

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Hexham R.D.C.

Contributors

Hexham (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1937

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/rmmteepz>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

THE SIXTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE
Hexham Rural District Council

WITH
Tabular Returns of Mortality,
Housing, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR 1937,

BY
DR. G. PATTON.

HEXHAM :
R. ROBSON & SONS, Printers, Commercial Place.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2942625x>



THE SIXTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE
Hexham Rural District Council

WITH
Tabular Returns of Mortality,
Housing, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR 1937,

BY
DR. G. PATTON.

HEXHAM :

R. ROBSON & SONS, Printers, Commercial Place.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HEXHAM.

To Chairman and Members of the Hexham Rural District Council :

I have pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

This is classed as an ordinary report and contains the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1650 dated the 4th October, 1937, and where possible the Tables give the statistics completed for the whole year.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.—The Public Health Staff of the Local Authority comprises one whole-time Medical Officer, three whole-time Sanitary Inspectors and one lady clerk. Half of the Salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and each Sanitary Inspector is recoverable under the Local Government Act, 1888, sec. 24 (2) C. The Medical Officer holds the Diploma of Public Health and the Sanitary Inspectors hold the Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute.

During the year under review, the shortage of WATER was not so accutely felt, but in some districts the supplies are unsatisfactory.

In the case of Gunnerton, in which new houses are going up, further supplies will have to be found in the near future. The question of an augmented supply to Newbrough Parish and Stonecroft has received attention, and an additional supply for Newbrough has been obtained, also a supply suf-

5109
L.H.A. 1937

ficient for the needs of houses at Woodbine (Settlingstones). Stonecroft proper has still to be dealt with.

You will see by the tables that the incidence of NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES is much less than in the previous year. This is particularly marked in the case of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. There were no deaths from either of these diseases, which were of an unusually mild type.

No further progress was made during the year with the provision of a Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, owing to the unwillingness of one of the Authorities concerned, to come into line. This difficulty has now been overcome, and next year should show a start towards completion of this scheme.

Considerable progress was made during the year in the amelioration of housing conditions. During the 12 months under review, 20 houses have been built to re-house, overcrowded families and 28 to replace houses condemned as unfit. In addition, 32 houses are under course of erection, 16 being to replace unfit houses and 16 for the relief of overcrowding. We have also made provision for 58 more houses to be built in the near future, the districts concerned being Gunnerton, 6; Wall, 8; Humshaugh, 6; Fourstones, 20; Wylam, 12; and Ovingham 6.

The Housing conditions of AGRICULTURAL WORKERS throughout the district cannot on the whole be regarded as satisfactory. This involves the solving of a special problem which was recognised in the Housing of the Rural Workers Act, of 1926 and 1931. In other districts much has been done to benefit the Housing conditions of farm workers by utilising the assistance provided by this Act. This Council has adopted the subsidy clauses of the Act. I cannot help feeling that if the benefits obtainable under the Act were recognised more clearly, that Landlords would make more use of it. Briefly, this Act provides for a sum up to £150 for improvements to each house in this category of which the owner has only to provide one third. However, some advance has been made in this direction and applications are now coming in in increasing numbers, 30 houses having been reconditioned under the Act during the year under review.

In this district, as in many others, the problem of dealing with BUNGALOWS AND CAMPING SITES is becoming increasingly difficult. Whilst I have every sympathy with those who desire somewhere in the country to spend a holiday, and so recruit their health, it is necessary so to regulate the placing

and construction of bungalows and the provision of necessary amenities that these aggregations of structures that are often not more than huts, may not become nuisances from a sanitary point of view and an eyesore to the Countryside.

In some districts, these erections are becoming so numerous and crowded together that the provision of Sanitation, drainage and piped water supply is now a necessity that they may not become a possible menace to the health of the district.

In some cases they are not suitable for habitation at all and should be removed.

CAMPING SITES also call for attention and proprietors letting fields for this purpose should remember that they are responsible for the provision of adequate Sanitary Arrangements, the removal of rubbish and the preservation of cleanliness generally.

I must again, whilst on this subject, refer to the unsatisfactory methods of sewage disposal in some of our parishes, Fourstones, Haydon Bridge, Corbridge and Wylam being the principal offenders. All of these places discharge the whole or part of their sewage into the Tyne, untreated. The pollution of the river at present is a serious matter. If parishes at present employing this method for the disposal of their sewage do not take steps to rectify them, I am afraid that the Ministry of Health will intervene. I naturally prefer that no compulsion should be needed. There is also urgent need for better SCAVENGING arrangements in several districts. Even where no official SCAVENGING arrangements are possible recognised "Tips" should be provided at a proper distance from any occupied house. We should then be in a better position to deal with rubbish deposits and those who offend in this way.

During the year, a sewage scheme was installed for Slaley Parish. Schemes have also been prepared for Corbridge and Haydon Bridge, and will be proceeded with when the necessary Ministry Inquiry has been held. When this has been done, a sewage scheme for Wylam will then be prepared.

The good results which have followed the introduction of a supply of cheap milk to all Council Schools, where the nutritional standard has very notably increased since its inception, underlines the great value of cheap milk in acquiring this.

I should like to point out also that in some cases landlords fail to realize their obligations to tenants in providing them with more up-to-date byres, and an adequate and convenient supply of pure water.

You will see by the table that the deaths this year have increased by nine. The causes of death chiefly responsible for this, being cancer and heart disease. The Birth Rate remains the same as last year. The Maternal Deaths Rate is 3.6 per thousand births being roughly half than last year. The Infant Mortality Rate shows a slight decrease. The population figure supplied by the Ministry is 19,860. The actual figure according to my reckoning is nearer 20,000. This, of course, makes all percentage figures appear higher than they should.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.— 196,030 acres, which is sub-divided into the following districts :—

Allendale	...	51,833	...	4,662	} Estimated Population 1937 19,860
Bywell	...	46,637	...	7,096	
Chollerton	...	50,534	...	4,957	
Hexham	...	47,026	...	4,523	
Whole District		196,030		21,238	

Number of Inhabited Houses, (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	6,091
Number of Families or Separate occupiers, 1931 Census		5,513
Rateable Value (formerly the Assessable Value) 1st April, 1937		£131,298
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1st April, 1937)		£514 2s. 6d.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT :—
The chief Industry of the District is Agriculture. Coal mining is extensively carried on in the Eastern and extreme Western parts of the District. Stone Quarrying is also carried on in the North and South of the District and Barytes is mined in the Fourstones area.

Vital Statistics.

	TOTAL	M.	F.	
BIRTHS*	Legitimate 251	140	111	Birth Rate
	Illegitimate 13	9	4	13.2

* *Corrected by Registrar's General Figures.*

STILL BIRTHS.—The following figures are given by the Registrar General and are not included in the above :—

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	10	1	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	3.6
Total	1	3.6

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	60.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	59.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	31
„ Measles (all ages)	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

BIRTHS. The actual number of births registered in the Rural District of Hexham is 360 compared with 332 in 1936 and 337 in 1935. This number is made up of 189 males and 171 females and gives an uncorrected Birth Rate of 18.1 The following tables give the uncorrected Births as they are distributed :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Allendale ...	1936	16	18	—	—	16	18	34
	1937	17	15	1	2	18	17	35
Bywell ...	1936	21	25	2	1	23	26	49
	1937	23	17	1	—	24	17	41
Chollerton	1936	22	16	2	—	24	16	40
	1937	22	18	1	1	23	19	42
Hexham ...	1936	104	97	4	4	108	101	209
	1937	123	114	1	4	124	118	242
Total for District	1936	163	156	8	5	171	161	332
	1937	185	164	4	7	189	171	360

DEATHS. During the year there have been 281 deaths of persons in, or belonging to the Rural District. This is an increase on last year when there were 272. In the preceding year there were 249.

These figures give a corrected Death Rate of 14.1 per thousand. The following tables classified these deaths, according to their age groups in each sub-district, also into Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths :—

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Sub-District, also Adult, Infant,
and Uncertified Deaths.

District	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total	
Age Group :						
0—1 ...	5	7	2	2	16	
1—2 ...	—	1	—	1	2	
2—5 ...	—	—	—	1	1	
5—15 ...	1	—	—	1	2	
15—25 ...	—	3	2	3	8	
25—45 ...	2	7	5	10	24	
45—65 ...	16	18	22	15	71	
Over 65 ...	45	37	31	44	157	
Totals all ages	69	73	62	77	281	
Uncertified { M.	3	3	2	1	9	
F.	1	2	—	1	4	
Infant { M.	1	2	—	3	6	
F.	3	2	1	4	10	
Adult { M.	35	37	26	35	133	
F.	30	32	35	35	132	
						281

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.				Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	TOTAL
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	2	6	3	3	14
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	3	1	2	7
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	3	1	1	5
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Gen. paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	2
Cancer	...	...	...	13	5	5	8	31
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1	—	1	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	3	5	—	2	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	18	20	20	24	82
Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Other circulatory	...	...	...	3	2	1	8	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	4	2	5	12
Other Respiratory	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1	2	2	5
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Other liver diseases	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Other digestive	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Acute and Chron. Nephritis	...	...	...	10	2	6	3	21
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Con. Debility and Prem. Birth	...	...	...	2	3	1	2	8
Senility	...	...	...	2	3	4	3	12
Suicide	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	3
Other violence	...	...	...	1	5	2	3	11
Other defined causes	...	...	...	1	5	12	5	23
Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
TOTAL				69	73	62	77	281

INFANT MORTALITY. There were 16 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 18 in 1936 and 15 in 1935. The Infant Mortality Rate is 60.6 per thousand births registered, compared with 66.9 for 1936 and 52.8 for 1935.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para-Typhoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year	
England and Wales ...	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58	
125 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62	
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55	
London ...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60	
Hexham R.D. ...	13.2	0.50	14.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.70	0.55	7.5	60	

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

A.—(1)—LABORATORY FACILITIES.—

No official arrangements exist for Chemical Work to be carried out by our Council in this District. Any work of this type is done by Northumberland County Council, at their Laboratory in Newburn.

B.—(2)—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—

(a) For Infectious cases. The Council now have their own Motor Ambulance. By arrangement with the Prudhoe Urban Council it can also be used for their cases, and also of those of the Hexham Urban District.

(b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. The Council's Ambulance is also available for these.

C.—(3)—NURSING IN THE HOME.—

No provision is made in the Rural District for Professional Nursing in the Home.

D.—(4)—TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—

No such centres are provided by this Council.

E.—(5)—HOSPITALS. PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.—

(a) Fever. Cases of Scarlet Fever occurring in the Hexham Rural District are treated, in conjunction with those from Prudhoe. This Hospital contains 10 beds, 5 male and 5 female. The staff consists of a Visiting Medical Officer and two nurses, one of whom acts as Caretaker and Housekeeper. As previously reported, this Hospital is small, inconvenient, antiquated and totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the two districts, only one type of Infectious Disease being treated at a time.

(b) Tuberculosis. Cases of Tuberculosis are treated at Wooley Sanatorium. The Institution is conducted under the auspices of the Northumberland County Council and contains about 180 beds. Cases are admitted from all parts of the County area.

Barrasford Sanatorium at Camphill, near Gunnerton, is also situated within the district, but belongs to the Newcastle Corporation and as a rule only receives patients from the Newcastle area. This Institution has about 90 beds.

(c) Maternity. No provision is made for the treatment of Maternity cases in the Hexham Rural District by this

Council, but there is a small Hospital at Corbridge under local management.

(c) Childrens' Hospitals. No hospitals for the treatment of children exist in the Rural District. These are treated either at the War Memorial Hospital, Hexham, or the Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle.

OTHER HOSPITALS—

The Cottage Hospital, Corbridge, is the only other Hospital situated in the Rural District of Hexham. This Hospital is administered by the local committee and takes in paying cases from the neighbourhood of Corbridge and fulfils a very useful function in the District. This contains about 18 beds and receives both Medical and Surgical cases.

Situated in the Town of Hexham is the War Memorial Hospital, which also serves the greater part of the Hexham Rural Area. This Hospital is administered by a local committee and is supported entirely by public subscription. It contains 40 beds and is well equipped, having an up-to-date Operating Theatre and X-Ray establishment and receives both Medical and Surgical Cases.

Mental Deficiency. No hospital for such cases in this district. The Mental Hospital of the Northumberland County Council at Morpeth is available.

Ear, Nose and Throat. No Hospital in this district. Cases can be treated at the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and at the Corbridge Cottage Hospital.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE AND HOMELESS CHILDREN—

No provision in the Hexham Rural District. The only available Institution is the Poor Law Institution, situated in Hexham.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE—

A child Welfare centre is carried on under the supervision of a Medical Practitioner and one of the County Council Health Visitors, at Branch End, Stocksfield. This is controlled by a local committee and does good work in that area.

DAY NURSERIES, SCHOOL CLINICS, TREATMENT CENTRES FOR VENEREAL DISEASES—

No such Institutions are provided in the Hexham Rural District. There is, however, an Orthopaedic clinic at the

War Memorial Hospital for School Children in the Hexham Urban and Hexham Rural District controlled by the Northumberland County Authorities.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—

A Dispensary is carried on at the War Memorial Hospital, Hexham, which serves the Rural District also for this disease. This is administered by the County Council.

GENERAL NURSING—

For both General and Infectious nursing, a number of cases avail themselves of the Tynedale Nursing Association.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

A. ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the Rural District :—

1. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1890), Part III., except Section 23. September 22nd 1891.

2. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1907) Part IV., Sections 52, 60, 62 and 63. May 27th, 1919.

3. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act (1890). December 23rd, 1890.

4. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1907).

Part II., Sections 15 and 25, subject to provisions of Sections 33.

Part III., Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 46 and 49.

Part III., Sections 39, 40, 41 and 42 to be in force in the parishes of :—Acomb, Allendale, Broomhaugh, Broomley, Corbridge, Dilston, Haydon, Hedley, Horsley, Humshaugh, Newbrough, Ovingham, Ovington, Riding, Wall, Warden, Great Whittington and Wylam.

Part IV., Sections 65 and 68.

Sections 43 of Part III., to be in force in the Parish of Broomhaugh, and

Section 47 in Part III. in the Parishes of Allendale, Broomley and Wylam.

These additional Sections of the 1907 Act came in force on the 28th day of November, 1921.

B. BYELAWS IN FORCE.

1. Byelaws with respect to Nuisances. 1900.
2. Byelaws in respect to New Street and Buildings, 1932.
3. Byelaws with respect to Slaughter Houses. 1920.
4. Byelaws with respect to cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements, the Removal of House Refuse and the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools, 1921.
5. Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for Human Habitation. These Byelaws received the approval and seal of the Ministry on the 8th day of November, 1922.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

As this is an " Ordinary Report," the particulars required by the Ministry of Health are of any important extension during the year of public water supplies., and of action taken in respect of any form of contamination. In the case of drainage and sewerage, particulars are to be given of any extension or progress made in improving the character and sufficiency in the arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all arts of the area.

WATER.

ALLENDALE.—A supply has been taken to five houses.

CORBRIDGE.—A supply has been taken to six new houses.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Mains have been extended to 9 new houses.

ACOMB.—Mains have been extended to eight houses.

BROOMLEY. Eight new houses have been extended to mains.

OVINGHAM.—Four new houses have been connected to mains.

SLALEY.—Three new houses have been connected up.

WYLAM.—Nine new houses have been connected to mains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No statutory action has been necessary to abate pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following tables gives the particulars asked for in the district. The numbers of those converted from the conservancy system are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Table later in the Report :—

Type	1937	Converted during Year.
W.C.'s	2217	—
Privies	3398	To W.C.'s, 32
Pails	463	do. 3

SCAVENGING.

The only districts officially scavenged are Branch End and district, Ovingham Parish, Haydon Bridge Village, Wylam and Hedley Village. A similar scheme is under consideration for Ovington and Corbridge.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The necessary particulars are given in the following Tables compiled by the Sanitary Inspectors.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The black smoke emitted by steam wagons on the highway at times is sufficient to cause a nuisance, but is chiefly dangerous to other users of the roads by obscuring visibility. A matter under police jurisdiction.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Particulars of the Action taken.

- (1) (a) The number of Council Houses found to be infested. Nil
- (b) The number of other houses found to be infested 3
- (i) The number of Council Houses disinfested Nil
- (ii) The number of other houses disinfested 3
- (2) The Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs :—Closing up houses and disinfesting with Cescones and spraying.
- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses :—Before any Council Houses are tenanted, we thoroughly disinfest all Furniture, Bedding, etc.

- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.
- (5) Measures by way of supervision are made by frequent visits to all houses, where tenants came from infested houses, to see that they are quite clear.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

These include Slaughterhouses, Cowsheds, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspectors' Tables. There are no underground sleeping rooms in the District, as defined by the Housing Act, 1925, Section 18 (1).

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

None have occurred during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The following Table gives the particulars asked for :—

School.	Sanitary Conditions.	Water Supply.	Sanitary Conveniences
Acomb	Satisfactory ...	Public Supply ...	Privies
Allendale Town	do. ...	do. ...	W.C.'s
Allenheads	do. ...	Piped from Well ...	Earth Closets
Allendale, St. Peter's	do. ...	Piped ...	Privies
do. Keenley	do. ...	Well ...	do.
do. Sinderhope	do. ...	Trough in Yard ...	Earth Closets
do. Catton	do. ...	Public Supply ...	W.C.'s
do. Carshields	do. ...	Trough in yard ...	Privies
do. Ninebanks	do. ...	Spring piped ...	do.
Bingfield	do. ...	Well on roadside ...	do.
Blanchland	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Broomhaugh	do. ...	Public Supply ...	W.C.'s
Broomley C.	do. ...	Village Supply ...	W.C.'s
Chollerton Parochial	do. ...	Public supply ...	Pail closets
Colwell R.C.	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Corbridge (Infants)	do. ...	Public Supply ...	W.C.'s
Corbridge C.	do. ...	do. ...	Trough Closets
Shaftoe Trust, Haydon Br	do. ...	do. ...	W.C.'s
Deanraw	do. ...	Well ...	Privies
Grindon C.E.	do. ...	Spring ...	do.
Healey	do. ...	Well in Garden ...	Privies
Hardhaugh	do. ...	From Schoolhouse ...	Trough Closets
Hedley	do. ...	Village Supply ...	Earth Closets
Horsley	do. ...	do. ...	Privies
Humshaugh	do. ...	do. ...	Earth Closets
Lilswood	do. ...	Well on road ...	Privies
Ordley C.	do. ...	Well ...	do.
Whitley Chapel	do. ...	Piped supply ...	Pail Closets
Newbrough, Boys	do. ...	Well ...	Earth Closets
Newbrough, Girls	do. ...	Piped supply ...	Privies
Newton	do. ...	Tap in Yard ...	do.
Ovingham C.E.	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Ovington	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Sandhoe, Beaufront	do. ...	Taps in yard ...	do.
St. John's Shotley	do. ...	Public Supply ...	do.
Simonburn	do. ...	Tap on roadside ...	do.
Slaley	do. ...	Public Supply ...	do.
Wall C.E.	do. ...	Village supply ...	W.C.'s
Whittington, Great	do. ...	Pipe in yard ...	Pail closets
Whittonstall	do. ...	Village Supply ...	Earth Closets
Wylam	do. ...	Public supply ...	W.C.'s

All these schools were inspected twice a year by the School Medical Officer. Cases reported on by the Medical Officers were followed up by the School Nurse. All Sanitary and similar defects were reported to the Chief School Medical Officer, Northumberland.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928.

There are no premises in the area used for the purpose of manufacture or sale of Rag Flock.

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

	With State Assistance.	Unaided	TOTAL.
(a) By Local Authority ...	31	52	83
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ...	1	—	1

- 1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 1750
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 2572
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 231
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 231
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation... 15
 - (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 71
- 2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... 57
- 3.—Action under Statutory Powers :
 - (A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*
 - (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs ... 10
 - (2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—
 - (a) By owners ... 9
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —
 - (B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*
 - (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 11
 - (2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners ... 11
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —
 - (C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—*
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —
 - (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
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —
- 4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ... 7

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

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 246
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 254
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 1361
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... —
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... —
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... —

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(1) GENERAL.

As this is a large Rural District with a small population for its area, the problem which presents itself is very different from that obtaining in County Boroughs and Urban Districts. There are no large towns in the district, and only three of moderate size, Haydon Bridge, Corbridge and Acomb. In addition there are the residential districts at Allendale, Stocksfield, Wylam and Riding Mill, which largely contain better class houses and do not call for comment. In the towns of Corbridge, Haydon Bridge and Acomb the houses are chiefly of the old type though in the main soundly constructed and maintained in a reasonable state of repair.

In Haydon Bridge, the working class houses depend largely on privies for Sanitation and as in many cases access to the rear of the houses is restricted, privy refuse has to be wheeled out to the main road. The remedy of course is the conversion of privies to W.C.'s which is being pushed as far as possible.

(2) SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

(a) There is not, taking the district as a whole, an acute shortage of houses, but many are occupied which are not suitable for habitation.

(b) There has been little change in the population of the district with regard to the agricultural and mining parts, but some increase has taken place in the residential areas such as Riding Mill, Stocksfield, Wylam and Allendale. No important changes in population in the future are anticipated.

(c) The difficulty in obtaining land for new house sites is the length of time required to obtain possession as in most cases, the site in view is part of an agricultural holding. Action is being taken under the 1930 Act for the demolition of unfit houses throughout the district and the provision of houses to take the place of those demolished.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, regular inspections are carried out and defects pointed out where necessary. A steady improvement is noticeable in the general conduct of these premises but sufficient care is not taken to keep the stools clean, and in many cases the provision

in the Order for the daily scrubbing of milking stools is not being carried out. The presence of *Bacillus Coli* in the milk supplies is undoubtedly due in many instances to dirty milking stools.

(b) MEAT.

There are on the register 28 Slaughter houses and these are regularly visited and very little cause for complaint has been found during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excl'dg Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pisg.
Number killed (if known)	approx. 1100	25	275	3500	150
Number inspected ...	700	25	200	2500	100
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	2	1	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	.28	8	.5	.16	2
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	2	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	.28	12	—	—	1

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

The administration of the Food & Drugs Act is vested under the County Council through the Police, thus no action can be reported by your authority.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of the chief notifiable diseases during 1937 are given in the following Table along with those of previous years for the sake of comparison :—

Infectious Diseases, 1932-1937 (inclusive).

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Enteric	—	4	1	1	2	—
Smallpox	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	18	26	126	72	107	32
Diphtheria	14	1	10	16	48	4
Pneumonias	29	42	19	17	26	33
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	1	3	—	1
Enceph. Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	—	3	2	5
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	3	1	—	—

GENERAL.

The total of the chief notifiable infectious diseases for 1937 shows a decrease from the previous year, being 75 against 185.

(1) SMALLPOX.—No cases occurred during the year.

(2) DIPHTHERIA.—4 cases occurred in this district during the year.

A scheme for providing free immunisation to all children in the district is still in operation. The response to this scheme has not been completely satisfactory. An effort is being made to make parents realize the importance of having their children immunised.

(3) ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. No cases occurred in this district during the year under review.

(4) SCARLET FEVER.—These shew a decrease, being 32 against 107 for the previous year. The disease was very mild in type. Any case where considered practicable, i.e., where facilities for isolation and nursing were good, was treated at home.

(5) PUERPERAL PYREXIA AND PUERPERAL FEVER.—No relation was observed between these and Scarlet Fever.

(6) ENTERIC.—No cases occurred in the district.

(7) PNEUMONIA.—There were 33 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year against 26 for the previous year.

(8) DYSENTERY.—There was one case of Dysentery during the year.

(9) OTHER DISEASES.—No case of anthrax was notified, and none of undulant fever or psittacosis in the district. No case of rheumatic fever was brought to my notice. There were no cases of epidemic jaundice.

(10) VERMIN, RATS, ETC.—There are no facilities in this area for the cleansing of verminous persons other than those obtaining in the Poor Law Hospital in Hexham (Hexham Urban District). Premises and articles reported to Inspectors are disinfected on the spot by two Sanitary Inspectors.

There are practically no mosquitoes in the district. Rats are dealt with by the County Rat Inspectors who makes periodical tours of the district.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens and Water for sewage contamination are examined in the County Council Laboratory.

The schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, if carried out at all, are done by the medical practitioner in attendance on the case.

Under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) regulations, 1917, no primary vaccination or re-vaccination has been found necessary to be done by the Sanitary Authority.

CANCER.—No local investigations are undertaken by this Council, as no special facilities exist in the district for this purpose.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

OTHER DISEASES.

Nothing has occurred during the year which calls for special mention.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

The incidence of these diseases for the year are given in Table 2 at the end of the Report, and the deaths therefrom in Table 3, both in the various age groups.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The particulars of this diseases are asked for in the following form, and are given herewith :—

Table showing cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in 1937.

	CASES.				Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated						
		At Home	In Hospital					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1937 :—

Age periods.	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hex- ham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm		Pulmonary		Non Pulm	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
25	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	3	1	3	2	4	3	4	1

The deaths given in the above Table are the nett number after transferring away deaths at Wooley Sanatorium, and a few others, but including inward transfers from other areas.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence to, or Mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1925).

This refers to Tuberculosis amongst employees in the milk trade. No action has been necessary under these Regulations during the year.

Article 3. As no case was found upon enquiry to be in any person dealing milk, no action has been found necessary.

Article 5. The same remarks apply here.

Article 6. For the same reason no appeals have been made under this proviso and no cases of compensation have occurred for the reason stated.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

In no case during the year has it been necessary to apply for the compulsory removal to hospital of any case of Tuberculosis.

This concludes the particulars asked for in the Circular of the Ministry of Health, and I think covers fairly completely the sanitary activities in your area. It only remains to thank those who work with me, for their co-operation and help during the year.

TABLE No. 1.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during the Year 1937,
and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1929..	21540	259	286	13.2	224	10.5	24	51	13	50.1	251	11.6
1930..	21540	276	300	13.9	241	11.1	22	36	19	63.3	255	11.8
1931..	20740	246	265	12.7	257	12.38	23	30	25	94.3	264	12.7
1932..	20740	281	280	13.5	230	11.0	22	47	15	53.3	256	12.3
1933..	20900	286	260	12.3	251	12.0	30	37	7	26.9	258	12.3
1934..	20750	254	222	10.6	238	11.4	7	44	16	67.5	255	12.2
1935..	20410	337	284	13.9	242	11.8	28	35	15	52.8	249	12.1
1936..	20240	332	269	13.2	238	11.7	22	56	18	66.9	272	13.4
1937..	*19860	360	264	13.2	277	13.9	46	50	16	60.6	281	14.1

* This figure is estimated by Registrar General for Birth and Death Rates.

Table No. 3.
Causes of, and ages at, Death during the Year ending
December 31st, 1937.

Causes of Death.	Analysis of Net deaths according to age.											Total Deaths of Residents or Non-Residents in Institution.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65—75	Over 75		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Typhoid Fever, etc. ...	—										—	
Measles ...	—										—	
Scarlet Fever ...	—										—	
Whooping Cough ...	2	2									—	
Diphtheria ...	—										—	
Influenza ...	14							2	6	6	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—										—	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—										—	
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	7					1	3	3			1	
Other Tuberculosis ...	5				1	2	1	1			—	
Syphilis ...	—										—	
Gen. paralysis of insane, etc....	2							1	1		—	
Cancer ...	31						1	10	10	10	—	
Diabetes ...	4							2	2		—	
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	10						1	6	3		—	
Heart Disease ...	82						4	13	26	39	—	
Aneurysm ...	1								1		—	
Other Circulatory ...	14						1	3	5	5	—	
Bronchitis ...	3								3		—	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	12	2	2	1		1	3	3			—	
Other Respiratory ...	2							1		1	—	
Peptic Ulcer ...	1									1	—	
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.) ...	2	2									—	
Appendicitis ...	5				1	1	1	2			—	
Cirrhosis of liver , ...	—										—	
Other liver diseases ...	2									2	—	
Other digestive ...	1									1	—	
Nephritis ...	21						1	9	2	9	—	
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—										—	
Other Puerperal ...	1						1				—	
Con. Debility and Prem. Birth ...	8	8									—	
Senility ...	12									12	7	
Suicide ...	3					1	1	1			—	
Other Violence... ..	11					2	2	6	1		—	
Other defined causes ...	23						4	7	10		3	
Ill-defined causes ...	2							1		1	—	
TOTALS...	281	16	2	1	2	8	24	71	60	97	11	

Table No. 4.

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1937.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Diphtheria and Croup - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Enteritis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Icterus Neonatorum - - -	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inattention at Birth - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth - - -	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus - - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes - - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	3
All causes { Certified.	7	1	...	...	8	...	5	2	1	16
{ Uncertified.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTALS -	7	1	...	...	8	...	5	2	1	16



