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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
WITH
TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY,
DURING THE YEAR 1910,

BY
T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD,

M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT,
1910.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
FOR THE YEAR 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for the year 1910.

AREA.—The Area of the whole District is 196,881·775 Acres. It is sub-divided into the following sub-districts :—

Allendale sub-district	having an area of	51,832·650 Acres ;
Bywell	„ „ „	46,637·602 Acres ;
Chollerton	„ „ „	50,530·703 Acres ;
Hexham	„ „ „	47,810·820 Acres.

POPULATION.—The estimated Population of the whole District is 20,368, as compared with 28,142 for 1909, the large difference between these two figures is of course due to the fact that the area now formed into the Prudhoe Urban District has been separated from us during the year under review. The estimated population of the various sub-districts is as follows :—

Allendale, 4778.	Bywell, 5710.
Chollerton, 5448.	Hexham, 4432.

DEATHS.—The Deaths for the year have numbered 267, as compared with 387 for the previous year. These deaths have included 137 males and 130 females, and give a death-rate of 13·1 per thousand, as compared with 13·3 for the previous year.

Of deaths of children under one year of age, 28 have been registered. The infant mortality rate works out at 61 per thousand births registered, which is a very low rate indeed. Amongst adults, the chief causes of death have been Heart disease, 50; Phthisis, 28; Bronchitis, 23; Cancer, 22; Senile decay, 19; Pneumonia, 16; Tubercular diseases, other than Phthisis, 14; while the zymotic diseases altogether accounted for only 5 deaths, 3 of them being from Whooping Cough; 1 from Scarlet Fever; and 1 from Enteric Fever.

BIRTHS.—459 Births have been registered during the past year, 227 males and 232 females. Of the former, 13 were illegitimate, and of the latter, 10. The Birth-rate amounts to 22·5 per thousand, as compared with 26 per thousand for last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During 1910, 74 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified (*i.e.*, excluding those from what is now the Prudhoe Urban District). They are distributed as follows:—In the Allendale sub-district, 20; in the Bywell sub-district, 35; in the Chollerton sub-district, 3; and in the Hexham sub-district, 16. The zymotic death-rate is equal to 24 per thousand, which is a very low rate indeed.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous years.

Name of District—Hexham Rural.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.			
		Num-ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Num-ber.	Rate.*	Num-ber.	Rate.*
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Num-ber.	Rate.*							
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1900 ...	27,589	736	26·6	118	160·32	447	16·2	.....	.....	.....	...	...		
1901 ...	27,638	715	25·8	120	167·83	431	15·5	.....	.....	.....	...	...		
1902 ...	27,702	780	28·2	73	93·58	419	15·1	.....	.....	.....	...	...		
1903 ..	27,762	691	24·8	89	128·65	455	16·3	1	.....	12	467	16·8		
1904 ...	27,822	737	26·4	110	149·2	466	16·7	1	.....	5	471	16·9		
1905 ...	27,882	720	25·8	64	88·8	356	12·7	2	.....	1	357	12·7		
1906 ...	27,947	688	24·6	64	100·7	365	13	4	.....	11	376	13·4		
1907 ..	28,012	662	23·6	59	89·1	364	12·9	1	1	15	378	13·4		
1908 ...	28,077	705	25	85	120·5	383	13·6	1	1	6	388	13·8		
1909 ...	28,142	734	26·1	77	104·9	383	13·6	3	3	7	387	13·3		
Averages for years 1900—1909	27,857	716	25·6	85	120·3	406	14·5	1	1	8	403	14·3		
1910 ...	20,368	459	22·5	28	61	258	12·6	4	2	11	267	13·1		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 200,700·339 Acres.

Total population at all ages, 27,638
 Number of inhabited houses, 7,141
 Average number of persons per house, 4 } At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the Districts.
The Sanatorium, Barrasford (Chollerton Sub-District).	Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe Royal Infirmary, Newcastle Northumberland County Asylum, Morpeth Union Workhouse, Hexham	Perth Infirmary Cumberland Infirmary
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? <i>No.</i>		

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of Separate Localities during 1910 and previous years.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

Names of Localities.	Allendale Sub-District.				Bywell Sub-District.				Chollerton Sub-District.				Hexham Sub-District.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900 ...	4807	123	88	15	13058	411	234	81	5396	127	67	15	4328	75	58	7
1901 ...	4778	101	79	15	13159	408	214	80	5387	119	67	14	4314	87	71	13
1902 ...	4778	111	85	9	13221	444	212	49	5380	122	57	6	4323	103	65	9
1903 ...	4778	105	71	6	13279	390	263	63	5373	99	71	10	4332	97	62	10
1904 ...	4778	106	78	8	13319	405	240	79	5383	134	74	12	4342	92	74	11
1905 ...	4778	111	69	7	13349	399	158	41	5398	104	53	7	4357	106	76	9
1906 ...	4778	90	63	6	13389	387	173	44	5408	125	73	9	4372	86	67	5
1907 ...	4778	99	69	10	13429	380	191	43	5418	104	67	5	4387	79	51	1
1908 ...	4778	87	70	9	13469	426	209	58	5428	108	55	8	4402	84	54	10
1909 ...	4778	101	75	11	13509	445	207	56	5438	117	59	8	4417	71	42	2
Averages of Years																
1900 to 1909	4780	103	74	9	13318	409	210	59	5400	115	64	9	4357	88	62	7
1910 ...	4778	122	89	5	5710	149	68	9	5448	113	55	10	4432	75	55	4

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.				
	At Ages.—Years.						Allendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.	Allendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	Un- der 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	17	.....	3	8	2	4	3	4	3	7	.....	1	1	1	3
Erysipelas ...	19	1	.....	3	1	10	3	14	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Scarlet Fever ...	35	1	6	22	2	4	14	15	.....	6	.....	2	.....	.....	2
Enteric Fever ...	3	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	2
Totals ...	74	2	9	35	6	18	20	35	3	16	.....	5	1	1	7

Isolation Hospital.—Name and Situation : Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe. Total available beds, 14. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

Smallpox Hospital, Lightwater, Hexhamshire. Total available beds, 12.

TABLE IV.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1910.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

Cause of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.						Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging Localities.				Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non- Residents' in Public Institutions in the District.	
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Allendale Sub-Dis.	Bywell Sub-Dis.	Chollerton Sub-Dis.		Hexham Sub-Dis.
Scarlet fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....
Whooping-cough ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	.....
Enteric fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....
Epidemic influenza	5	...	1	1	...	2	1	2	1	2	...	.....
Other septic diseases	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	1	.....
Diarrhœa ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	.....
Enteritis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....
Phthisis ...	28	...	...	...	4	22	2	7	3	9	9	2
Other tuberculous di- seases ...	14	2	1	2	2	6	1	5	7	1	1	.....
Cancer ...	22	...	...	...	...	10	12	6	7	5	4	.....
Bronchitis ...	23	2	2	...	1	5	13	15	4	1	3	.....
Pneumonia ...	16	3	7	...	...	2	4	4	4	5	3	.....
Pleurisy ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	.....
Apoplexy ...	15	...	...	...	...	4	11	7	2	1	5	.....
Alcoholism ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	.....
Cirrhosis of liver												
Senile decay ...	19	...	...	...	...	...	19	12	4	1	2	.....
Premature birth ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	.....
Heart diseases ...	50	1	...	1	...	20	28	14	14	10	12	.....
Accidents ...	10	2	1	1	1	5	...	1	5	1	3	.....
Suicides ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	.....
Marasmus ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	.....
Bright's disease ...	13	...	...	...	...	6	7	2	4	4	3	.....
Debility from birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	.....
All other causes ...	28	4	5	2	1	9	7	10	5	6	7	2
All causes ...	267	28	18	10	10	95	106	89	68	55	55	4

TABLE V.

Hexham Rural District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months
under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified	5	1	1	3	10	...	5	1	2	...	1	1	...	2	3	...	25
	Uncertified	1	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>i. Common Infectious Diseases :</i>																		
Whooping Cough																2		2
<i>ii. Diarrhœal Diseases :</i>																		
Diarrhœa, all forms				1		1												1
<i>iii. Wasting Diseases :</i>																		
Premature Birth		4				4												4
Congenital Defects								1										1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		1			1	2	2	1								1		6
<i>iv. Tuberculous Diseases :</i>																		
Tuberculous Peritonitis								1							1			2
<i>v. Other Causes :</i>																		
Meningitis															1			1
Convulsions			1			1												1
Bronchitis								1										1
Laryngitis					2	2												2
Pneumonia									1		1	1						3
Suffocation, overlying		1			1	2												2
Other causes				1		1	1											2
		6	1	2	4	13	...	5	1	2	...	1	1	...	2	3	...	28

Births in the year—Legitimate, 436 ; Illegitimate, 23.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 26 ; illegitimate infants, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 267.

Population estimated to middle of 1910, 20,368.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

During the year, and over the whole district, there have been 15 deaths which have not been registered in the usual way. On 9 of these inquests were held, whilst on the remaining 6, inquests were not considered necessary by the coroner.

These 15 deaths occurred—

4 in the Allendale sub-district ;
5 in the Bywell sub-district ;
4 in the Chollerton sub-district ;
2 in the Hexham sub-district.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Heart failure, 5.	Convulsions, 2.
Found drowned, 3.	Accidentally overlaid, 2.
Hanging, 1.	Burns, 1.
Natural causes, 1.	

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1910, for the Rural District of Hexham.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosec'tions
<i>Factories</i> (Including Factory Laundries)	27	4	.....
<i>Workshops</i> (Including Workshop Laundries)	58	10	.....
<i>Workplaces</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Total</i>	85	14	.....

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	13	13	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	...	..
Other Nuisances ...	17	17	...	...
Total ...	31	31	...	...

3.—HOME WORK.

None of the industries enumerated are carried on in our district, except the making and cleaning of wearing apparel.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year, 79.

(Laundries, Dressmaking, Milliners, Blacksmiths, Joiners and Cartwrights, Boot and Shoemakers, Bakehouses, etc.)

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act ... (s. 133)	7
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act, (s. 5)	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	3

1910.

The following Plans were submitted and approved at the following Meetings of the Sewage, Building, and Water Works Committee.

January 18th.

Plans of a house, at Falcon Terrace, Wylam, N., for H. Wallace & Sons, Builders, Wylam, N.

February 1st.

Plans of a gamekeeper's cottage, at Hill House, near Haydon Bridge, for Rev. Canon Crawhall, per Mr. Scott, Land Agent, Newton Hall, Stocksfield.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Shildon, near Corbridge, for W. Cochran Carr Esq., per W. Knowles, architect, Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a w.c., at the Prudhoe and West Wylam Co-op. premises, Corbridge, for the West Wylam and Prudhoe Co-op. Society, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of converting a hay-barn into two cottages, at Black Hall Mill, Hexhamshire, for Mrs. Ritson, Partridge Nest, Bardon Mill.

Plans of a cartman's house, at the Blaydon Co-op. Society's premises, Main Street, Prudhoe, for the Blaydon Co-op. Society, Ltd., per Mr. W. Crooks, jun., architect, Blaydon.

February 15th.

Plans of an hotel, at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. G. Humble, per Mr. Errington, architect, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a cottage, at Lipwood House, near Haydon Bridge, for Mrs. Lee, Haydon Bridge, per Mr. Shield, West Side, Whitfield, S.O.

March 2nd.

Plans of four semi-villas, at Drawback, Prudhoe, for Mr. Harkness, news-agent, Prudhoe.

Plans of a cottage, at Chesterwood, near Haydon Bridge, for Mr. Charlton, Wark-on-Tyne.

Plans of six houses, two houses and two shops, at The Riding Building Estate, Mickley, for W. Charlton & Sons, builders, Crawcrook.

Plans of a villa, at Finechambers, Hexhamshire, for J. T. Robb, Esq., Hexham.

Plans of three houses, at Front Street, Corbridge, for Mr. Davison, builder, Corbridge.

Plans of a building estate, at Dreighton Reign, near Corbridge, for Mrs. Dunn, Corbridge.

Plans of two semi-villas, at Drawback, Prudhoe, for Batey & Gillespie, Prudhoe.

March 30th.

Plans of additions to a house, at John Martin Street, Haydon Bridge, for Mrs. Tyzack, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of two semi-villas, at sites near Drawback, Prudhoe, for Messrs. Wilkinson & Millican, Prudhoe, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a house, at West Wylam, Prudhoe, for Mr. J. Lishman, Prudhoe.

Plans of eight houses, at Halfway Houses, Prudhoe, for Messrs. Smithson & Son, Prudhoe, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of outoffices, at The Cemetery, Corbridge, for the Burial Board, Corbridge, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a villa, at the Building Estate, Riding Mill, for Mr. Strachan, Riding Mill, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a motor-house and alterations to stables, at The Hall, Newbrough, for W. J. Benson, Esq., Newbrough.

Plans of eight houses, a shop and house, and stable, at The Square, Mickley, for Messrs. Smithson & Son, Prudhoe, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

April 27th.

Plans of additions to a cottage and outbuildings, at Lipwood House, near Haydon Bridge, for Mrs. Lee, Haydon Bridge, per Mr. Shield, West Side, Whitfield, S.O.

Plans of two semi-villas, at Meadow Field Road, Stocksfield, for Mr. Moat, Belle Vue, Stocksfield.

Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Building Estate, Stocksfield, for A. Douthwaite, Esq., per Mr. Coull, builder, Stocksfield.

Plans of a stable, at Batt House Road, Stocksfield, for T. W. Murray, Woodburn, Stocksfield.

Plans of additions to a villa, at Meadow Field Road, Stocksfield, for Mr. Bibby, Stocksfield.

Plans of a villa, at West Well Houses, Colwell, for J. E. Riddell, Esq., Swinburne Castle, per Mr. Hedley, The Hermitage, Barrasford.

Plans of converting a privy into a w.c., at 10, Trinity Terrace, Corbridge, for Mr. Brown, Orchard Vale, Corbridge.

Plans of an entrance lodge, at Howden Dene, near Corbridge, for J. H. Straker, Esq., per J. Oswald & Son, architects, Corbridge.

May 3rd.

Plans of new outoffices, at Main Street, Corbridge, for Mr. W. Turnbull, Corbridge.

Plans of new outoffices, at Hill Street, Corbridge, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick, per Mr. F. Temperley.

Plans of additions and alterations to a school house, at Bingfield, Corbridge, for the Managers.

May 25th.

Plans of an addition to a house, at the Police Station, Stocksfield, for the Northumberland County Council, Moot Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, per Mr. Bean, county surveyor.

Plans of additions to a house, at Dilston Plains, near Hexham, for Lord Allendale, Bywell Hall, Stocksfield, per Mr. Balden, estate office, Bywell.

June 22nd.

Plans of four houses, at the Shillburn Estate, Allendale, for Mr. T. Field, per Mr. Reavell, jun., architect, Alnwick.

Plans of outoffices, at Horsley Village, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick, per Mr. F. Temperley.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Geeswood House, Haydon Bridge, for I. Walton, Esq., Corbridge, per Watson & Scott, architects, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of two semi-villas, at Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for Mr. Strachan, builder, Riding Mill.

Plans of three pairs of semi-villas, at Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for J. Brough, Esq., S. Wylam.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at The Riding, near Hexham, for C. W. C. Henderson, Esq., The Riding.

July 20th.

Plans of additions to the Vicarage House, at the Vicarage, Whittonstall, for the Rev. J. Wagstaff, The Vicarage.

Plans of a stable, byre, and coach-house, at Dipton, near Riding Mill, for Mr. Blackburn, Dipton, Riding Mill.

Plans of a villa-cottage, at Forsterstead's Road, Allendale, for Mr. J. Graham, Scotch Hall, Allendale.

Plans of additions to a cottage at Warden Bridge End, near Hexham, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of additions to a farm-house, at West Greenridge, near Hexham, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of additions to a farm-house, at Burnfoot, Warden, near Hexham, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Haydon Lodge, Haydon Bridge, for W. M. Turner, Esq., Tynemouth.

Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for A. J. Raine, Esq.

Plans of two semi-villas, at the Building Estate, Riding Mill, for A. L. Bird, Esq.

Plans of groom's rooms, at The Hall, Newbrough, for W. J. Benson, Esq.

Plans of a mission hall, at Hallington, via Corbridge, for the Trustees.

August 16th.

Plans of living rooms, motor house, cart shed, stable, &c., at Wheel Birks, near Stocksfield, for Mr. Richardson.

Plans of a cottage, at the Shillburn Estate, Allendale, for Mr. T. Field, builder, Front Street, Newbiggin.

Plans of additions and alterations to the existing buildings, at The Schools, Haydon Bridge, for the Managers.

Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at Nubbock Wood House, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of additions and alterations to a house, at Cross House West, Corbridge, for D. R. Huntley, Esq.

September 14th.

Plans of additions to a villa, at Kilbryde, near Corbridge, for Mr. J. Cooke.

Plans of two cottages, at Sandhoe, near Hexham, for Capt. Cuthbert, Beaufront, near Hexham.

Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. P. Graham, Hillcroft, Stocksfield.

October 12th.

Plans of ten houses, at Back Meadowfield Road, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. R. Hindmarsh, architect, 10, Neville St., Newcastle.

Plans of a byre, stable, and outoffices, at Thrush Hall, W. Allendale, for Thompson Gradon, Esq.

November 9th.

Plans of additions and alterations to a house, at the Market Place, Allendale Town, for Messrs. Fairlamb, Post Office, Allendale Town.

Plans of a house, at site near Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. D. Coull, builder, Stocksfield.

Plans of a church hall, at site near Warden, Hexham, for the Trustees.

December 6th.

Plans of a scullery and bath-room, at Tyneville, Haydon Bridge, for Miss Lee, Tyneville, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of a stable and coach-house, at Greystones, Stocksfield, for B. Bryant, Esq., Greystones, Stocksfield.

Plans of five houses, at Well Bank, Corbridge, for Messrs. Hogarth & Sons, joiners, etc., Corbridge.

December 13th.

Plans of additions and alterations to a shooting box, at Riddhamhope, near Blanchland, for Col. Napier-Clavering.

NUISANCES, &c.

The following notices have been issued to Owners and Occupiers of premises, during the year, by the Sanitary Inspector :—

	Notices served.	Carried out.
To Provide proper drainage to premises ...	24	15
„ Open out and relay choked drains ...	9	9
„ Trap inlets to drains and sewers ...	8	7
„ Trap waste water pipes ...	2	2
„ Cement, pave, and repair defective yard surfaces ...	6	6
„ Relay floors, and drain byres, stables, and piggeries ...	4	4
„ Properly cleanse cesspits ...	6	6
„ Repair roofs of houses ...	2	2
„ Provide ventilation to drains ...	9	9
„ Remove offensive slaughter-house refuse from premises ...	3	3
„ Cement walls and floors of ashpits and privies	6	6
„ Provide w.c., E.C., or privy accommodation ...	18	12
„ Ventilate main sewers ...	2	2
„ Thoroughly cleanse and limewash walls of outoffices ...	3	3
„ Repair delapidated privies and ashpits ...	9	7
„ Connect drains to main sewers ...	3	2
„ Remove offensive accumulation of refuse from premises ...	28	28
„ Disconnect wastepipe from drainage ...	1	1
„ Fix inlets to drains on the outside of buildings	4	4
„ Cleanse manure and ashpits ...	15	15
„ Provide proper doors and coverings to ashpits	12	8
„ Repair defective water fittings ...	2	2
„ Lime-wash walls, &c., of premises ...	9	9
„ Cleanse open sewers ...	4	4
„ Not to deposit refuse into water-courses ...	5	5
„ Remove cesspit from premises ...	1	1
„ Cleanse urinals ...	2	2
„ Cease discharging contents of outoffices into the river and water-courses ...	28	20
„ Deposit plans of buildings in course of erection ...	2	2
„ Cease keeping pigs to be a nuisance ...	1	1
„ Excavate ground from walls of houses to remedy dampness ...	7	7
„ Repair defective rainwater spouting ...	2	2

		Notices served.	Carried out.
To Remove drain under floors of house	...	1	1
„ Cleanse public watering places	... ..	3	3
„ Provide ashpits to premises	... ..	2	2
„ Abate smoke nuisance	... ..	1	1
„ Cleanse private sewage works	... ..	3	3
„ Open out drains for testing purposes	...	1	1
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, &c., dis- infected and fumigated	... ..	...	31
Drains tested by smoke test, or otherwise	... ..	...	59
Drains found defective	... ..	...	7

During the year 1910, 45 new houses have been occupied.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Supply generally.—There are 117 registered dairies in the district, being an increase of 16 over last year's number. These have been visited very frequently by your officials. In several cases we have had to find fault with the absence of rainwater spouting to these buildings. The want of spouting has a most detrimental effect on the walls, and also on the general cleanliness of the premises. In several cases this has been remedied, and others are in abeyance, but will receive further attention from us. The drainage of some of the yards adjoining these byres is also defective, although a considerable improvement is gradually taking place in this respect. The large dairies in your district leave little to be desired, we do, however, find occasionally that milkers fail to appreciate the extreme importance of keeping the cows and byres scrupulously clean, and also their own hands. I must again take the opportunity of pointing out what an excellent medium milk is for the growth of disease germs of all kinds. Hence it follows that anyone milking the cows, or otherwise handling milk, should cease to do so on the appearance of the slightest symptom of sore throat, or after having been in contact with any infectious disease. We have had no epidemic this year in our district which could be attributed to infected milk, although in former years they have sometimes been met with. The milk trade at present is receiving more attention than before. Germ-infected milk is no doubt very frequently the cause of summer diarrhoea in infants, and to some extent of tuberculosis in infants and adults, although personally I would not accept without great reserve the conclusions arrived at by some of our authorities, with reference to milk as a considerable factor in spreading tuberculosis in adults. Some years of practice have convinced me that the filthy habit of spitting, and the housing of people in damp, badly-ventilated houses, are of much more importance as factors in spreading the disease. That milk is sometimes the

agent in giving infants abdominal tuberculosis, I do not doubt, although here again I would accept the evidence of statistics with considerable caution. The term 'tabes mesenterica' in death certificates is most loosely used, and undoubtedly includes large numbers of cases of malnutrition, due to improper feeding, and many other causes. Furthermore, some really authoritative evidence is much needed as to the value of tuberculin as an agent for diagnosing tuberculosis in cattle, evidence which would satisfy competent veterinarians, as well as medical men. Some medical officers of health consider the indications of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent, infallible, whilst many veterinarians consider it extremely fallacious. One veterinary surgeon of thirty years experience informs me that he has seen an animal react, in which a careful post mortem failed to reveal any tubercular lesion, whilst in another case, in an animal badly affected with tuberculosis, no reaction was obtainable. This, perhaps, accounts for the universal objection to the tuberculin test evinced by local stock owners and dairymen, although I have found them perfectly willing to put any animal out of their herd which was the least emaciated, or unwell, or where there was any suspicion of tuberculosis in the udders or teats.

Slaughter Houses.—These number 32, and have received close supervision during the year. Your officials rarely visit a village without making an inspection of these places. Taken as a whole, there is little ground for complaint. Wherever water can be had a supply is laid on the premises, with one or two exceptions. The latter are being requested to install a water supply wherever circumstances permit. The walls, floors, and lighting leave little to be desired. Taken as a whole, the drainage of these premises is satisfactory. Your medical officer is of opinion that the quality of the meat sold to the public in this district is very good. On very rare occasions has there been any fault to find in this respect.

Sewerage.—During the past year, an extensive system of sewers and sewage disposal works has been carried out in the township of Broomley. This work has proceeded more slowly than was at first expected, owing to causes over which the Council had no control, but it is now in process of completion. It will effect an immense improvement in the sanitary condition of a large part of the Painshawfield estate, Branch End, and Stocksfield. It is to be hoped that the remainder of this scheme, extending to Ridley Mill, New Ridley, and the remaining portion of the Painshawfield estate, will be proceeded with as early as possible.

At Catton, the main sewer has been extended for about 300 yards, thus providing drainage to houses which were previously without it, while at The Dene, Allendale Town, a sewer has been

laid to existing sewerage works, and has replaced several cess-pools at this building estate. At the present time there are two existing sewerage works at Allendale, while it has been proposed to construct a third on the Church Dene. The multiplication of small isolated sewerage works is not advisable, and in order if possible to avoid this, the Parochial Committee have engaged an engineer to consider the possibility of bringing all the sewerage to one main outfall.

At both Barrasford and Gunnerton, Mr. Murphy, M.I.C.E., has been engaged by the Parochial Committee of Chollerton to construct suitable sewage disposal works.

As regards the sewerage of the village of Acomb, this should, I think, be proceeded with without further delay. Enquiries have been received from the County Council as to what is being done in this matter. The Poison Burn, Acomb, is I think one of the most polluted streams in the whole district. To this pollution, the sewerage it receives, contributes only a small fraction. Nevertheless, the discharge of untreated sewerage into any stream is absolutely illegal, and the County Council are insisting upon District Councils and property owners complying with the law.

For the Oakwood and Anick area, an engineer has been appointed to report upon and carry out a scheme of sewers and sewerage disposal works. This will be the means of improving a state of affairs about which your officials have received many complaints.

Water Supplies.—The Haydon Bridge water scheme has been completed, and will, I have no doubt, be a great boon to the locality. Some householders have already availed themselves of this supply by taking it on to their premises, and doubtless when its advantages are fully appreciated, many more will do so.

At South Side, Corbridge, the engineer has submitted various schemes, of which none, as yet, have been approved. The matter is, however, not being lost sight of, and the engineer has been instructed to consider other possible supplies.

At Hedley-on-the-Hill, the situation remains for the present unchanged, and at times there is a distinct shortage of water in the higher part of the village. Steps have, however, been taken to acquire another spring, which will, it is hoped, considerably improve the situation.

Scavenging.—In the annual report of the medical officer to the Local Government Board for last year, he lays it down as an axiom, that one of the chief duties, if not the chief duty, of a Sanitary Authority, is to enforce a high standard of scavenging throughout its area. If this be so, and it admits of no dispute, your area cannot be said to reach a high standard of efficiency. We have not a single scavenging area in the district. Much

research has been done of late, by some of the Local Government Board officials, on this question, tending to show that anything which encourages houseflies in a neighbourhood, causes at the same time contamination of milk and other articles of food, and thereby a great increase in the number of cases of summer diarrhœa, and most probably of Typhoid. The accumulation of ashpit and other refuse about premises provides breeding places for different varieties of flies, and tends to raise the death-rate, and more especially the infant death-rate. It also causes serious illness, and probably a damaged constitution in the case of many other infants who manage to survive. In considering this matter, I would like the Council to ask themselves this question: Does the present system of putting the onus of removing his own refuse on the owner lead to satisfactory results? I think there can be but one answer, viz., that it does not, and under present circumstances, cannot. With the increase in the use of tinned foods, there is in every village a huge collection of refuse of very little value, and to dispose of which without offence, is a very difficult matter for the occupier. Frequently there is no place where he can tip it, and if he keep it in his ashpit till the latter overflows, the sanitary inspector orders him to remove it; but if he enquire where it must be put, he has to solve the question for himself. This leads to the depositing of refuse in all kinds of undesirable places, by the sides of streams and public highways, etc. There is only one solution of this difficulty that I can see, viz.:—For each of the larger villages a good refuse tip should be obtained, and a scavenging area formed, whereby the whole of the outoffices in the village would be thoroughly scavenged, say once a fortnight. The villages more especially implicated are Wylam, Ovingham, Ovington, Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, Acomb, and Allendale Town.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—The Local Government Board, in their latest memorandum re the reports of medical officers of health, ask for specific information regarding the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act within the Council's area. The Local Government Board point out that the duty of carrying out the requirements of these Acts is laid upon the Councils and their officials. It is by no means always a pleasant task, but it is nevertheless an important one in the interests of the public. The honest retailer can protect himself by getting a warranty when he buys his goods; if, however, he intends to rely upon a warranty as a defence, he must give due notice of this to the prosecutor. The chief difficulties of this act arise, I think, in connection with milk, the adulteration of which by adding water is extremely profitable, and not very uncommon. Public analysts maintain that genuine milk always contains 3%

of fat, from a mixed herd, whilst so experienced and honest a dairyman as the late Mr. Charles Marshall, maintained that the fat, even from the milk of a mixed herd, occasionally fell below 3%, and that farmers were often most unjustly fined. As is well known to most of the members of this Council, his evidence on many occasions in police courts turned the scales in favour of the vendors, when otherwise they would most assuredly have been fined. It is greatly to be desired that a recognised agreement could be come to, as to what is a fair standard, as the opinion is very widespread, amongst local farmers at any rate, that injustice is often done in these cases. With regard to the addition of preservatives to milk, I think no one will doubt but that it should be absolutely prohibited, and severely punishable whenever detected. It must undoubtedly tend to upset the digestion, and injure the health of infants, to be constantly fed on milk containing Boric Acid, Formaldehyde, etc., and no mercy should be shown to offenders in this respect. This matter should be discussed by the Council, and some instructions given to your officials thereon.

Scarlet Fever.—Of this disease there have been 35 cases notified during the year, distributed as follows:—15 in the Bywell sub-district; 14 in the Allendale sub-district; and 6 in the Hexham sub-district; and 1 death took place from this disease at Wylam. Of these cases, 9 were at Stocksfield, 5 were at Wylam, 1 at Hedley-on-the-Hill, 5 at Acomb, 14 at Haydon Bridge, and 1 in Hexhamshire. On the whole, the disease has been very mild in character.

Erysipelas.—19 cases have been notified during the year, as follows:—6 in Ovington, 2 in Allendale, 2 in Ovingham, 2 at Stocksfield, and 1 each in the following places, Minsteracres, Riding Mill, Hedley, Horsley, Acomb, Corbridge, and Haydon Bridge.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—I have received 17 notifications of this disease during the year, viz:—4 at Corbridge, 3 at Hexham, 2 in Humshaugh, 2 at Haydon Bridge, and 1 each at Fourstones, Allendale, Stocksfield, Riding Mill, Horsley, and Wylam. No deaths from this disease have been registered, which is a most gratifying circumstance, and is partly due to the liberality of the Council in supplying antitoxin free. Dr. Goodall, writing in the *British Medical Journal* of Feb. 11th, 1911, says:—"I am myself most firmly convinced of the value of antitoxin in the treatment of Diphtheria. I have had an extensive experience of the disease, going back to eight years before the discovery of the serum method, and I regard the antitoxic serum as a specific. At the same time, I am of opinion that there are certain limits to its use." Dr. Goodall then goes on to state the conditions for its successful administration, viz:—

"(1) Early resort to this remedy ; (2) A sufficient dose of it ; (3) That the antitoxin used be of the very best quality." Such an expression of opinion, coming from one of Dr. Goodall's unrivalled experience, must of course carry great weight. The chief reason for the decrease in the amount of Diphtheria in our district, is no doubt the extensive improvements made in the drainage of villages during recent years, and secondly, the alterations made in the conditions of the public elementary schools.

Enteric Fever.—Only 3 cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever have been notified, of which 1 proved fatal. 1 case was at Wylam, while the 2 others were respectively at Ovingham and Chantry Farm, Corbridge. The Wylam and Ovingham cases were both imported ones, whilst at the farm house where the fatal case occurred, it was necessary to reconstruct the whole of the drainage. This district has enjoyed a very low Typhoid incidence for some years back, due chiefly to our good water supplies.

Measles.—Only 2 outbreaks of Measles of any consequence have occurred during 1910, viz., at Ovington, where the school was closed for three weeks in June, and at Acomb, where the school was closed for four weeks. In neither of these epidemics did any death occur, a very fortunate and uncommon circumstance.

Whooping Cough.—3 epidemics of Whooping Cough has broken out, viz :—At Halton Shields, where the Council school was closed four days before the beginning of the summer holidays ; at Great Whittington, where the Council school was closed for four weeks ; and at Catton, where it was necessary to close the school for three weeks. 3 deaths from Whooping Cough were reported, 1 each from Haydon Bridge, Great Whittington, and Wall. This disease is not notifiable, and the exact number of cases cannot therefore be given.

Diarrhœa.—1 death only has been reported as due to this cause, an infant aged 10 months.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.—No fewer than 42 deaths are attributed to these causes. Phthisis is largely a preventable disease, and is also no doubt a very infectious one. If the money were forthcoming, an enormous reduction could rapidly be made in the mortality from this disease. The measures required would be (1) The removal of Phthisis patients to sanatoria, if possible, and if this were not possible, they should be educated into the proper disposal of the discharges which they spit up, and which are often laden with tubercle bacilli ; (2) The avoidance of damp in houses, and its removal where it at present exists ; (3) The provision of plentiful airspace in

houses, along with adequate ventilation, in all rooms, especially in bedrooms. Unfortunately, the treatment of patients in sanatoria can only be carried out at a cost which to the average working man is prohibitive, and nothing is more depressing than to see the downward career which such a patient takes when left at home. While the disease is yet in an early stage, and still curable under proper conditions, the patient is compelled to work for the support of himself and his family. At length he ceases to be able to work at all, and then the poor law authorities step in, he being by this time probably incurable. He is allowed enough relief to keep body and soul together, while his wife may have to work to supplement this. If the patient in such a case, either from ignorance or carelessness, spit about the floor, then the infection of some of the other members of the family (underfed as they often will be) is highly probable. Although the death-rate from tubercle is much less than it was, say 40 years ago, yet it is still needlessly high, and if viewed even from the point of the sociologist, is an enormous wastage of national assets. This is a matter which urgently requires legislation for properly dealing with it, and money from the exchequer could not be more profitably nor humanely spent.

School Closure.—The following schools were closed during the year, for the periods and causes named :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Closed.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Ovington C. of E.	... 14th June—6th July	... Measles.
Halton Shield Council	... 5th July—9th July	... Whooping Cough.
Lillswood Council	... 29th Aug.—12th Sept.	... Scarlet Fever.
Great Whittington Council	22nd Aug.—19th Sept.	... Whooping Cough.
Acomb C. of E.	... 25th Oct.—21st Nov.	... Measles.
Catton Council	... 13th Dec.—2nd Jan.	... Whooping Cough.

Isolation Hospital.—In all 7 cases from this district have been removed to and treated in the hospital. There were no deaths. These included 2 cases of Scarlet Fever from Wylam and Branch End respectively; 2 cases of Enteric, 1 each from Wylam and Ovingham; and 3 cases of Diphtheria, 1 each from Humshaugh, Oakwood, and Stocksfield. During the past year, the matronship of the hospital passed from the hands of Mrs. Todd to those of Mrs. Berry. It seems to be not generally known that where patients are without proper lodging and accommodation, the sanitary authority can compel their removal to the hospital. Proper lodging and accommodation has been defined as such accommodation as will not only give the patient a reasonable chance of recovery, but such as will prevent the infection spreading to others. Although it is very objectionable to the feelings of all concerned to have to remove a patient against the wishes of the friends, such removal ought undoubtedly to be done in some cases. In a house, say of two rooms, and a large family of children, satisfactory isolation is manifestly

impossible, and such a patient is much better off in the hospital, both for its own sake and for the sake of the public health. It is admitted on all hands that the death-rate, from say Diphtheria, is considerably lower in hospitals than outside, this being probably due to the better feeding and nursing possible in hospital.

Factories' and Workshops' Act.—The work done under this Act is set forth in the tables. There is very little ground for complaint as to the conditions under which workers carry on their daily avocations in the district. Your officials continue, however, to give all factories and workshops frequent visits.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.—This very important Act places in the hands of Councils a powerful instrument for the improvement of their districts. Under Section 17 of the Act, it shall (not may) be the duty of the Medical Officer to make inspections for the purpose of discovering if any houses are unfit for human habitation. If such houses are found to exist, then it shall be (not may be) the duty of the Local Authority, to issue closing orders prohibiting the tenancy of such houses.

The first step, therefore, taken by Councils, should be the gaining of clear and definite knowledge of the conditions of the poorest courts or streets. The facts having been verified, Councils have the power, without any application to the magistrates, to issue closing orders. If the owner desire to appeal against such order, he may do so, to the Local Government Board, within 14 days, and not to the magistrates. After the lapse of a few months, the Local Authority may order the demolition of the houses thus closed—(1) If they have not been rendered fit for habitation; and (2) If the continuance of the houses is injurious to the inhabitants of neighbouring houses.

Under Section 10 of the Act, four inhabitant householders have the right of complaining to the Local Government Board of the failure of the Local Authority to fulfil its duties under Part. II. of the Act of 1890, and if, after enquiry, the Local Government Board are of opinion that action should be taken, then the Local Authority may be ordered to take such action.

Under Section 14 of the Act, a definite obligation is placed upon the owners of houses, to the effect that all houses, or parts of houses, let at rents not above £16, in all rural districts, must be kept by the landlord in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. This Section applies to all houses let at the above rent, the tenancy of which is entered upon after the passing of Act (December, 1909). If it appear to the Local Authority that this condition is not complied with, the Local Authority shall, by written notice, require the landlord to execute such works as

are necessary to make the houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. *Then if the owner refuse, the local authority may carry out the work themselves, and recover the cost as a civil debt from the owners.*

Under these Sections, Councils are empowered to deal with those houses, or parts of houses, which, while not structurally unfit for human habitation, have been, by continued neglect, allowed to fall into such a condition of disrepair—with broken floors, damp and uncleansed walls, unfit staircases, etc.—as to be a source of suffering and wretchedness to the tenants, and a danger to the community.

THE HOUSING OF THE POOREST POOR—Under the Act of 1890, amended by the Act of 1909, the Local Authority has power:—(1) To borrow for the purpose of buying land and building houses. (2) To borrow money for 60 years for building, and 80 years for land purchase. (3) To let the houses thus built to working class tenants, at reasonable rents. Here, again, any four ratepayers have the right of complaint to the Local Government Board, of the failure of the Local Authority to provide adequate house accommodation, where it is urgently needed.

There are many other most useful and necessary provisions in this Act, which is worthy of careful study by everyone interested in proper housing. A most valuable compendium of the Act is issued at a very small cost, by the National Housing and Town Planning Council, 18 Dulverton Road, Leicester, from which most of the above is taken verbatim, and who will be most willing to assist in the formation of local house and town planning councils, to force action (if necessary) on local councils and their officials. The house to house inspection under the Act, is, in this District, now proceeding, and a report thereon will be placed before you at an early date.

GENTLEMEN,

In concluding this report, I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, for the help and information received from them during the year. Mr. Ed. Davidson has succeeded Mr. Stephen Pearson as Chairman of the Sewage and Building Committee, where, as usual, a large amount of work has been done. Mr. J. H. Nicholson, the clerk, assisted by Mr. Hamilton, have helped us in every possible way, and to these gentlemen, along with Mr. Waugh, the surveyor, I have to offer my best thanks.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. PENFOLD.

