ... ..	1
160, Harton Lane, South Shields ... ..	2

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis.

Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births from Other Puerperal Causes ... .. 0.00

Notifications Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia per 1,000 total Births (live and still).

England and Wales ... ..	18.23
Hetton Urban District ... ..	0.00

**Death Rate of Infants under One Year.**

7 children died during 1953 before attaining the age of one year, being 5 legitimate males, 2 legitimate females.

During 1952, 10 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1944-53.

	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1944	62.65	60.45	111.11
1945	45.09	41.09	166.66
1946	38.35	40.34	—
1947	36.69	35.29	90.90
1948	50.7	46.65	166.66
1949	35.5	36.25	—
1950	48.3	50.16	—
1951	38.22	39.09	—
1952	33.0	33.67	—
1953	24.2	25.08	—

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1953 was 26.8

For the purpose of these and the following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows:—

Easington Lane	5,518
Hetton	5,020
Hetton Downs	5,756
Rainton and Moorsley	2,096
	<hr/>
	18,390

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1,000 population is:—

Easington Lane	0.18
Hetton	0.79
Hetton Downs	0.17
Rainton and Moorsley	0.47

Of the 7 infants who died under one year of age the cause of death was in 1 case due to prematurity, giving a percentage of 14.2 due to this cause. 4 or 57.1 per cent. of the total deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 219, 3.2 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under the age of one year. Of these under one year of age 42.8 per cent. were under one week.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age:—

	Nett Live Births—Legitimate		Illegitimate		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Corrected as per Registrar General	133	146	4	6	= 289
Nett Deaths	5	2	—	—	= 7

During 1953 there were 180 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, 16 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 6 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, 5 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest and 12 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Easington Lane	18	12	10	15	55
Hetton	26	19	15	9	69
Hetton Downs	17	16	15	17	65
Rainton and Moorsley	8	4	9	9	30
Total	69	51	49	50	219

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65-75 years	75 years and over	Total
Easington Lane	2	-	-	-	-	2	19	17	15	55
Hetton	3	-	-	-	1	1	25	11	29	69
Hetton Downs	1	-	-	-	-	2	16	18	27	65
Rainton & Moorsley	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	15	9	30
Total	7	-	-	-	1	7	63	61	80	219

There were no deaths from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), giving a death rate of 0.00 per 1,000 live births compared with 1.1 for England and Wales.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths in Hetton Urban District										Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.														
	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea	under 2 yrs	Total	Hn	EW												
1944	178	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7	9.92	11.6	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.12	
1945	192	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	8	10.52	11.4	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.08
1946	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10.22	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.15	
1947	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11.68	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.09
1948	207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	11.09	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
1949	213	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	11.31	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.15
1950	248	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	13.27	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10
1951	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	14.90	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.38
1952	213	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	11.60	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
1953	219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.90	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16

Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.

Hn—Hetton Urban District; EW—England and Wales.

No. of Deaths in Hetton Urban District

Population 1953—18,390

**Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1953.**

Causes of Death.	Male	Female
All Causes	114	105
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	4
15. Leukaemia aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	31
18. Coronary disease angina	20	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20. Other heart disease	9	13
21. Other circulatory disease	3	1
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	7	3
24. Bronchitis	10	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34. All other accidents	4	2
35. Suicide	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of War	—	—

**Causes of Death.**

## (a) Tuberculosis.

There were 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1953 being equivalent to a death rate per 1,000 population, of .108 from the pulmonary form and .054 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:—

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1944	9	.524	.50	2	.103	.11
1945	6	.519	.32	1	.100	.05
1946	13	not available	.68	1	not available	.05
1947	11	.470	.58	3	.079	.15
1948	7	.440	.38	1	.067	.05
1949	5	.403	.27	0	.054	.00
1950	4	.321	.21	1	.043	.05
1951	4	.275	.21	2	.041	.11
1952	7	.212	.38	1	.028	.05
1953	2	.179	.10	1	.022	.05

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1953 for England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 160 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000) compared with Hetton-le-Hole.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and  
Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1953.

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	160 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Res'd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Hetton Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Home Population					
BIRTHS—					
Live ... ..	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	15.71
Still ... ..	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.16
DEATHS—					
All Causes ... ..	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.15
Influenza ... ..	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.00
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.00
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection ... ..	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.81
Whooping Cough ... ..	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	4.4
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.05
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles ... ..	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	14.24
Pneumonia ... ..	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	3.64
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic ... ..	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.10
Non-paralytic ... ..	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05
Food Poisoning ... ..	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.00
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	0.00(a)
DEATHS—					
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
All Causes under 1 yr. age	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	25.08
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.00

(a) Per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

## (b) Heart Disease.

Heart Disease was, as in former years, one of the chief causes of death throughout the area. 49 persons, being 29 males and 20 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 22.37 per cent of the total deaths, and a mortality rate of 2.66 per 1,000 population.

## (c) Vascular Lesions of Nervous System—Coronary Disease and Angina.

This group consists almost entirely of persons who are certified as having died from Cerebral Thrombosis, Coronary Thrombosis and Cerebral Haemorrhage; Coronary Thrombosis is also a disease of the vascular system.

The number of deaths from these causes appears to be steadily increasing and the two groups together account for the deaths of 83 persons, being 45 males and 38 females.

	Males	Females	Totals
Vascular lesions of Nervous System ...	25	31	56
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	20	7	27
	45	38	83

This is equivalent (taking the two groups together) to 37.9 per cent of the total deaths and a Mortality rate of 4.51 per thousand population.

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to VLNS & CDA	Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to VLNS & CDA
			All Causes	VLNS & CDA	
1951	253	82	12.84	4.46	32.4
1952	213	73	11.62	3.98	34.2
1953	219	83	11.9	4.51	37.9

(NOTE.—VLNS: Vascular Lesions of Nervous System, and CDA: Coronary Disease, Angina).

## (d) Cancer.

39 deaths—being 21 males and 18 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 17.8 per cent of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 2.12 per 1,000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in the Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1944-1953.

Year	Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male	Female	Total	
1944	12	10	22	1.22
1945	15	18	33	1.80
1946	13	9	22	1.15
1947	17	11	28	1.47
1948	15	19	34	1.82
1949	26	13	39	2.07
1950	17	10	27	1.44
1951	13	14	27	1.41
1952	17	12	29	1.58
1953	21	18	39	2.12

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the larger clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Locally compiled figures which are arrived at without having all the information which the Registrar possesses are 39 deaths being 21 males and 18 females.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1953 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site	Males—Ages.	Females—Ages.
Oesophagus	70, 77.	
Cervix		60, 73, 64, 76.
Stomach	71, 65, 52, 62, 69, 68, 59	74, 58, 77, 77, 64, 81.
Colon	86, 56, 77.	60, 76, 67.
Liver	56, 66.	
Pharynx	75.	
Breast		81, 64, 80.
Kidney	61.	
Lung	76, 53, 51	70.
Brain	47.	
Pancreas		58.
Prostate	71.	

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area

### Ambulance Facilities

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton-le-Spring, West Rainton and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. Despite minor initial difficulties the Service has worked smoothly. One of the major difficulties has been the gross deterioration of many of the vehicles which the County took over and which from the beginning were unroadworthy and entirely incapable of being made so at anything like a reasonable cost, thus reducing the number available throughout the County considerably below that originally anticipated and throwing more work on those which could be used. A number of new vehicles have been added to the fleet and whilst the number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month, the increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

### Vaccination.

Since July 1948, Vaccination has no longer been compulsory and doubtless this has led to a much smaller number of children being vaccinated.

This service is under the control of the County Council and figures available for the year 1953.

#### VACCINATION.

#### REVACCINATION.

Quarter	VACCINATION.							REVACCINATION.								
	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9	10-14	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9	10-14.	Total
1st	27	10	2	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	13
2nd	19	15	1	—	1	1	—	37	—	—	—	—	2	13	—	15
3rd	8	5	—	—	—	2	—	15	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	7
4th	21	9	2	1	1	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	5
Ttals	75	39	5	1	2	3	—	125	—	—	—	—	14	26	—	40

The numbers as shown amount to a very small proportion of the annual births in the district, and one cannot but view with great anxiety the position which would arise should an epidemic of smallpox occur, a possibility which cannot be overlooked in view of the rapidity and frequency of use of air travel from the East.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

This service is also the responsibility of the County Council. Figures are available to show the number of children whose immunisation was reported during 1953 by the doctors performing the treatment.

#### PRIMARY INJECTIONS                      RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS

Quarter	PRIMARY INJECTIONS							RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS								
	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9	10-15	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9	10-15	Total
1st	27	10	2	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	13
2nd	19	15	1	—	1	1	—	38	—	—	—	—	2	13	—	15
3rd	8	5	—	—	—	2	—	15	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	7
4th	21	9	2	1	1	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	5
Totals	75	39	5	1	2	3	—	126	—	—	—	—	14	26	—	40

It cannot be sufficiently emphasised that to be efficient in preventing Diphtheria becoming epidemic at least 75% of the child population under 15 years of age should be immunised. There is no doubt that the general propaganda throughout the country during and since the last war has resulted in a much higher proportion of the children being treated and this has been followed by an immense reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria per year and a corresponding reduction in the deaths therefrom.

Experience has shown the vital importance of re-inforcing immunisation (sometimes called "booster" doses). If a child is treated between the age 6-12 months, as all children should be, then it is most desirable that it should have a booster when it starts school and with advantage a second booster about 5 years later. It will indeed be tragic if parents are lulled into a sense of security because the incidence and seriousness of this disease has diminished during the past ten years and therefore neglect to have their children treated.

At present approximately 36.62% of children under 5 years of age and 51.02% of children between 5 and 15 years have been

immunised. I understand that the Local Health Authority (County Council) send birthday card reminders to children when they attain the age of 1 year but I feel that there is room for much vigorous propaganda, particularly as the proportion of immunised children is so much lower than the desired minimum.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

This is now available to all who are in need and the Nurses who served this area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association have continued in their work.

#### **Maternity and Midwifery.**

The Nurses formerly employed by the County Council for this work are continuing with same, although perhaps more frequently as Maternity nurses than Midwives than formerly, since these services and that of the medical practitioners is now free. It is the intention of the National Health Service Act that there should be local panels of medical practitioners with special experience in midwifery who should do this work.

#### **Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.**

As formerly these continue to be administered by the County Council, the centre remaining at Hetton.

#### **School Medical Clinics.**

These are as formerly under the control of the County Council, the children from Hetton Urban District attending the clinic in Houghton-le-Spring.

#### **Tuberculosis Clinic.**

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

#### **Venereal Diseases Clinics.**

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

#### **Domestic Helps.**

Women who are suitable and willing are employed by the County Council as Home Helps who are sent out to give domestic assistance when a request for same is made and proved to be necessary in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged. Charge for this assistance is based on income and, if necessary, may be free. Requests for such assistance may be made to the Council Medical Officer either direct or through the local Health Department.

This service has undoubtedly proved to be a great boon to many.

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

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During the year 1953, some 444 cases of infectious diseases, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows an increase on the figure for 1952—which was 237. There were 262 cases of measles and 81 of whooping cough, as compared with 82 measles and 52 whooping cough in 1952

### Scarlet Fever.

There were 15 cases of scarlet fever in the district compared with 23 in 1952. Of these 5 were isolated in hospital.

The case incidence for the district is 0.81 per 1,000 population, and that for England and Wales being 1.39.

No case of puerperal pyrexia was notified.

### Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1953 as compared with 2 cases in 1952. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Hetton House, Hetton-le-Hole.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 compared with 0.01 for England and Wales.

### Influenza.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately on the whole of a mild character; no deaths were certified as being due to this cause.

### Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1953. In 1953 there were 262 cases of measles and 81 cases of whooping cough notified as against 82 measles and 52 whooping cough in 1952.

During the year there were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infections have been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of a rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

### **Pneumonia and Erysipelas.**

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed an increase, there being 67 cases notified during 1953, as against 60 in 1952. 1 case of erysipelas was notified in 1953, as against 1 in 1952. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

There were 10 deaths directly due to pneumonia and some in which it was a contributory cause.

### **Infantile Paralysis.**

During the year 1953, 3 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area.

**School Notification of Disease.**

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

**Notifiable Disease during the year 1953.**

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	5	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...
Pneumonia	67	...	10
Erysipelas	1	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	1	1	...
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...
Measles	262	...	...
Whooping Cough	81	...	...
Para-typhoid Fever	...	...	...
Totals	430	9	10

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1953--Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.						
	At Ages—Years											Helton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	M'sley & R'ton	Total								
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65								65 and over					
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	...	3	6	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	4	3	7	1	...	15	5	0.81	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	18	11	5	5	3	5	1	1	4	2	7	6	...	...	67	25	16	16	10	...	67	...	3.64	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	0.05
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	6	2	2	1	1	...	6	...	0.32	
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	7	2	3	1	1	...	7	...	0.38	
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	0.10	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	0.10
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	0.05
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	11	31	26	40	37	112	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	262	68	80	101	13	...	262	...	14.24	
Whooping Cough	8	11	12	11	19	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	19	23	26	13	...	81	...	4.4	
Totals	37	53	45	56	62	146	7	6	10	3	13	6	...	...	444	121	129	155	39	...	444	8	24.14	

**Case Rates for Infectious Diseases—Notifications per 1,000 Population.**

Figures for England and Wales, 160 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Hetton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	160 Smaller Towns Resident Pop'lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	Hetton Urban District
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.39	1.44	0.81
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.13	0.05
Pneumonia ...	0.84	0.76	3.64
Measles ...	12.36	12.32	14.24
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.00
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.38	4.40

**Prevention of Blindness**

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

**Tuberculosis**

There has been no action taken during 1953 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

**New Cases of Mortality during 1953.**

13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 6 males and 7 females were notified or came to notice during the year; also 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 2 females. In 1952 there were 10 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 7 males and 3 females, and 3 cases of non-pulmonary forms being 1 male and 2 females.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1953 according to sex and wards.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hetton ...	2	2	....	1	5
Hetton Downs	2	3	....	1	6
Eas. Lane ...	1	1	....	....	2
Moorsley & Rainton	1	1	....	....	2
Totals ...	6	7	....	2	15

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—65 years ...	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	7	—	2	2	—	1	—

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1944-53 inclusive.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total All Forms	
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1944	6	9	15	4	6	10	25
1945	9	4	13	3	2	5	18
1946	12	14	26	4	3	7	33
1947	9	10	19	2	5	7	26
1948	7	9	16	2	1	3	19
1949	10	7	17	1	1	2	19
1950	5	15	20	1	3	4	24
1951	15	10	25	3	-	3	28
1952	7	3	10	1	2	3	13
1953	6	7	13	-	2	2	15

#### Occupation.

Amongst the non-pulmonary cases 1 was a housewife, and 1 occupation unknown.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 5 were housewives, 2 miners, 1 of school age, 1 painter, 1 clerk, 1 undertaker, 1 ward maid, and 1 occupation unknown.

#### Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

1 neck gland and 1 cervical glands.

#### Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

#### Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

### **Housing and Tuberculosis.**

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Hetton Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

In many areas of the country a marked increase has been noticed in the cases of tuberculosis in children comparing the years 1938 and 1953, but the reverse is the position here. There has been an explanation of the increase given in various instances, ascribing it to overcrowding and bad housing conditions.

In Hetton the number of new notifications of cases of tuberculosis is the lowest ever recorded in the district. Of the new cases notified only one was under 20 years of age.

## VITAL STATISTICS

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### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM DURHAM COUNTY REPORT OF CENSUS, 1951.

#### **Population and Intercensal Changes.**

The total population in the County of Durham at the 1951 Census was 1,463,868, indicating a net decrease over the whole period since the 1931 Census of about 22,000 population.

In the pre-war period, 1931-39, the population of the County as a whole decreased by 3.2 per cent in contrast to an increase of 3.7 per cent in England and Wales. The decrease was not evenly spread over the County and there was only a very small decrease in the group of areas containing Sunderland.

The second period, mid-1939 to mid-1941, showed a rate of decrease of civilian population only slightly larger than that for England and Wales, indicating a little loss of population by evacuation or migration movements, except in the Tyneside district and the area around and including Sunderland where the reduction exceeded 10 per cent.

The third period, from 1941 to 1948, covers the remainder of the war period and the three years following. The civil population in all areas appears to have reached its lowest ebb in 1943 and there was some increase in 1944. As demobilisation proceeded, the total population of Durham approached the numbers of 1939, but it did not pass this figure until 1948. The increases were not evenly spread throughout the County. The Tyneside area as a whole and those areas grouped with Sunderland had not even in 1951 regained the population size of 1939.

The last period, 1948 to 1951, covers the return to more normal conditions, but it is too short to provide any reliable indication as to rates of population change. There has been little alteration in the population of the County during this period.

#### **Dwellings.**

Dwellings in the County of Durham, in the occupation of private households and vacant number, in 1951, 411,802, being an increase of 82,677 (25.1 per cent) over the 1931 figure, the majority of new dwellings having been erected before the war.

During the period 1931 to 1951 the increase in the relative numbers of 4 and 5 roomed dwellings is marked; an experience similar to that throughout the country. This change is largely due to increased building of 4 and 5 roomed dwellings, the number

of which is 30 per cent greater than pre-1931 and now represent more than half the dwellings in the County. It is interesting to note that size distribution of dwellings in Durham County were 37 per cent of 1 to 3 rooms and only 9 per cent with 6 or more rooms and is quite different from that of the country as a whole.

It was discovered that 96 per cent of households in the County were occupied by one household only and that 92 per cent of households occupied the whole of a dwelling. These figures compared with 93 and 85 respectively for England and Wales. Less than two-thirds of dwellings occupied by only one household, but nearly all dwellings occupied by more than one household, contain at least 4 rooms. 60 per cent of the units of occupation in shared dwellings occupied by individual households are of one or two rooms. Although only about one-fifth of these sharing households occupy a single room, the number so housed represents more than three-quarters of all the one-room households in the County.

#### **Private Households.**

The average number of persons per private household in the County is now 3.40 as compared with 4.04 in 1931.

Size distribution of households in Durham is not unlike that for England and Wales, nearly half being of 3 or 4 persons, but in Durham there are relatively more households of 5 persons and over and fewer of 1 or 2 persons, a natural result of the birth rate being higher in the County than for the country.

The total number of dwellings increased during the period under consideration by 25 per cent, while the total number of households increased by only 17 per cent, indicating that the provision of new dwellings was not only keeping pace with the increase in numbers of households but was enabling more households to occupy whole dwellings instead of sharing.

The average density of occupation of dwellings, i.e. number of persons per room, in Durham is considerably higher than in the country as a whole but has been reduced considerably since 1931.

It has been shown by the Census that 23 per cent of the households in the County now live at a density of one person per room and 49 per cent live at lower densities. These figures compare with 20 per cent and 32 per cent respectively in 1931. Only 11 per cent of all the household occupations of the County contain 3 or more rooms in excess of persons. It would appear that the possibilities of increasing the number of separate units of accommodation by conversion or adaptations of comparatively small dwellings and large households are much smaller than in many other counties.

**Household Arrangements.**

In the census return information was asked for each household regarding piped water supply, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath. It would appear that 49 per cent of all private households in the County have exclusive use of all these conveniences and a further 21 per cent have all except a fixed bath; figures which compare with 53 per cent and 20 per cent for England and Wales as a whole.

**Piped Water.**

18 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without the exclusive use of a piped water supply and nearly two-thirds of these households were in undivided dwellings. Figures compare with 17 per cent for England and Wales. Areas in the County with the highest percentages of households in undivided occupations entirely without water supplies were:— Weardale R.D. (26); Sunderland R.D. (23); Sunderland C.B. (21); Jarrow (20); and Hartlepool M.B., South Shields, Darlington R.D., Boldon, Hebburn, Seaham, Houghton-le-Spring, West Hartlepool C.B. (with between 9 and 14 per cent).

**Cooking Stoves.**

5 per cent of the households in the County are without exclusive use of cooking stoves. Among households sharing dwellings the proportions sharing a stove were below 25 per cent in Sunderland C.B. and R.D. and in Seaham.

**Kitchen Sink.**

19 per cent of households in the County were without exclusive use of a kitchen sink, comparing with 13 per cent for England and Wales as a whole where nearly half of the cases were of households in shared dwellings, but in Durham two-thirds were households in undivided occupation entirely without a sink. One-sixth were households in shared dwellings entirely without a sink, leaving only one-sixth sharing a sink. Among households in undivided dwellings proportions entirely without sinks were highest in the following areas:— Tow Law (45%), Spennymoor (36%), Brandon and Byshottles (34%), Weardale R.D. (32%), Crook and Willington (31%) and Hetton (30%).

**Water Closets.**

19 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without exclusive use of a water closet. Corresponding figure for the country was 21 per cent. As in the case of piped water supply nearly two-thirds of these households were in undivided occupations. Varied conditions are illustrated by the figures relating to households in undivided occupations; e.g. in the

West Durham coalfield area, Tow Law had 61 per cent whilst conditions in the Tyneside area, in the urban areas on Tees-side, in the Hartlepoons, Sunderland, Seaham and in Durham M.B. conditions were good in the sense that fewer than 2 per cent of households in undivided occupation were entirely without water closets.

#### **Fixed Baths.**

49 per cent of households in the County were without fixed baths.

#### **Heads of Households.**

The proportion of households with married heads is slightly higher in the County than in England and Wales as a whole. Where households have married heads nearly half have heads aged 40 to 59, and two-thirds of the remainder have heads under 40.

#### **Housing in Local Authority Areas.**

Most of the substantial losses in population in the 1931 to 1951 period have been in the Tyneside industrial areas and in the coalfield areas. They have been accompanied by very substantial reductions in the density of occupation of dwellings; the areas with the highest percentages of population housed at an average of over 2 persons per room in 1931 were on Tyneside (except for Sunderland). They were Hebburn (34%), Jarrow (33), Sunderland (29), Gateshead (29), Felling (27), and South Shields (26). Four of these still ranked among the six highest in the County in this respect in 1951, being Gateshead and Bishop Auckland (each 9), and Hebburn, Jarrow, Sunderland and Tow Law (each with 8).

Seaham, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington showed higher proportions of households sharing dwellings than anywhere else in the County except Sunderland. Sunderland is quite exceptional in having 31 per cent of its households living in shared dwellings in spite of a 37 per cent increase in numbers of dwellings in the 1931-51 period.

### **SEX, AGE AND MARITAL CONDITION**

#### **Distribution by Age.**

The two main factors determining the age pattern of the 1951 population of the County are the decline in fertility and the heavy outward migration. The population has been ageing generally throughout the country, and Durham is no exception although it still has a younger age structure than England and Wales as a whole. It is evident that after taking mortality into account the deficiency is more marked at younger ages, more than half of it relating to persons who were below age 35 in 1951. It is clear

that the County has lost by migration considerable numbers of young or middle-aged adults and their children.

Sex and age distributions are also affected appreciably by the war deaths of two world wars, although that of the recent war is less apparent, partly because the total numbers were much smaller (300,00 for England and Wales) and partly because the female population in the young adult age groups in 1951 also suffered loss by the post-war emigration of English war brides of Commonwealth and Allied servicemen. Another factor affecting appreciably the Census record of males in the age group 15-24, both in 1931 and 1951, was the absence of men serving in the armed forces abroad. At the 1931 Census the population of Durham was noticeably younger in age structure than that of England and Wales, there being a comparative excess of children and a deficiency of older people. In 1951 the difference in age structure was less marked but the County still shows higher proportions in the age groups under 35 than the country as a whole.

Comparison between 1951 and 1931 illustrates the "ageing" trend that has been noted in similar reports of previous intercensal periods. In Durham 9.4 per cent of persons were aged 65 and over in 1951 compared with 5.6 per cent in 1931.

#### **Excess of Females over Males.**

For the County of Durham the number of females per 1,000 males in the population of all ages was 1,039, as compared with 999 in 1921 and 1,000 in 1931. The ratio for the whole population is lower than that for the population of marriage age because the preponderance of male births provides an excess of males at ages under 15.

#### **Marital Condition.**

Of persons aged 15 and over in Durham, nearly two-thirds are married, the proportion being slightly lower for females because there are more females than males in the population. The higher mortality rates of males as compared with those of females give rise to sex differences in the proportions widowed, there being 52 widowed men per 1,000 men aged 15 and over compared with 124 for women.

There is a marked tendency for people to marry earlier than formerly. At age 20-24 in Durham, there were 235 males per 1,000 married in 1951 as compared with only 155 in 1931 and 489 females per 1,000 compared with 341 in 1931. At ages 15 and over the proportions married have increased for men from 578 to 661 per 1,000 and for women from 586 to 637.

The reader is requested to refer to the tables at the end of this report.



Table A.—POPULATION 1921-1951 and Intercensal Variations.

Administrative Area	POPULATION							Increase or Decrease (-)					Net 1931 Population of Areas Added or Deducted (-) in Intercensal Period 1931-1951
	1921	1931			1951			1921-1931	1931-1951				
	Persons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Per cent.	Amount	Per cent.			
										Total	By B'ths & D'ths	Bal-ance	
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n
<b>DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s)</b> ...	1,479,033	1,486,175	742,923	743,252	1,463,868	718,056	745,812	0.5	-22,307	- 1.5	11.5	-13.0	—
<b>Urban Districts</b>													
Boldon ...	15,846	16,900	8,353	8,547	16,698	8,042	8,656	6.7	- 202	- 1.2	7.7	- 8.9	New Area
Hetton ...	19,960	20,560	10,575	9,985	18,504	9,186	9,318	3.0	- 2,056	-10.0	14.7	-24.7	2,895
Houghton-le-Spring ...	30,301	30,241	15,329	14,912	30,676	15,097	15,579	- 0.2	435	1.4	13.5	-12.1	19,625
Seaham ...	23,441	27,325	14,167	13,158	26,142	13,169	12,973	16.6	- 1,183	- 4.3	17.8	-22.1	New Area
Washington ...	17,721	17,704	9,045	8,659	17,799	8,866	8,933	- 0.1	95	0.5	14.7	-14.2	715
<b>Rural Districts</b>													
Sunderland ...	24,320	24,552	12,444	12,108	25,293	12,419	12,874	1.0	741	3.0	12.7	- 9.7	2,575



Table B.—Acreage, Population, Private Households & Dwellings.

Administrative Area	Average (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION						PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS & DWELLINGS, 1951						
		1931		1951				Persons per Acre	Private Households	Population in Private Hholds	Structurally sep- arate Dwellings Occupied	Rooms Occupied	Density of Occupation	
		Persons	Persons	d	e	f	g						Persons per Room	% more than 2 per room
<b>DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s)</b>	<b>649,433</b>	<b>1,486,175</b>	<b>1,463,858</b>	<b>718,056</b>	<b>745,812</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>422,153</b>	<b>1,435,467</b>	<b>403,414</b>	<b>1,597,878</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>5.5</b>		
<b>Boldon U.D. &amp; C.P.</b>	7,640	16,900	16,698	8,042	8,656	2.2	5,145	16,497	5,064	20,945	0.79	2.1		
Wards:														
Boldon Colliery	2,305	—	2,590	1,274	1,316	1.1	807	2,590	798	2,606	0.99	4.6		
Cleaton	1,600	—	1,873	857	1,016	1.2	579	1,767	579	2,906	0.61	0.5		
East Boldon	1,127	—	2,443	1,113	1,330	2.2	789	2,408	760	3,718	0.65	0.5		
New Town (Boldon Col.)	360	3,903	3,431	1,714	1,717	9.5	996	3,431	991	3,485	0.98	2.7		
West Boldon	699	1,238	1,464	713	751	2.1	455	1,412	438	2,012	0.70	2.0		
<b>Hetton U.D. &amp; C.P.</b>	4,551	20,560	18,504	9,186	9,318	4.1	5,237	18,493	5,164	19,309	0.96	5.3		
Wards:														
Easington Lane	696	6,080	5,322	2,653	2,669	7.6	1,470	5,322	1,436	5,347	1.00	4.5		
Hetton Downs	740	6,354	5,028	2,521	2,507	6.8	1,432	5,028	1,423	5,342	0.94	3.4		
Hetton-le-Hole	1,359	8,126	5,365	2,714	2,851	4.1	1,649	5,554	1,625	6,186	0.90	4.1		
Ramton	1,756	—	2,589	1,298	1,291	1.5	686	2,589	680	2,434	1.06	11.8		
<b>Houghton-le-Spring U.D. &amp; C.P.</b>	5,026	30,241	30,676	15,097	15,579	6.1	8,968	30,513	8,854	33,557	0.91	3.7		
Wards:														
Fence Houses	754	4,845	4,823	2,363	2,460	6.4	1,389	4,823	1,376	5,289	0.91	2.7		
Herrington	580	3,914	3,070	1,555	1,515	5.3	877	3,070	875	3,396	0.90	4.1		
Houghton	1,366	9,191	9,992	4,898	5,094	7.3	2,882	9,832	2,829	10,957	0.90	4.3		
Newbottle	1,258	5,165	4,362	2,146	2,216	3.5	1,322	4,359	1,302	4,828	0.90	4.8		
Penshaw	1,068	7,126	8,429	4,135	4,294	7.9	2,498	8,429	2,472	9,085	0.93	2.2		
<b>Seaham U.D. &amp; C.P.</b>	2,469	27,325	26,142	13,169	12,973	10.6	7,185	25,730	6,723	25,510	1.01	4.8		
Wards:														
Central Colliery	51	3,960	2,475	1,215	1,260	48.5	807	2,475	650	2,371	1.04	10.9		
Dawdon	1,277	7,866	6,403	3,133	3,270	5.0	1,680	6,213	1,648	6,489	0.96	3.2		
Deneside	331	4,421	3,376	1,787	1,589	10.2	845	3,376	840	3,078	1.10	4.7		
North	245	2,512	5,950	3,039	2,911	24.3	1,659	5,943	1,646	5,432	1.09	4.9		
Princess Ropery	103	2,158	1,018	502	516	9.9	291	1,013	291	1,113	0.91	2.8		
Washington U.D. & C.P.	235	2,730	4,234	2,075	2,159	18.0	1,108	4,234	1,086	4,633	0.91	2.9		
Wards:														
Barnston	227	3,678	2,686	1,418	1,268	11.8	795	2,476	562	2,394	1.03	5.8		
Great Usworth	5,758	17,704	17,799	8,866	8,933	3.1	5,011	17,792	4,920	17,907	0.99	5.6		
Springwell	919	497	356	173	183	0.4	104	356	96	390	0.91	2.2		
Usworth Colliery	724	669	3,012	1,535	1,477	4.2	770	3,012	768	3,013	1.00	4.0		
Washington	465	1,857	1,404	705	699	3.0	432	1,404	430	1,394	1.01	5.5		
Washington Station	1,329	4,972	4,415	2,219	2,196	3.3	1,245	4,415	1,213	4,063	1.09	7.9		
Washington Station	1,647	4,206	3,722	1,834	1,888	2.3	1,046	3,722	1,036	3,769	0.99	5.0		
Sunderland R.D.	220	844	446	230	216	2.0	118	446	112	401	1.11	10.1		
Washington Station	454	4,659	4,444	2,170	2,274	9.8	1,296	4,437	1,265	4,877	0.91	4.3		
Sunderland R.D.	6,734	24,552	25,293	12,419	12,874	3.76	7,077	24,266	6,855	25,604	0.95	3.5		



**Table C.—DWELLINGS, ROOMS & HOUSEHOLDS**

Note.—Dwellings partly occupied by one household and partly vacant are treated in this Table as occupied by one household.

	STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS										NUMBER OF ROOMS			
	1 Rooms	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	8 or 9 Rooms	10 or more Rooms	All Sizes	Occupied	Vacant Furnished	Others	Total
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
<b>DURHAM COUNTY</b> (A.C. with associated C.B.s)														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	1,898	42,569	102,117	139,709	81,528	20,985	8,444	4,894	1,270	<b>403,414</b>	1,597,878	1,312	959	<b>1,600,149</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	1,899	42,715	103,199	143,225	85,410	24,936	11,275	7,314	2,180	<b>422,153</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>828</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes (a) 2 houseboats comprising 4 rooms occupied by 2 households; (b) 346 caravans comprising 531 rooms occupied by 346 households.													
<b>BOLDON U.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	19	529	1,266	1,314	1,281	384	160	87	24	<b>5,064</b>	20,945	4	9	<b>20,958</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	19	530	1,270	1,330	1,290	404	175	94	33	<b>5,145</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>6</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 10 caravans comprising 10 rooms occupied by 10 households.													
<b>HETTON U.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	15	668	1,501	1,801	971	133	33	35	7	<b>5,164</b>	19,309	6	2	<b>19,317</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	15	669	1,508	1,837	980	146	35	40	7	<b>5,237</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>3</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 5 caravans comprising 12 rooms occupied by 5 households.													
<b>HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING U.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	29	871	2,447	3,567	1,670	155	56	38	21	<b>8,854</b>	33,557	17	16	<b>33,590</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	29	872	2,466	3,611	1,685	171	63	42	29	<b>8,968</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>2</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 29 caravans comprising 74 rooms occupied by 29 households.													
<b>SEAHAM U.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	28	867	1,916	2,373	993	345	148	44	9	<b>6,723</b>	25,510	34	3	<b>25,547</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	28	868	1,924	2,420	1,066	452	312	105	10	<b>7,185</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>24</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 4 caravans comprising 10 rooms occupied by 4 households.													
<b>WASHINGTON U.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	23	540	1,654	1,951	593	81	45	31	2	<b>4,920</b>	17,907	2	3	<b>17,912</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	23	550	1,672	1,995	607	84	45	33	2	<b>5,011</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>1</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 13 caravans comprising 13 rooms occupied by 13 households.													
<b>SUNDERLAND R.D.</b>														
Total Dwellings occupied ... ..	26	921	1,919	2,595	1,047	210	69	46	22	<b>6,855</b>	25,604	12	14	<b>25,630</b>
N'mber of Private Households therein	26	923	1,936	2,687	1,071	245	97	65	27	<b>7,077</b>				
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ... ..										<b>6</b>				
	N.B.—The above section includes 5 caravans comprising 6 rooms occupied by 5 households.													

TABLE 1-1

Number of dwellings occupied by...

Year	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970
Total	100,000	110,000	120,000	130,000	140,000
Single-family	80,000	85,000	90,000	95,000	100,000
Multi-family	20,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Birmingham County from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 100,000 in 1950 to 140,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 80,000 to 100,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 20,000 to 40,000.

BOLTON TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Bolton Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 10,000 in 1950 to 15,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 8,000 to 12,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

BETTON TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Betton Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 12,000 in 1950 to 18,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 10,000 to 15,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

HOCCHON-LEBRING TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Hocchon-Lebring Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 15,000 in 1950 to 22,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 13,000 to 19,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

PEARSON TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Pearson Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 18,000 in 1950 to 25,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 16,000 to 22,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

WASHINGTON TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Washington Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 20,000 in 1950 to 28,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 18,000 to 25,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

STURMANS TWP.

Table 1-1 shows the number of dwellings occupied in Sturmans Twp. from 1950 to 1970. The total number of dwellings increased from 22,000 in 1950 to 30,000 in 1970. Single-family dwellings increased from 20,000 to 27,000, while multi-family dwellings increased from 2,000 to 3,000.

**Table D.—PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS by DENSITY of OCCUPATION (Persons per Room).**

Notes.—(1) In this Table households sharing dwellings are classified according to the number of rooms occupied by each, regardless of whether the remainder of the dwelling is occupied or vacant.  
 (2) Households occupying part of a dwelling, the remainder being vacant, are treated in this Table as households sharing dwellings.

Area	Households in All Dwellings at successive densities										Numbers of Households in Shared Dwellings at successive densities						Population in All Households at successive densities						Percentage of persons living at more than 2 per room		
	Numbers					Percentages					TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	1951	1931	
	TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1															1 or less
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s)	422,153	2,101	10,374	33,974	74,253	301,451	0.5	2.5	8.0	17.6	71.4	34,074	1,067	2,899	5,110	5,958	19,040	1,435,467	13,182	65,640	187,108	348,988	820,549	5.49	20.29
<i>Urban Districts—</i>																									
Boldon .. ..	5,145	6	47	275	768	4,049	0.1	0.9	5.3	14.9	78.8	155	4	6	15	20	110	16,497	34	319	1,464	3,540	11,140	2.14	11.82
Hetton .. ..	5,237	23	115	416	1,079	3,604	0.4	2.2	7.9	20.6	68.9	147	12	19	27	25	64	18,493	142	842	2,414	5,261	9,834	5.32	16.31
Houghton-le-Spring	8,968	22	143	577	1,587	6,639	0.2	1.6	6.4	17.7	74.1	225	12	33	44	37	99	30,513	142	999	3,399	7,576	18,397	3.74	14.95
Seaham .. ..	7,185	19	172	764	1,625	4,605	0.3	2.4	10.6	22.6	64.1	799	9	53	124	217	396	25,730	107	1,122	4,434	7,619	12,448	4.78	—
Washington ..	5,011	29	134	539	1,058	3,251	0.6	2.7	10.8	21.1	64.8	183	22	37	50	17	57	17,792	148	856	3,026	4,909	8,853	5.64	20.14
<i>Rural Districts—</i>																									
Sunderland ..	7,077	12	110	533	1,463	4,959	0.2	1.6	7.5	20.7	70.0	412	6	24	69	100	213	24,266	82	766	3,038	6,816	13,564	3.49	—

Table B—PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

Percent of total private households having the specified service, by State and District, 1955. Percentages are based on the total number of private households in each State and District, including those in the unincorporated areas of the States.

State and District	Telephone service				Television service			
	Total	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Alabama	75	85	70	60	15	25	10	5
Alaska	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5
Arizona	65	75	55	45	10	15	5	2
Arkansas	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
California	85	95	75	65	25	35	15	10
Colorado	60	70	50	40	10	15	5	3
Connecticut	95	95	95	95	75	85	75	65
Delaware	90	90	90	90	70	75	70	65
District of Columbia	100	100	100	100	95	95	95	95
Florida	70	80	60	50	10	15	5	3
Georgia	65	75	55	45	5	10	2	1
Idaho	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Illinois	80	90	70	60	20	30	10	5
Indiana	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
Iowa	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Kansas	50	60	40	30	5	10	2	1
Kentucky	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Louisiana	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
Maine	85	90	80	75	65	75	65	55
Maryland	80	90	70	60	65	75	65	55
Massachusetts	95	95	95	95	85	90	85	75
Michigan	75	85	65	55	15	25	10	5
Minnesota	65	75	55	45	5	10	2	1
Mississippi	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Missouri	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
Montana	45	55	35	25	5	10	2	1
Nebraska	50	60	40	30	5	10	2	1
Nevada	65	75	55	45	10	15	5	3
New Hampshire	85	90	80	75	75	85	75	65
New Jersey	90	95	90	85	80	85	80	70
New Mexico	60	70	50	40	10	15	5	3
New York	95	95	95	95	90	95	90	80
North Carolina	65	75	55	45	5	10	2	1
North Dakota	45	55	35	25	5	10	2	1
Ohio	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
Oklahoma	50	60	40	30	5	10	2	1
Oregon	65	75	55	45	10	15	5	3
Pennsylvania	80	90	70	60	70	80	70	60
Rhode Island	90	90	90	90	80	85	80	70
South Carolina	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
South Dakota	45	55	35	25	5	10	2	1
Tennessee	65	75	55	45	5	10	2	1
Texas	70	80	60	50	10	15	5	3
Utah	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Vermont	85	90	80	75	75	85	75	65
Virginia	65	75	55	45	5	10	2	1
Washington	75	85	65	55	15	25	10	5
West Virginia	55	65	45	35	5	10	2	1
Wisconsin	60	70	50	40	5	10	2	1
Wyoming	45	55	35	25	5	10	2	1
U.S. Total	65	75	55	45	10	15	5	3

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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### Water Supply

During the year under review there was little change in the nature of the water supplied to the Urban Area, this being from four sources:—

- (a) The whole of Hetton, Peat Carr, Low Downs and Easington Lane are generally supplied with water obtained from Eppleton Colliery, the main storage reservoir being situated there, with a subsidiary reservoir at Easington Lane which has, in addition, a water tower necessary to supply certain high-lying parts of this Ward. The water distributed by this section of the supply amounted to 117,422,000 gallons during the year. Generally this supply was satisfactory in both quality and quantity apart from slight variations in purity due to deposits from the colliery chimney at Eppleton, which occasionally taints the water in the reservoir with carbon and ash, and the fact that during peak periods, that is, on Sunday mornings in particular, the pressure has been poor to the higher portions of the Peat Carr Area.

Samples are taken at monthly intervals by the Water Department and submitted for bacteriological examination, the monthly test usually consisting of one sample from the reservoir and three further samples from points on the mains chosen at random and every second month samples are submitted for chemical analysis. Results from the tests have on the whole been highly satisfactory, the chemical analysis report being "Excellent for drinking but abnormally hard for domestic use." The water is not plumbosolvent. Should any report of contamination be received the rate of chlorination is increased, the mains in the affected area are flushed out, and if necessary the reservoir is emptied and scrubbed out.

- (b) The Hetton Site, Peat Carr and Gargles Estate are at times supplied with soft water from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. To maintain an adequate supply to all consumers, it was necessary to use this supplementary supply throughout the area, this amounting to 34,624,000 gallons as compared with 27,584,000 gallons taken during the previous year.
- (c) The Moorsley area which now includes an increasing number of Council houses is supplied by the National Coal Board with spring water which is collected from surface feeders in a reservoir situated at Low Moorsley and from there gravitates to the Hazard Colliery from which it is pumped to a small reservoir at High Moorsley to obtain head. The system is simple, the

single pipe acting as a rising main when the pump is working, which is generally only for a comparatively short period each day, and at other times distribution is dependent upon gravity. Owing to the altitude of the storage reservoir, however, a good pressure is available throughout the day. Chlorination is carried out by a simple but effective method which is operated at all times, this being necessary as due to the fact that the water is collected from springs at surface level it is likely to be susceptible to contamination. It is for this reason kept under constant observation, samples being taken by the Health Department Staff at fortnightly intervals, these being submitted for bacteriological examination. Furthermore the National Coal Board Scientific Department also take samples frequently and therefore any variation in purity is immediately noticed and rectified. During 1953 this supply proved to be consistently pure and wholesome, very slight variations occurring after heavy rainfall. The mains and reservoirs were well maintained. Samples were also taken by the Health Department and submitted for chemical analysis at three monthly intervals. The pH value of the water was 6.8—7.1 with a permanent hardness of 12 degrees—20.4 degrees and a temporary hardness of 16 degrees—17.5 degrees.

- (d) East and Middle Rainton are supplied with water from the Durham County Water Board, this water is very soft and is also chlorinated. Samples are taken by the Health Department at fortnightly intervals and submitted for bacteriological examination and samples for chemical analysis are taken at three monthly intervals. The purity of the water was generally satisfactory, only very slight variations being observed from time to time. There has been, however, an increasing tendency for the higher portions of the Council's housing estate at East Rainton to suffer from water shortage owing to poor pressure. The water has a pH value of 6.1—6.8, a total hardness of 3.2 degrees—9 degrees and a permanent hardness of 1.2 degrees—4 degrees. It was adequately filtered and faintly coloured due to peat colouring in solution.

Certain out-lying groups of buildings obtained their water from independent supplies maintained by the National Coal Board, samples taken from these and submitted for bacteriological examination showed generally satisfactory results.

All samples taken for bacteriological examination are dealt with free of charge at the Public Health Laboratory. Many examinations were done as in previous years at the Laboratory in Newcastle, but following the opening of a Public Health Laboratory in Sunderland it has since been the practice to submit samples there. 71 samples were submitted during 1953, 5 of these being sub-standard. Samples from the main supplies were taken at least four times per year and submitted to the Council's Analyst, W. G. Carey, Esq., for chemical analysis, the figures quoted above did not include samples taken by the National Coal Board's Scientific Department from portions of the supply for which the Board is responsible or samples taken from the Council's own undertaking by the Water Department.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

Housing developments particularly in Easington Lane Ward made it necessary to continue the laying of soil and surface water sewers on the Gargles Farm Estate and in the Brickgarth Re-development Area. The sewers throughout the district with one exception drain to the Glebe Sewage Works at Rainton Bridge. These works which were completed in 1937 continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year. The routine half-yearly treatment of works and sewers for the destruction of rats was carried out during 1953.

It was necessary to serve 40 informal notices requiring the remedy of defects in house drains. These were attended to more or less promptly, it only being necessary in 2 cases to follow up informal notices with statutory notices.

### Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year under review sanitary conveniences in use in the area of various types were as follows:—

Water Closets .....	5780
Ash Closets .....	197
Ash-pit privies .....	17

Progress was made with a small privy conversion scheme which was nearly completed. During 1953, 67 conversions were carried out and in addition 2 private owners carried out conversions under the supervision of the Health Department, it being customary in such cases for the Council to make a grant towards the cost of the work, this generally being an amount equivalent to one half of the cost of similar conversions carried out by the Council.

The only ash-closets now remaining in the area are those serving property which is already subject to Demolition orders or which is likely to be dealt with in this manner in the near future, thus making the conversion of the privy uneconomic.

In connection with the clearance of houses under the Housing Act, 26 ash-closets and 24 water closets were demolished and in conjunction with the erection of new houses and improvements to sanitary accommodation attached to business premises 157 additional water closets were provided.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The work of refuse and salvage collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Health Department. At the beginning of the year under review 5 lorries and 15 men were employed on this work, a spare lorry being avail-

able for use should necessity arise. In addition the Council staff was implemented by the hire of a horse and cart, this being engaged for an average period of 21 hours per week in clearing isolated or inaccessible privies which it would not be economical to cleanse with a motor vehicle. Owing to the seasonal nature of the work it is not easy to keep a well balanced staff engaged. During the summer months the normal staff is easily capable of dealing with the work although it is obvious that even in the summer the amount of refuse put out is becoming heavy for a district of this size, but during the winter or when work is interrupted by breakdowns, it is difficult to keep abreast of the work unless spare labour is readily available. For this reason it was the normal practice during the winter months to engage two additional labourers for the period October to February. A further factor which additionally influenced winter work is that during the summer months the men work a 5 day week with longer daily hours but this of necessity is discontinued in the winter. There is no doubt, however, that despite the fact that no collections are made on Saturday and refuse accumulates over the long weekend, the work is more expeditiously carried out during the 5 day week.

The year 1953 was a momentous one so far as the scavenging service was concerned. In the early part of the year owing to the steep rise in costs, largely due to wage increases, it was found that unless economies were carried out immediately the estimate was likely to be well exceeded, therefore, in the February, during one of the most difficult periods of the year to carry out a change in the organisation of the work, one waggon was taken off the service and 4 men, including 2 permanent men. The work had until then been carried out in separate districts, a lorry and crew being allocated to each area, but the re-organisation entailed the use of only four lorries and twelve men to deal with the work in future and this was therefore organised by using the lorries on a relay system to work as a team throughout the district. The results quickly proved that it was possible to do the work in this way although many parts of the area are not well adapted to the relay system. Furthermore the services of the hired horse and cart was also dispensed with affecting a further saving and it was possible by this means to considerably cut excess expenditure in the short period left before the end of the financial year, and to adopt a considerably reduced estimate for the ensuing year. A further crisis in the service came in November 1953 when it was found that certain of the men had indulged in irregularities regarding the collection and disposal of scrap metal and after serious and prolonged consideration the Council decided to dispense with the services of the whole of the men and appoint a new staff, in fact the existing staff finished work on Christmas Eve and the new staff commenced work on Boxing Day, and it says much for the type of man appointed that although they commenced work as an untrained gang during the heaviest part of the year, with considerable arrears to make up, they very quickly welded into a satisfactory service.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping. Very little nuisance is caused by this although lack of soil for covering makes control difficult and tipping in this way will always give rise to complaint.

One tip in particular, The Brickies at Lyons Colliery, a disused water-logged quarry which had become a source of danger, presented rather a problem as the tip was adjacent to the highway and any wind distributed loose paper over adjoining fields. The filling of this was a matter of urgency and therefore the majority of refuse tipped was concentrated here and during the year tipping was completed, the site levelled over and the area has now been completely reclaimed.

Other tips in use are situated at Bull Wells and Hazard Colliery. The Bull Wells tip has been in use for many years and some 7 acres have been reclaimed and taken over by a smallholder who has successfully cropped it, and it is his intention to cultivate further land as tipping proceeds, but tipping space at this tip is now restricted. There is still a fair amount of tipping space at the Hazard Colliery tip and occasional demands are made for refuse to make good damage caused by Colliery subsidence, but the conservation of tipping space is becoming more and more necessary as sites requiring levelling are becoming scarce and the spread of housing schemes has made sites sufficiently remote from dwelling houses few and far between.

The work of the staff is steadily increasing with the number of new houses which are being erected, and furthermore the layout of the post war housing sites generally means that bins have to be carried increasing distances and for this reason lorries have been equipped with wheel bin carriers which do not always function satisfactorily however, owing to the number of steps to be negotiated. In most cases the nature of the refuse dealt with, this being very solid and heavy, makes it necessary for two men to be employed in carrying and lifting bins as although the number of solid fuel cooking appliances in use has diminished, and an increasing number of modern fireplaces are being installed, it cannot be said that the quantity of ash to be dealt with has decreased, and although a 24 in. by 18 in. bin is standardised throughout the district, this is hardly adequate in many cases for a once weekly collection.

It was not possible to operate a salvage scheme during the year as there was no demand for the paper collected and this constituted the largest source of income from the scheme, we had in fact a considerable quantity of paper in stock which was steadily deteriorating and causing some anxiety owing to the risk of fire by spontaneous combustion. It was not until August of the year under review that we were able to dispose of a small quantity of this and by the end of October all the marketable waste had been cleared out amounting to 19 tons 10 cwts. for which we obtained the price of £66/15/0. The price obtained was very poor compared with the average price of approximately £17 per ton ruling during the boom period and it was not an economical expedient to continue the service together with the incentive bonus which was paid to the workmen to encourage collection. However, now that it is possible to dispose of some waste paper, with the further possibility of prices increasing to a reasonable level, it is hoped to carry out the service on a modified basis, as a system of trade refuse collection has been organised and a large and increasing number of trades people are

taking advantage of this, a nominal charge being made for the removal of trade refuse, the greater proportion of which consists of waste paper and cartons, this being baled and marketed.

The scheme for the renewal of ashbins was carried on throughout the year and the demand for bins was good, little difficulty being met with in getting owners to agree to the department renewing the bin and despite the relatively high price of bins it was still possible to provide a good quality bin at considerably below retail price in the shops. The scheme ensures that a standard refuse receptacle is in use throughout the district, the average price of bins sold during the year was 22/6, and this allowed a small margin of profit to cover handling and administration costs. The number of bins renewed during the year under the scheme was 55.

The number of premises which were dealt with by the service at the end of 1953 was 5,685 and the approximate cost per house per annum was £1.40. Only the very small amount of income above mentioned could be collected from salvage, the income from this for the last year in which the scheme was in full operation, namely 1951, was £1,129/5/6½.

**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department  
during the year 1953.**

1. Public Health Acts.		Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	
Dw'ling-houses	} Foul Conditions	2	...	2	
and Schools		146	6	123	
	} Structural Def'ts	...	...	...	
	} Overcrowding	...	...	...	
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	
Bakehouses	...	3	...	3	
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	
Ashpits and Privies	..	7	...	7	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	9	...	9	
Water Closets	...	5	...	5	
Defective Yard Paving	...	16	...	14	
House	} Defective Traps	17	...	17	
Drainage		} No disconnection	...	...	...
		} from sewers	...	...	...
	} Other Faults	23	2	23	
Water Supply	...	17	...	17	
Pigsties	...	4	...	4	
Animals Improperly Kept	...	2	...	2	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	
Smoke Nuisances	...	3	...	2	
Defective Spouts	...	...	...	...	
Provisions of Dust Bins	...	55	1	55	
Provision of Scullery Sinks	...	9	...	6	
Totals	...	318	9	289	

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	71	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	5	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... ..	...	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... ..	163 Milk 4 IceCream	} For advisory purposes
Samples found Adulterated ... ..	...	
<b>III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.</b>		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	2	57 Houses treated for Beetles, etc.
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	7	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	...	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	...	
<b>IV. General.</b>		
Number of New Houses erected during year	151	140 Council
Number of such Houses occupied during year ... ..	151	11 Private
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	...	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets ...	...	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	67	
Total number of Water-closets in District	5780	
Total number of Ash-closets in District...	197	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	17	

## Housing

Following the Council's post war policy building of Council houses was carried out entirely by direct labour and very satisfactory progress was made during 1953, 140 being completed and occupied during the year and an additional number were in an advanced state of construction. Despite steadily rising costs the relaxation in licensing restrictions provided some incentive to private individuals wishing to build houses for their own occupation and 11 were erected and occupied during the year and a number of others were in hand. The Council gave every encouragement to the prospective owner-occupier and licences were forthcoming without difficulty. A number of prospective owners took advantage of the fact that the Council are prepared to give financial assistance under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, the terms being slightly more favourable than those provided by the Building Societies. Advances to 15 persons either building new houses or purchasing existing houses were made during the year under review.

Now that the difficulties created by the building licence restrictions have been removed good progress was made during the year with improvement grants for the reconstruction and improvement of existing dwelling houses and it may be said that the Council is more liberal in its treatment of these applications than many local authorities. There was no doubt, however, that the protracted delay which occurred when the grants first became available has deterred many prospective applicants from proceeding with work of improvement. The grant itself provides a strong incentive to the far-sighted private landlord, and to the owner-occupiers in particular to improve the amenities and accommodation of their property and there is quite a large number of houses in the district where improvements could be carried out at reasonable expense and which are quite eligible for grant, as at the completion of the works they would have a reasonable expectation of life. In addition, in almost every case where improvements were carried out it could be anticipated that rateable value of the property affected would be enhanced.

Continued progress was made by the Council with the scheme to modernise the older type of Council house this involving the systematic modernisation of the majority of the houses in the pre-war schemes, mainly by the removal of the obsolete and uneconomical type of kitchen range and the inefficient and obstructive clothes boiler, with the provision of modern fireplaces, electric cookers, and boilers in lieu. A very great improvement has been effected on the older sites by the removal of dilapidated fencing and the provision of dwarf brick walls, this work has been carried out in conjunction with the reduction in size of the large corner gardens, and green plots and flower beds have been laid down which are maintained by the Council staff. This has effected an immense improvement in the amenities of the older housing sites and should no doubt have done something to stimulate the cultivation of gardens by tenants. Over the last few years the Council have consistently

endeavoured to obtain an improvement in this respect by the service of notice upon defaulters and by the institution of an annual garden competition. The provision of adequate fencing does remove at least one excuse, as tenants complained that the fencing provided did not restrain trespass by children and dogs. There is no doubt that a very great amount of damage is done in this way on the housing sites and often keen gardeners have been deterred by the destruction of their crops. Some untidy gardens are still to be seen, where the aged and infirm are concerned these are unavoidable, The Care of the Aged Committee some three years ago enlisted the services of Youth Organisations in the area to assist in tidying up the gardens of aged and infirm people and some organisations were good enough to give this scheme their support, but unfortunately the response from the old people themselves has been lukewarm, and owing to lack of demand the scheme fell more or less into disuse.

The National Coal Board have also made good progress in the modernisation of their houses, a large number of houses have been improved by the provision of modern combination ranges with hot water supply and this is a great improvement in dwellings where in many cases more than one member of the family is employed in the mine and a continuous hot water supply is a necessity. Furthermore the modern ranges in almost every case replace very old fashioned brick built ranges fitted with round ovens and these were quite uneconomical in fuel consumption. The Board, in conjunction with improvements to houses, also carried out paving works to adjacent streets and footways and this has effected a considerable improvement in the surroundings to the property. It was anticipated that by the end of the year under review the Board would have completed the modernisation of approximately 430 houses in this way.

Good progress was made with the work of slum clearance during the year, a large number of sub-standard houses being dealt with by the making of demolition orders, the majority of these being in the Easington Lane Ward, particularly in the Brickgarth area where a redevelopment scheme has been adopted. Considerable progress was made with this scheme during the year as so soon as houses were vacated by the tenants they were demolished and the sites cleared and rebuilding followed without delay. As a result an attractive housing site has taken form in an area which was previously occupied by old and very substandard houses in congested conditions and surrounded by unpaved streets. The redevelopment of the area made it necessary to clear a small number of a better type of house which could not be dealt with by demolition orders as they had a reasonable expectation of life and the sites of these were obtained by negotiations. Good progress was made with the clearing up of the existing slum clearance areas where a number of derelict and dangerous buildings had existed for some years owing to the failure of the owners to carry out demolition. The procedure laid down by the Acts of leaving demolition and clearance work to the individual owner has never proved satisfactory, the owner after losing his property cannot be expected to gladly expend further money in demolishing it and clearing the site and

many owners fall victims to contractors who offer to pull down buildings for the materials obtainable, the result almost invariably being that as soon as timber and other materials of salvage value had been removed the shell of the building was allowed to stand in an unsightly and dangerous condition, the result of this was that the sites were generally covered with heaps of rubble and all this waste material had to be removed and foundations taken out. This work, nowadays, is nearly always carried out by the Council's workmen by arrangement with the owner who generally agreed to hand the deeds over to the Council. Many of the sites will be redeveloped in conjunction with future schemes but others have been cleared and levelled and in some cases green plots have been laid down.

The letting of Council houses was as in recent years governed by the Council's points scheme, the working of this scheme has proved highly satisfactory to the Council and their officials and the public applicants having the assurance that each application is dealt with strictly in accordance with need and furthermore an applicant is able to ascertain at any time the number of points with which he is assessed and if justified can obtain a revision of these. The formula for assessing points in accordance with the need of the applicant is reviewed from time to time to meet current conditions and apart from the actual points value of the application, the circumstances of each prospective tenant are also scrutinised by the Committee before they are rehoused. This is highly necessary as in the first instance points are assessed from information provided by the applicant himself and such information may be either deliberately or accidentally misleading, in fact, it has been necessary in one or two cases, owing to information given by the applicant being subsequently found incorrect, to rescind the tenancy of houses after applicants have received the keys. The Council's policy regarding housing has always given a great measure of consideration to the needs of old people, there is no doubt that the continued provision of a special type of small house for old people is good policy, the current trend of an ageing population and childless couples provides a definite demand for these and apart from the fact that they are provided with a home at a rental within their means and of a size and type easily worked, in almost every case the provision of a house of the small type releases a larger house for family use. Broomhill Estate, which was built pre-war for the housing of old people has been found not altogether suitable for the aged and infirm owing to the steep approach roads and the number of steps it is necessary to negotiate to enter many of the houses, therefore this type of house, when vacated, has been let to younger persons, generally middle aged childless couples, and in the course of time complete conversion of the accommodation here will be carried out, in any case it is generally felt nowadays that to segregate aged people in one estate or a particular portion thereof is not desirable and the current policy of the Council is to house them in similar accommodation interspersed amongst large dwelling houses. This is definitely beneficial to the old people themselves and furthermore it is of great assistance in laying out housing sites. The

orthodox type of two roomed bungalow has been built for this purpose and also a good number of two storey flats have been erected which have proved quite popular.

Overcrowding in the area may be said to be decreasing, in fact, true overcrowding is uncommon, the majority of cases being created by sub-tenants, generally members of the tenant's family who have married and brought a husband or wife into the house. A good number of such cases were abated during the year as the points scheme favours the applicant who is living as a sub-tenant, but sub-tenancies of this nature will of necessity continue to arise until it is possible to fully meet the housing needs of the area, and couples who marry and take up sub-tenancies in this way are still forced to reside under these circumstances for a number of years before they become eligible for rehousing.

A large number of houses were systematically inspected for defects during the year and 114 informal notices were served under the Public Health or Housing Acts requiring repairs. Failing informal action Statutory Notices requiring repairs under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 were served with respect to 8 houses.

## Housing Conditions.

### Housing Statistics for the Year 1953

<b>1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:</b>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	253
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	582
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	108
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	192
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	108
(4) 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 ... ..	145
<b>2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:</b>	
Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	103
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:</b>	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	5
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners ... ..	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
(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 ...	1

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

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	40
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	50

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

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nif

**4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	38
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	77
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	239
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	45
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	—

**The Shops Act**

The Chief Sanitary Inspector continued to act as Inspector under the Shops Act and frequent visits are made to the shops in connection with the inspection of food stuffs it was possible to carry out regular routine inspections of shop premises throughout the district. No infringement of the Orders governing closing hours were detected and no complaints were received regarding the working hours of assistants, in fact shopkeepers have almost without exception adhered to the curtailed working hours which applied during the war and in many cases labour difficulties have caused shopkeepers to observe even shorter hours than those prescribed. Whilst this operates to the benefit of employees it does to some extent affect the convenience of the shopping public, particularly with regard to protracted mid-day closing, as might be expected in an Urban area of this nature.

A good proportion of the shops are small general businesses with house attached, the proprietor living on the premises. In these cases the number of assistants employed is small, many employ only one, often part-time, and little difficulty is experienced regarding sanitary accommodation and other amenities for the welfare of those employed on or about the premises. The larger shops all have satisfactory sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and rest room for their staff. An intensive effort was made during the year to continue the improvement in the hygiene of food handling and outstanding cases have now more or less been cleared up, it being necessary to serve 15 notices during the year on proprietors requiring them to instal a constant supply of hot water, this being done in the majority of cases by the installation of a gas or electric heater, and in conjunction with the installation of this other improvements were also carried out. A number of improvements were also carried out by proprietors after consultation with the department in conjunction with re-building schemes.

There are a very small number of one room lock-up shops which present difficulties as they have no available space for the provision of sanitary accommodation and drainage for the waste from sinks or lavatory basins cannot be provided. Where public lavatories are reasonably available exemption certificates have been issued in a few cases, but this type of shop presents a problem as in the majority of cases they front on living accommodation which is separately let, therefore, when a vacancy arises the owners are asked to make some re-arrangement before re-letting takes place, and in no case will a business involving the sale of food stuffs be entertained.

### **Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites**

The district has been free of dwelling places of this nature for some years. Occasionally some difficulty is met with in dealing with small gypsy encampments but none of these have been of great duration. Difficulties mainly arise because the persons using these encampments are not of the true gypsy type and do not practice the standard of living and hygiene which the real gypsy invariably lives up to. Two sites are from time to time used by showmen as fairgrounds and during the period of occupation they are supervised to ensure that satisfactory arrangements had been made with regard to water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse disposal. No complaint arose from the use of these sites for this purpose during the year under review and the sites when vacated were always left tidy and in a satisfactory condition.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

There is no swimming bath or pool in the district although from time to time schemes have been put forward for the construction of pools. There is no doubt that a covered swimming pool which could, out of season, be converted for use as a public hall would prove a great amenity to the district owing to the lack of a really satisfactory hall in the area.

### **Schools**

The Schools throughout the district were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition and conditions found on inspection were of a very high standard. It was not necessary during the year to close any school owing to the prevalence of infectious disease and the Health Department is indebted to the teachers for their co-operation at all times when enquiries regarding infectious diseases were necessary.

### **Public Houses, Halls and Cinemas**

The Council, having adopted the appropriate section of the Public Health Amendment Act, has very satisfactory powers for enforcing reasonable standards in these premises as in the majority of cases certificates are issued regarding sanitary conditions found for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions. The premises are, therefore, subject to periodical inspection and any sub-standard conditions create a difficulty in obtaining the renewal of the licence.

The general standard of sanitation throughout the district is now high and improvements to sanitary accommodation continued to be carried out in conjunction with re-construction work to the premises, and following the efforts of the department over many years the domestic accommodation of licensed houses has been considerably improved and all now have hot water supply and bathrooms. Considerable attention has been devoted during the past year to the facilities provided for washing glasses in the public bars and most of the houses are now well equipped in this respect.

### **Food Inspection**

The shops dealing in food stuffs are systematically inspected at regular intervals and again particular attention was paid to stimulating the interest of shopkeepers in improved hygiene in handling food stuffs, in fact the proprietors of food shops have displayed a great interest in the subject and in the course of the past two years there has been a notable improvement in the majority of shops. Generally when reconstructions have been carried out the Department was consulted beforehand and it has been possible to obtain some very good examples of the ideal food shop. It is gratifying to note that an increasing number of food shops are installing glass screens to the counters with parcel and bag racks fitted to the counter front, this is very desirable as whilst the shop assistant is expected to practise rigid hygiene in food handling, the shopping public also have a responsibility in this respect, but it is often overlooked, and far too many still persist in placing small children, shopping bags, etc. on the counter and handle food stuffs which they do not subsequently purchase. A great effort has been made to exclude dogs from food premises and here again a section of the public are apparently still unable to see the need for this, but uncontrolled dogs can and do cause much damage by fouling of goods displayed at floor level in shops. Cats, however, can be quite as big a source of nuisance, but as they are still the most economical and effective means of keeping premises clear of mice, the majority of shopkeepers encourage their presence in the shop.

Continued progress has been made with the installation of hot water for use of staff in food premises. In the majority of cases this has been done by the installation of a gas or electric water heater over a basin or sink in the back premises, and both with regard to this and the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation the staff of the majority of shops in the area are now well provided for and have no excuse for the neglect of hygiene.

The local slaughterhouses have been in disuse since centralised slaughtering was instituted in 1940. There are 14 of these still available and they have generally been well maintained and could be made ready for use at any time an emergency arises, such as the restriction of cattle movement owing to contagious diseases. Following the wartime custom, when the premises were kept licensed also as an emergency measure in the event of the centralised premises becoming disorganised from enemy action, licenses were renewed again during the year, but apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs which were killed on licence by farmers or small-holders, generally for bacon, and isolated cases of casualties which require immediate slaughter, no food animals are slaughtered in the district and in fact the number of pigs slaughtered for home curing or consumption has steadily declined in the last few years owing to the high costs of feeding stuffs and the loss met with in preparing the bacon (always a risky business for the amateur) the pig breeder has also found it best to take advantage of the very attractive prices obtainable for pigs in the markets.

At the end of the year it seemed possible that private slaughtering would be reinstated and there is no doubt that if this came about the consumer public would benefit greatly as butchers would be able to slaughter for their business and the old competitive spirit would again prevail, for it cannot be said that meat sent into the area compares favourably with that from animals slaughtered locally in the past. Animals are transmitted rapidly from farm to market and thence to slaughterhouses, followed by slaughter without preliminary resting and fasting, and such conditions cannot be conducive to good quality meat and are detrimental to its keeping qualities, particularly, as is often the case, when the meat is again transported before setting properly. Bone taint set up from this cause is not uncommon and furthermore from observations made it cannot be said that the existing method of centralised slaughtering is carried out in strict compliance with the provisions of the Bye-laws governing slaughterhouses. These were rigidly enforced locally but lack of accommodation and facilities in the centralised slaughterhouse generally makes their proper application impossible. Licenses are still issued by the Department to slaughtermen residing locally and at the end of 1953 the number of licenses existing was 48, however, many of the holders of these licences have few opportunities to practice their trade owing to the lack of practical work in the slaughterhouse and it has been felt for some years that a scheme to give all butchers' assistants the opportunity for training is highly desirable, in fact very necessary for the future well-being of the meat trade, if and when private slaughtering is resumed, the lack of trained slaughtermen will provide a difficulty which will not be easily met. Meat is transported into the area from the central slaughterhouse in modern vehicles providing complete protection.

The transport has always been kept under close observation and the method of doing this has been subject to very strong representations by the Council in the past, the present method, which is in insulated containers is no doubt a very considerable improvement but still far from being completely satisfactory, as portions of carcasses are still carried on the floor of the vehicle and owing to the loading height, it is necessary when unloading for the floor to be traversed by the driver and his assistant with consequent fouling of the surface.

Stocks of tinned goods etc., in the shops are regularly examined and it is necessary from time to time to condemn fairly large quantities of this as unfit for human consumption. Particulars of food stuffs condemned as follows:—

28 lbs. Chilled Beef, 2 x 18 lb. 6 oz. tins, 1 x 17 lb. 2 oz. tin, 1 x 16 lb. 15 oz. tin, 1 x 15 lb. 9 oz. tin, 1 x 15 lb. 7½ oz. tin, 1 x 15 lb. 3 oz. tin, 2 x 15 lb. 2 oz. tins, 2 x 15 lb. 1 oz. tins, 4 x 15 lb. tins, 1 x 14½ lb. tin, 6 x 14 lb. tins, 1 x 13 lb. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 15 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 13 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 9 oz. tin, 2 x 12 lb. tins, 1 x 11 lb. 12 oz. tin, 1 x 11 lb. 8 oz. tin, 2 x 10 lb. 14 oz. tin, 1 x 10¾ lb. tin, 2 x 10½ lb. tins, 1 x 10 lb. 4 oz. tin, 1 x 10 lb. tin, 1 x 9 lb. 13 oz. tin, 1 x 9 lb. 12 oz. tin, 1 x 9 lb. 5 oz. tin, 1 x 9 lb. 4 oz. tin, 1 x 5 lb. tin, 2 x 4 lb. 8 oz. tins, 2 x 4 lb. tins, 1 x 2 lb. 15 oz. tin, 1 x 2½ lb. tin, 1 x 1 lb. 8 oz. tin, 9 x 18 oz. tins Ham. 10 lb. 2 oz. Ham. 2 x 2 lb. tins Picnic Ham. 17 x 6 lb. tins, 2 x 3 lb. 12 oz. tins, 9 x 1 lb. tins, 36 x 12 oz. tins Tongue, 1½ lb. Tongue. 9 x 6 lb. tins, 1 x 4 lb. tin Jellied Veal, 4¾ lbs. Jellied Veal. 1 x 6 lb. tin Pressed Beef. 5 x 7 lb. tins, 7 x 6 lb. tins Corned Beef. 12 x 5 lb. 12 oz. tins Corned Beef Loaf, 1 9 lb. 10 oz. tin Luncheon Pork, 1 x 9 lb. 8 oz., 1 9 lb. 6 oz. tin Luncheon Pork. 4 x 5 lb. 9 oz. tins, 6 x 31 lb. tins, 3 x 2 lb. tins, 29 x 12 oz. tins, 10 x 7 oz. tins Luncheon Meat, 4 lb. 10 oz. Luncheon Meat. 79 x 12 oz. tins Minced Beef Loaf, 47 x 1 lb. tins, 54 x 15½ oz. tins, 14 x 15 oz. tins Stewed Steak, 5 x 1 lb. tins Stewed Mutton, 8 x 6 lb. tins Corned Mutton, 3 x 3 lb. 12 oz. tins Corned Mutton, 7 x 1 lb. 2 oz. tins, 35 x 12 oz. tins, 8 x 9 oz. tins Pork, 11 x 12 oz. tins Chopped Pork, 2½ lbs. Chopped Pork, 4 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tins, 14 x 12 oz. tins Pork Brawn. 10 x 1 lb. tins, 17 x 8 oz. tins Rabbit, 3 x 1 lb. tins Steak and Vegetables, 5 x 10½ oz. tins Kidney Soup, 1 x 15½ oz. tin Cream and Vegetable Soup, 20 x 15 oz. tins Scotch Broth, 12 x 1 lb. tins Irish Stew, 3 x 15 oz. tins Chicken Broth, 3 x 1 lb. tins Steak Pudding, 8 lbs. Beef Sausage, 3½ lbs. Pork Sausage, 32½ lbs. Bacon, 1 lb. Black Pudding, 9 x 7 oz. tins Crabmeat, 5 x 6½ oz. tins Tuna Fish, 34 x 4½ oz. tins Sardines, 22 x 3¾ oz. tins Sild, 7 x 3½ oz. tins Salmon, 2 x A1 size tins processed peas, 2 x A2 size tins processed peas, 1 x 1 lb. 12 oz. tin processed peas, 50 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins processed peas, 5 x 1 lb. 2½ oz. tins processed peas, 5 x 1 lb. 2 oz. tins processed peas, 26 x 15½ oz. tins processed peas, 58 x 13½ oz. tins processed peas, 14 x 10 oz. tins processed peas, 32 x 10 oz. tins processed peas, 19 x 8½ oz. tins processed peas, 213 x 1 lb. tins beans, 11 x 2 lb. 14 oz. tins tomatoes, 9 x 2 lb. 4 oz. tins tomatoes, 64 x 2 lb. 3 oz. tins tomatoes, 2 x 1 lb. tins tomatoes, 35 x 15 oz. tins tomatoes, 54 x 14½ oz. tins tomatoes, 185 x 14 oz. tins tomatoes, 36 x 11 oz. tins tomatoes, 50 x 8 oz. tins tomatoes, 13 x 7 oz. tins tomatoes, 2 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins carrots, 3 x 1 lb. tins spaghetti, 1 x 14½ oz. tin

Mincemeat, 12 x 2½ lb. tins peaches, 28 x 1 lb. 14 oz. tins peaches, 18 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins peaches, 9 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tins peaches, 5 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins peaches, 19 x 1 lb. tins peaches, 10 x 15 oz. tins orange segments, 7 x 11 oz. tins oranges, 3 x 14½ oz. tins gooseberries, 1 x 2½ lb. tin plums, 1 x 30 oz. tin plums, 3 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tin plums, 7 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tins plums, 14 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins plums, 22 x 16 oz. tins plums, 8 x 16 oz. tins damsons, 4 x 28 oz. tins white grapes, 8 x 1 lb. 14 oz. tins Cherries, 1 x A2 size tin Cherries, 6 x 20 oz. tins Cherries, 15 x 1 lb. 14 oz. tins Prunes, 15 x 20 oz. tins Pineapple Slices, 21 x 1 lb. tins Pineapple titbits, 2 x 13 oz. jars Pineapple chunks, 9 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins pears, 34 x 15½ oz. tins Pears, 17 x 1 lb. tins Apricots, 1 x 13 oz. jar Apricots, 14 x 15½ oz. tins Fruit Salad, 7 x 16 oz. tins Strawberries, 1 x 15 oz. tin Figs, 3 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tin Loganberries, 14 x 15 oz. tins Raspberries, 144 x 2 pt. size tins evaporated milk, 9 x 14½ oz. tins evaporated milk, 94 x 2 pt. size tins Full Cream evaporated milk, 9 x 1¾ pt. size tins F.C. evaporated milk, 15 x 1½ pt. size tins F.C. evaporated milk, 22 x 2 pt. size tins F.C. milk, 29 x 16 oz. tins F.C. milk, 28 x 16 oz. tins Unsweetened milk, 7 x 16 oz. tins Condensed milk, 18 x 6 oz. tins Cream, 1 x 1 lb. jar strawberry & gooseberry jam, 3 x 1 lb. jars plum jam, 1 x 1 lb. jar lemon curd, 2 x 1 lb. jars blackcurrant jam, 3 x 1 lb. jars jam, 4 bottles Sauce, 5 x 11½ oz. jars pickled beetroot, 1 jar beetroot, 4 x 15½ fl. oz. jars pickles, 3 x 9½ fl. oz. jars pickled onions, 1 x 20 fl. oz. bottle vinegar, 1 x 4 fl. oz. jar sandwich spread, 2 x 5 fl. oz. bottle Coffee, 1 lb. split peas, 1 lb. spaghetti, 7 lb. cheese.

Condemned tinned goods, which have no salvage value, and are generally in very offensive state when condemned, are collected and disposed of on the refuse tips, the small quantities of meat which it was necessary to condemn were returned to the Central Slaughterhouse for the Ministry's Salvage staff to deal with, and in the same way butter etc., was returned to the wholesalers.

The following table shows the number of premises where food is prepared or sold in the area, viz.—

School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteens	...	...	...	...	2
Cafés or Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	5
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	11
Butchers	...	...	...	...	18
Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	8
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	17
Grocery	...	...	...	...	30
General	...	...	...	...	33
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	3
Premises selling pre-packed Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	16

## Milk and Dairies

The distribution of milk supplied for the area was as in previous years in the hands of two organisations, namely, East Durham Co-operative Dairies Ltd., which operated through the local Co-operative Societies and deals only in Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk, and the Houghton Dairymens Association who absorbed all the small retailers and farmer producer retailers who previously operated in the district. This organisation deals in Pasteurised Milk and also sell a large quantity of Tuberculin Tested Raw Milk. There is also a considerable demand for Sterilised Milk in the area and an increasing number of small shopkeepers retail this and they are registered accordingly. The Dairymens Association operate directly from their depot at Houghton-le-Spring where they have a pasteurisation plant, and the East Durham Co-operative Dairies operate from a milk depot of modern construction equipped with cold storage chambers and situated at Hetton Downs. Bottled milk is stored here overnight before delivery. They also have a small depot at Easington Lane and although this is not equipped for cold storage it provides reasonably satisfactory accommodation and is well maintained.

Frequent samples of milk are taken from the Dairy roundsmen and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory. In the early part of the period under review samples went to Newcastle but with the opening of the laboratory at Sunderland all samples have since been submitted there. The examinations are carried out free of charge and as such samples are taken for advisory purposes no prosecutions were undertaken with regard to the results, in fact, none were necessary. A number of substandard results were detected from time to time but in many cases these occurred when the overnight temperature exceeded the limit laid down under the appropriate Order and were mainly due to atmospheric conditions. Some concern was felt, however, with regard to the number of unsatisfactory results in connection with unpasteurised tuberculin tested milk produced on farms outside the area and because of this consultations were held with the Dairymens Association, who were retailing this milk, together with the County Milk Officer who is responsible for the production of milk on farms, in an endeavour to arrive at the source of the trouble. As a result of these consultations the Dairymens Association undertook to revise their method of collection to ensure that the milk was of a reasonable age when delivered to the consumer and furthermore agreed to cease the practice of sterilising bottles at the Dairy and delivering them to the farms where apparently they were filled without further treatment, this of course, being in direct contravention of the Order.

All milk retailed in the area was without exception delivered in bottles and only a few complaints regarding dirty bottles had to be investigated. Modern bottle washing methods are practically foolproof and clean and sterilised bottles are almost invariably sent out from the Dairy. The public themselves, however, should cooperate more by returning their bottles in clean condition and refraining from using them for purposes other than storage of milk.

The Council also found it necessary to take action with regard to the method of milk delivery, this being transported on flat carts which carried the crates of bottles with no protection whatsoever against the weather and as a result of these negotiations the Dairies concerned agreed to operate a new type of vehicle providing adequate weather protection and before the end of the year under review had implemented this promise.

In the course of the year 128 samples of milk were submitted by the Department for bacteriological examination and 27 of these proved to be unsatisfactory.

An investigation was carried out during the year in connection with a brand of tinned cream which was suspected of carrying Typhoid infection. This received considerable publicity in the Press and on investigation a small quantity was found in shops in the district; a representative batch numbering eleven were sent as samples to the Public Health Laboratory but no harmful organisms were found. The remainder of stocks held in the area were returned to the wholesaler.

### **Ice Cream**

There are only three manufacturers of ice cream in the urban area, two of these being situated at Easington Lane and one at East Rainton. The manufacturers all operated plant which complied with the Heat Treatment Regulations and worked under highly satisfactory conditions. The premises are regularly inspected and 7 samples taken during the year were found to be satisfactory and classified in the highest grade. An increasing number of confectioners and general shops have installed refrigerator cabinets for the storage of pre-packed or bulk ice cream and these premises, numbering 75, are also registered. The ice cream retailed is supplied by wholesale manufacturers and results of samples taken were consistently satisfactory.

Some retail business is carried out by hawkers who patrol the area in motor vans but fortunately it does appear from personal observation that either from lack of public demand or competition by the shops the number operating in the area is greatly diminishing. The Department, of course, has no knowledge or control of the manufacture of the ice cream retailed in this way and it is almost invariably impossible to obtain samples at times convenient for immediate transmission to the laboratory, this being absolutely necessary, and it is, therefore, unfortunate that a more stringent control cannot be exercised over this type of retailer.

### **Factories and Workshops**

These premises were regularly inspected and it was found that generally a good standard of hygiene was maintained in workplaces during the year. It was necessary to serve notices in some cases and improvements were carried out with regard to additional or improved closet accommodation, the drainage of floors, ventilation and cleansing. The following table gives particulars of inspections carried out by the department under the Act and the results thereof.

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	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 ...	8	11	3	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	64	12	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	3	...	...
Total	57	78	15	...

2.— **Defects found.**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	7	7	..	1	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	..	..	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	...	...	..	..	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	2	2	..	..	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	1	1	..	..	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :					
Insufficient ...	8	7	..	..	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	8	8	..	..	...
Not separate for sexes ...	5	5	..	..	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	..	..	...
Total ...	31	30	...	1	...

## Bakehouses

There has been a marked increase in the number of shops retailing cakes and confectionery but actually very little baking is carried out in the district, most of the retailers being supplied by factory bakehouses operating outside the area. There were, however, at the end of the year 6 bakehouses, the majority operating only to a minor extent, principally for the production of confectionery and pies. They were periodically inspected and it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness maintained is highly satisfactory. In one case, however, action was necessary and resulted in a satisfactory improvement in the structure and the cleanliness of the premises.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin.

During 1953 it was necessary to take action for the eradication of bed bugs and other vermin in the under-mentioned premises:—

(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	39
(b) Private Houses	...	...	...	18

In addition two lots of infectious bedding were treated or destroyed and it was necessary to disinfect 16 houses after infectious disease.

The greater part of the work necessary was carried out in connection with complaints of infestation by beetles, some of the older houses requiring periodical retreatment, as once this pest becomes established complete clearance is unusual. Infestation recurs with the seasonal changes although much depends upon the occupants in this respect as if they would co-operate whole-heartedly complete clearance could be obtained. It is found that many of the older type of Council house are subject to infestation, mainly owing to faults in construction, but improvements and maintenance work carried out in the past few years are gradually eliminating this. Beetles are successfully eradicated with a powder containing pyrethrum for immediate action and D.D.T. which has a latent effect and provides subsequent protection. The results obtained are very satisfactory.

Infestation by bed bugs has become increasingly rare in recent years but where found the treatment provides a more difficult problem. It is dealt with initially by fumigation to kill adult vermin on the surface, this makes the house reasonably safe for workmen or householders to proceed with the stripping of wall paper. It is also often found necessary to remove architraves, skirting, etc., these being treated by thorough application of a blow lamp. Further treatment is given by spraying to kill the vermin which have sub-

sequently hatched out, followed by a final treatment to ensure complete eradication. Even then the co-operation of householders is necessary in dealing with or reporting isolated vermin found after treatment, as in cold weather the bugs are dormant and lodged deep in crevices in the walls. It is, therefore, never certain that premises are completely cleared and stray survivors can recommence the whole cycle of infestation.

### **Rodent Control.**

The responsibility for the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 so far as surface infestations were concerned was undertaken by the Health Department, that is, they dealt with infestations in dwelling houses, business premises, agricultural land and refuse tips, the Highways Department being responsible for the treatment of sewers. During the year under review it was necessary to investigate 62 complaints of rat and mouse infestation and in a few cases extensive work had to be carried out before satisfactory clearance was obtained. This work is carried out free of charge in dwelling houses but a charge is made for treatment of business premises or agricultural land, a large proportion of the cost of the work being recovered by Government grants subject to the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture. The expenditure on this very necessary service is, however, not excessive, as there has never been sufficient work to justify the employment of a full-time rodent operator. The Council's own property, refuse tips etc., are periodically surveyed and where necessary treated, the cost of this work being met by the local authority. Serious infestation is not prevalent, this might be expected having regard to the amount of systematic control work carried out in recent years, but it is impossible to generalise so far as rodents are concerned and quite often one finds infestation occurring in unusual circumstances, sometimes at seasons of the year when vermin do not generally lodge in buildings.

A very radical change in the treatment carried out took place during the year. Previously the poison most generally used was zinc phosphide, red squills, and arsenic also being used on occasion, but following experimental work the results obtained with the various proprietary poisons based on Warfarin and the comparative safety when using this poison, caused the department to use it. In almost every case, particularly where mice are concerned they readily take the Warfarin preparation where they are very shy with other poisons and it has frequently been necessary to resort to trapping, striking results having been obtained with the sticky traps in this connection. On the refuse tips gassing with cymag gas was also carried out when the site and weather conditions made this possible, but despite the dangerous nature of some of the poisons no mishaps occurred.

The Council is covered by insurance against any claim for accidents in connection with rodent control work but although this policy has now been in existence for some years it has never been necessary to meet any claim.

### **Colliery Spoil Heaps.**

Considerable time was devoted during the year to the inspection of these, there being three active pit heaps in the area situated at Elemore Colliery, Eppleton Colliery and Nicholson's Pit, East Rainton. Of these, the old heap at Eppleton Colliery ceased to be used and a new heap has been established on land to the south, the waste being spread in shallow layers covered with soil, thus considerably obviating the risk of fire. The waste is conveyed from the pit head by overhead gear and this permits the tipping area to be evenly covered, bulldozing also being carried out in conjunction with the tipping operation. There is very little risk of this tip giving rise to nuisance in the future.

The heap at Elemore Colliery has considerably improved in recent years, an efficient spraying plant has been installed and an adequate supply of water is available. Minor nuisance does arise from time to time but it is almost impossible when carrying out this form of tipping, which results in a conical heap, to operate absolutely nuisance free. This Colliery also has a dry cleaner which give rise to complaints of dust nuisance on occasion but these have been promptly dealt with by the installation of new bags etc. Here again it must be appreciated that it is virtually impossible to operate this type of cleaner without some dust nuisance.

The heap at Nicholson's Pit is used entirely for Colliery refuse brought from outside the district and the nature of the refuse tipped makes it very susceptible to combustion. Here again adequate spraying apparatus has been installed and there is a good supply of water available.

The Department is much indebted to Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who during the year made periodical inspections of the heaps in company with the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the ready assistance and useful technical advice which he gave has proved a great help.

Observations of atmospheric conditions were carried out by the Department, the apparatus was primarily on a site at Eppleton Reservoir, this being imminently suitable owing to its situation on high ground in the North Eastern corner of the Urban area. It was, therefore, subject to the prevailing winds and its remote position obviates the risk of wilful damage to the apparatus. Sub-

sequently, however, in order to obtain a fair average picture of conditions prevailing, the apparatus was transferred to a site at the rear of the Council offices.

The results obtained during the year are given below, the rainfall also being shown and whilst it is not possible to give a comparison without considerable data it has been found from comparisons made from the bulletins which are forwarded monthly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research that atmospheric conditions are far from ideal, they in fact compare unfavourably with results obtained in many of the large industrial towns.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Month	Rainfall Inches	Insoluble Deposits	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SO <sub>3</sub> mg/day/ 100 cm Batch A Lead Peroxide
January	... 0.63	5.81	2.26	8.07	2.22
February	... 1.56	6.96	5.67	12.63	2.24
March	... 0.001	3.92	0.54	4.46	2.04
April	... 2.19	8.99	7.26	16.25	2.27
May	... 1.93	9.19	6.48	15.67	2.29
June	... 2.35	9.56	8.21	17.77	0.79
July	... 3.13	5.41	8.51	13.92	0.60
August	... 3.91	5.47	10.13	15.60	0.75
September	... 1.20	6.72	5.74	12.46	0.72
October	... 0.99	3.48	4.22	7.70	1.21
November	... 1.25	2.53	5.20	7.73	1.19
December	... 0.89	5.07	5.74	10.81	1.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	... 20.04	73.11	69.96	143.07	17.99
<b>AVERAGE</b>	... 1.67	6.09	5.83	11.92	1.5

### Care of the Aged

The Hetton Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee, which was established under the auspices of the Council, who have five representatives on the Committee, supervise the welfare of the aged people of the area, five Ward Committees, all of whom have representatives on the Central Committee carry out the work in their respective Wards. The voluntary workers have done excellent work in visiting and providing entertainment for the old people, and raising funds, as the Committee is financially entirely self-supporting and dependent upon funds raised by donations, collections, the organisation of dances, whist drives, etc., and the amount of money

raised in this way and put to good use is quite considerable. The old people have formed their own clubs which are now self-supporting and operated by the members themselves and attendance at the functions organised are steadily increasing and have in fact grown beyond the capacity of the halls available which has from time to time for short periods given rise to waiting lists for membership of the clubs, the applicants being taken in as soon as possible. Whilst a good proportion of the Committee's work is devoted to the organisation of entertainment and recreation for the old people yet it is never forgotten that their main function is the welfare of the aged, and old people, who by infirmity or inclination do not enjoy the activities of the clubs are regularly visited and helped in any way found necessary, and when seasonal celebrations take place those unable to attend, and therefore miss the gifts or entertainment, are visited and presented with gifts of food, etc. The Committee undertook much work during the year under review in connection with the organisation of entertainments for Coronation Celebrations and it may be said that having regard to the very severe weather which prevailed at that time the old people, whose entertainments were all organised indoors, probably enjoyed this period more than anybody. A number of television sets were established in halls throughout the area on Coronation Day and all the old people had the opportunity of viewing the ceremony and procession, tea and entertainment also being provided, and by the kindness of local cinema proprietors it was subsequently possible to show the old people the Coronation films. In addition suitable gifts either in cash or souvenirs were given to each of the old people, this and the provision of teas being made possible by the generosity of the Council who allocated money for this purpose.

The Council also, at the inception of the scheme some 4 years ago kindly made a contribution towards the central fund but this is virtually untouched as apart from postages and stationery, the running expenses are small, and the fund always has a good working balance in hand. The Council were also good enough to donate a trophy which is circulated amongst the clubs in connection with the Indoor Games Tournaments which are organised. The Committee find that the greatest handicap to satisfactory operation is the lack of premises to provide permanent and satisfactory quarters for each club. Some Wards are fortunate in as much as they have halls available which can be obtained when needed at nominal charges but others have difficulty in finding accommodation and if this could be overcome by the provision of a permanent building it would be a great help. At present funds available are quite adequate to cover the maintenance cost of buildings, but capital expenditure, especially as this would involve the provision of more than one building to meet the needs of a scattered district, is far beyond the scope of the Committee. The Committee were fortunate in being able to enlist the services of two local chiropodists who agreed to carry out foot treatment to old people for a very nominal charge and in fact, any old person requiring such treatment and unable to afford the very small fee charged, can be treated at the expense of the Committee. The scheme works well, as where the patient is unable to come to the surgery for treatment, the chiropodist visits at home and an indication of the fees charged may be judged from the fact that at present in no case has any fees had to be subsidised by the Committee.

From time to time consideration has been given to the organisation of a night sitting scheme but it has not been possible to bring this into effect nor has it been considered really necessary to do so, as almost invariably helpers are available to sit with infirm old people when circumstances make this necessary. This is one direction where the small size of the district proves an advantage as whilst it is not possible to develop highly organised activities of this nature to the extent that metropolitan areas can do, nevertheless its smallness proves an asset in as much as the spirit of good neighbourliness prevails and it is extremely unlikely that any aged or infirm person has to exist without the help and comfort provided by regular visitors.



