

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Hexham R.D.C.

Contributors

Hexham (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

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The Rural District Council of Hexham



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND OF

THE CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1956



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1956

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health*

Duties:

C. BARRAS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

J. HEWITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
*Senior Additional Public Health
Inspector*

G. B. HOGG, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector

W. FORSTER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector

Public Health.
Housing.
Meat and Foods
Inspection.
Council House
Management.
Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ended 31st December, 1956**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hexham Rural District during 1956.

The social conditions of the area have not changed during the year and it seems unlikely that much change will take place in the near future. The main industry is agriculture and much of the area is residential. The population shows a slight reduction since 1955 and again no great change is expected in the near future as the green belt round Newcastle will include much of the District towards the East.

The birth rate and death rate are both close to the average for England and Wales. There were five deaths in infancy, three of them being due to congenital malformations and not considered preventable. The main cause of death was disease of the heart and circulation. Cancer of various kinds accounted for 42 deaths, and lung cancer for 6 deaths: these figures are practically unchanged from 1955.

The infectious diseases generally call for little comment, as few cases were notified during 1956. There were however four cases of poliomyelitis, all paralytic and all occurring in the Allendale area, giving quite a sharp little outbreak of apparently quite high virulence and infectivity. Indirect contact was established from case to case, but investigation suggested that the original infection was imported. Fortunately the outbreak stopped suddenly and rather unexpectedly as two of the cases had many contacts among the school children in two of the local schools. The tuberculosis returns show the unsatisfactory feature of four deaths, all from pulmonary disease, in adults or near middle age. The number of new cases notified was on the same level as for previous years and no doubt the deaths will also level out over a period. There is still of course need to make use of the services available for prevention and early treatment.

A large number of cases of food poisoning occurring outside the District were traced to a bakery in the District. The cause was *Salmonella typhi-murium* and the vehicle

was considered to be South African liquid egg. Carriers found among the bakery staff were excluded from work and the usual steps to control the outbreak were successful.

The building of houses by the Council continued during 1956 in spite of a reduction in subsidies, and more houses are planned. A start has been made in providing bungalows for old people and 35 are planned, built in small numbers in many of the villages and towns. 39 houses were built privately during 1956 and extensive use has been made of improvement grants; as a result a new lease of life has been given to many older properties. The housing survey continues and as it proceeds unfit property is being condemned or closed and indifferent property is being brought up to modern standards.

The only improvement to water supplies carried out during 1956 was an extension of the water main to the villages of Newbrough and Fourstones. Other schemes are held up pending a possible re-organisation of water supplies in the area. In June, 1956, an inquiry was held into a proposal to provide the villages of Gunnerton, Barrasford and Humshaugh with water bought in bulk from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and to build a storage reservoir and filtration plant. Following the inquiry the starting date of this scheme was postponed. The Council were interested in a public inquiry in October, 1956 into a proposal by the Urban District Council of Hexham to carry out certain works at the Rowley Burn, in Hexham Rural District, and to continue to abstract water from the Burn up to 350,000 gallons a day. As a result of the inquiry approval was given to continue to abstract water from the Rowley Burn for a period not exceeding three years, and permission to erect works was not granted. The decisions resulting from both these inquiries were tied up with the proposal for a joint water scheme for South-West Northumberland to supply water to the Urban and Rural Districts of Hexham and Haltwhistle and Border Rural District. Hexham Rural District Council wished to join the scheme by buying water in bulk from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and carrying out distribution themselves, but the scheme likely to be approved by the Ministry is for the Water Company to take over the Council's entire water undertaking. Negotiations are continuing and further small schemes are held up pending a decision.

Sewage schemes were also the subject of inquiries during 1956. In February an inquiry was held into a proposed sewage disposal scheme for the village of Simonburn, and this was approved. An inquiry was held in November into a proposed new sewage disposal scheme for Haydon Bridge and permission for the scheme was withheld pending certain alterations in the layout by the Consulting Engineer. This scheme has been under discussion for some 30 years and the need for improvement increases from year to year. The strongest support has been given on health grounds, and it is to be hoped that this much needed scheme will go through without much further delay. Apart from these schemes, some progress has been made towards improving the sanitation of the District by providing a sewage disposal plant for the village of Whittington, now under construction, and by the completion of Newbrough Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

Under the Act of 1956, the title of Sanitary Inspector is replaced by that of Public Health Inspector, identifying the Inspector more with the works of the Public Health Department and putting emphasis on the health side rather than the sanitary side of his duties. The Food and Drugs Act, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, came into operation on 1st January, 1956. During the year a good deal was done to improve the standards of facilities in food premises and the hygienic handling of food. The Chief Public Health Inspector includes in his section of the Report the facts on food hygiene required by the Ministry.

The Health Committee consists of the whole Council, and they take an active interest in the work of the Department. I should like to thank them for their continual support. I acknowledge also my indebtedness to the Clerk and other Officers and especially to the Public Health Inspectors for their help and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	196,030
Estimated Population, 1956	..	..	..	..	19,970

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS—

Live Births—		Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	.. ..	169	133	302	
Illegitimate	.. ..	11	3	14	
Still Births—					
Legitimate	.. ..	3	—	3	
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	—	—	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	..				16.14
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	.. ..				16.44

DEATHS :

Total Deaths from puerperal causes—

Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.. ..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	..	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. ..	14.24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. ..	14.90
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. ..	71.42

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages)		42
„ „ Measles (all ages)	.. ..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and all ages)		11.97
--	-------	-------

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1931	12.7	12.7	94.3
1932	13.5	12.3	53.3
1933	12.3	12.3	26.9
1934	10.6	12.2	67.5
1935	13.9	12.1	52.8
1936	13.2	13.4	66.9
1937	13.2	13.9	60.6
1938	14.1	15.3	68.5
1939	10.7	12.4	79.4
1940	12.2	12.9	56.1
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07
1952	15.32	12.75	54.85
1953	14.67	12.01	27.21
1954	14.57	11.39	20.50
1955	14.36	11.67	17.73
1956	16.14	11.97	14.24

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

IO

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Allendale		Bywell		Hexham		TOTAL	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and para- sitic diseases	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	4	1	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	1	—	1	2	4	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	4	1	5	3	9	4	18	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3	3	9	12	14	17	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina ..	5	2	8	12	12	11	25	25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1
20.	Other heart disease	3	2	5	6	11	6	19	14
21.	Other Circulatory disease ..	1	4	3	—	2	2	6	6
22.	Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	1	1	—	1	1	2	2	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duo- denum	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarr- hoea	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abor- tion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	—	1	3	3	3	6	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	1
34.	All other accidents	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1
35.	Suicide	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		26	17	33	40	69	54	128	111

TOTAL .. 239

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1956

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.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accident	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infant Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes	Certified.	3	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	5
	Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS ..	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	5

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1956 :-

Age periods	New Cases.				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District.			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	4	2	—	2	2	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1932-1956.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Acute Encephalitis.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Smallpox.	Paratyphoid Fevers.	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas.	Food Poisoning.
1932	18	—	14	—	29	—	1	—	—	2	1	6	1	—	—	—	—
1933	26	—	1	—	42	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	4	4	—
1934	126	—	10	—	19	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	4	—
1935	72	—	16	—	17	—	1	—	—	3	3	4	—	—	1	13	—
1936	107	—	48	—	26	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	—
1937	32	—	4	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	—
1938	53	—	13	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—
1939	62	—	28	7	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	8	—
1940	17	11	16	170	14	8	1	—	—	—	8	11	—	—	1	4	—
1941	11	59	13	91	16	3	—	—	—	1	9	17	—	—	1	2	—
1942	13	1	7	65	11	3	—	—	—	12	8	13	—	—	7	7	—
1943	23	24	4	114	20	1	—	—	—	7	10	18	—	—	—	3	—
1944	29	28	3	32	5	—	—	—	—	5	15	17	—	—	—	5	—
1945	36	18	8	23	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—
1946	21	45	6	81	15	1	3	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	2	—
1947	4	33	6	208	8	—	8	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
1948	29	56	1	81	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	4	—
1949	18	22	—	146	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	6	10
1950	31	99	—	255	26	—	4	—	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	9	1
1951	14	45	—	220	32	3	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
1952	24	71	—	162	18	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	1
1953	30	144	—	172	17	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	2
1954	17	74	—	45	11	—	—	—	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	—	1
1955	5	64	—	491	13	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
1956	3	34	—	27	27	—	4	7	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4	—

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR, 1956

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS ..				Nil	
OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE				Nil	
SINGLE CASES :—					
Agent identified		..	..	..	Nil
Unknown Cause		..	..	..	Nil
Total ..				Nil	

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

(1) Hospitals

There are in the district five hospitals under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These comprise the Charlotte Straker Hospital and the Bridge End Maternity Hospital at Corbridge, the Dilston Maternity Hospital, Barrasford Sanatorium and Wooley Sanatorium. These hospitals together with the Hexham General Hospital, the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(2) Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. Ambulance Stations are situated at Corbridge and at Hexham.

(3) Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to households where such help is required owing to illness or confinement, and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee, Prospect House, Hexham.

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held by the Northumberland County Council in the district :

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS :

Acomb	..	Miners' Institute, Hall, Acomb Alternate Thursdays.
Allendale	..	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery Second Monday in month, 1-30 —4 p.m.
Corbridge	..	Parish Hall, Princes Street Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge		Church Hall Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Humshaugh	..	Village Hall Every fourth Thursday, 1-30— 4 p.m.
Newbrough	..	Women's Institute Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30— 4 p.m.
Ovington	..	Methodist Church Hall, Ovington Alternate Tuesdays
Riding Mill	..	Parish Hall Every fourth Thursday, 1-30— 4 p.m.
Stocksfield	..	Red Cross Hut Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Wylam	..	Methodist Church Hall Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30— 4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :

Allendale	..	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30— 4 p.m.
Stocksfield	..	Red Cross Hut Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30— 4 p.m.

(5) Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

These services are now administered by the North-umberland County Council and in this area are combined. There are nine Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Rural District.

WATER AND SEWAGE SCHEMES

Mr. W. W. Outhwaite, the Engineer and Surveyor, has given the following table of construction works proposed or in hand.

Works under construction :

1. Simonburn sewerage and sewage disposal : approved by Ministry and under construction.
2. Whittington water supply : under construction.
3. Whittington sewerage and sewage disposal works: under construction.

Works in course of design and preparation :

1. Colwell Sewerage and sewage works extension.
2. Whittonstall sewage disposal works.

Other works to be designed and prepared for completion

List A.1. Humshaugh Sewage disposal works

List B.1. Hardhaugh sewage disposal works.

2. Fourstones sewage disposal works.
3. Newton sewage disposal works.
4. Horsley sewage disposal works.
5. Ovington sewerage and sewage disposal works.
6. Ovingham sewage disposal works.
7. Sandhoe sewage disposal works.

List C. 1. Allenheads sewage disposal works.

2. Wall sewage disposal works.
3. Broomley sewage disposal works.
4. Corbridge sewage disposal works.
5. Wylam surface water.

List D. 1. Blanchland sewage disposal works.

The following proposed improvements to the water supply are in abeyance pending decision on the proposed joint water scheme for South-west Northumberland.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Gunnerton Water Supply | } Ministry inquiry held
Work deferred. |
| Barrasford Water Supply | |
| Humshaugh Water Supply | |
| 2. Simonburn water supply. | |
| 3. Slaley water. | |
| 4. Broomhaugh water. | |
| 5. Healey water supply. | |

The above schedule is an indication of the urgency of each scheme, as at the present time, and should not be taken as a fixed order for completion. Conditions will vary and some schemes lower in the Schedule may have to be brought forward for earlier completion than some schemes at present shown in a higher position.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

C. BARRAS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Water Supplies

During the year, 151 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, summaries of which are given below.

SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

1. Council Supplies

	No. of samples		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Allendale	6	—	6	—	—	—	6
Allenheads	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bingfield	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Broomhaugh	11	—	9	—	2	—	11
Colwell	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Corbridge	18	—	18	—	—	—	18
Gunnerton	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Haydon Bridge ..	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Horsley (N/c. & G.)	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Humshaugh	6	—	5	—	1	—	6
Newbrough	5	—	5	—	—	—	5
Slaley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wall	7	—	7	—	—	—	7
Whittington	6	—	5	—	1	—	6
	74	—	70	—	4	—	74

Council Supplies

Routine samples have been taken of all Council supplies and with the exception of those which are known to be subject to intermittant contamination and which are permanently chlorinated, the reports have been satisfactory.

The supplies which are chlorinated are as follows :—
Broomhaugh, Colwell, Corbridge (North Side), Humshaugh and Whittington.

Acomb village continues to be supplied from Corbridge.

2. Private Supplies

SUPPLY	No. of Samples		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisfactory		Total Samples taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Mariners Cottages, Acomb	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Davy Brigg's Well Bridge End, Hexham	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Juniper Farm, Allendale	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Folly Cottage, Catton	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Burnfoot Farm, Allenheads	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Riding Mill	9	—	8	—	1	—	9
Little Whittington	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Aydon White House	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Dilston Hall Supply	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Aydon Village ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Great Swinburne ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Barrasford Village..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Barrasford Quarry	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Chollerton Farm ..	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
Burnside, Chollerton	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Barrasford Sanatorium	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Harlow Field, Langley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Langley Castle ..	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Altenside, Haydon Bridge	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Black Hall Mill, 'Shire	3	—	2	—	1	—	3
Settlingstones Mines	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dukesfield Mill, 'Shire	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Forester's Cott., Healey	4	—	3	—	1	—	4
Lane House, Newbrough	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Todburn Steel, Slaley	3	—	3	—	—	—	3
Simonburn	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Beaufront Castle ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Westfield, Anick ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Matten Piers ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dunkirk, Wall ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hardhaugh, Warden	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
High Warden Supply	6	—	1	—	5	—	6
Moss Cottages, Warden	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Halton Shields ..	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
	72	—	47	—	25	—	72

Private Supplies

LANGLEY CASTLE. Following the persistent unsatisfactory reports, an investigation of the sources of supply was made. It was not found possible to protect the water in the collecting area and as there was insufficient pressure available to allow the use of a filter at the main storage tank, the owner has agreed to fit domestic filters for drinking water in the houses and at the castle.

HALTON SHIELDS. A number of samples taken over several months showed persistent heavy contamination. This was found to be due to soakage of surface water. As the water was gathered from several springing points some of which were unknown, the owner was advised to consider the provision of a new supply and the practicability of connecting to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's supply is at present being investigated.

ALTENSIDE, HAYDON BRIDGE. On investigating this supply it was found that road drainage had access to the pipeline. The owners have now agreed to connect the houses to East Mills Hills farm supply.

HIGH WARDEN. In this case, it was found that the water at the spring was pure, and that the contamination was confined to that part of the supply feeding Low Warden. The Low Warden reservoir was cleaned out, new media provided for the filter and the whole system chlorinated.

Proposed Supplies

SUPPLY	No. of Samples		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples Taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Wally Thorn, 'Shire	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
Garden Supply,							
Minsteracres ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Errington Farm ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
	5	—	1	—	4	—	5

GARDEN SUPPLY, MINSTERACRES. This proposal has not been proceeded with.

ERRINGTON. A filtering or chlorinating installation is to be provided.

**SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLIED TO HOUSES IN
HEXHAM R.D.C.**

PARISH	Census 1951	WATER SUPPLY									
		Council		N/cle. and Gateshead Water Co.		Private Supplies		Durham County Water Board			
		Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.
Acomb ...	1034	344	765	277	—	—	269	67	—	—	—
Allendale ...	1911	734	1026	418	—	—	885	316	—	—	—
Blanchland ...	170	62	—	—	—	—	170	62	—	—	—
Broomhaugh & Riding	616	212	246	186	—	—	370	26	—	—	—
Broomley and Stocksfield ...	1837	652	—	—	1660	612	177	40	—	—	—
Bywell ...	426	126	—	—	—	—	426	126	—	—	—
Chollerton ...	1059	271	393	101	—	—	666	171	—	—	—
Corbridge ...	2950	920	2263	736	—	—	687	184	—	—	—
Haydon ...	2048	692	1359	486	—	—	689	206	—	—	—
Healey ...	232	69	—	—	—	—	232	69	—	—	—
Hedley ...	187	56	141	41	—	—	46	15	—	—	—
Hexhamshire	351	93	—	—	—	—	351	93	—	—	—
Hexhamshire Low Quarter ...	255	94	154	47	—	—	101	47	—	—	—
Horsley ...	400	127	—	—	340	110	60	17	—	—	—
Humshaugh ...	535	177	283	110	—	—	252	67	—	—	—
Newbrough ...	468	209	245	111	—	—	223	98	—	—	—
Ovingham ...	460	175	—	—	417	159	43	16	—	—	—
Ovington ...	628	134	—	—	589	123	39	11	—	—	—
Sandhoe ...	367	102	—	24	—	—	367	78	—	—	—
Simonburn ...	283	85	—	—	—	—	283	85	—	—	—
Slaley ...	764	154	666	130	—	—	98	24	—	—	—
Wall ...	522	156	235	84	—	—	287	72	—	—	—
Warden ...	697	202	—	79	—	—	697	123	—	—	—
West Allen ...	316	117	—	—	—	—	316	117	—	—	—
Whittington ...	407	129	158	47	—	—	249	82	—	—	—
Whittonstall ...	569	184	—	—	—	—	520	169	49	15	—
Wylam ...	1377	441	—	—	1371	439	6	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	20869	6717	7934	2877	4377	1443	8509	2382	49	15	—

PRIVATE PIPED SUPPLIES SERVING MORE THAN 10 HOUSES

PARISH	No. of houses on supply	NAME OF SUPPLY
Acomb	12	The Riding
Blanchland	40	Blanchland
Broomley	25	Broomley Village
Bywell	12	Bywell Hall
	20	Newton Village
	24	Newton Hall
Chollerton	17	Tone Hall (Chipchase)
	10	Great Swinburne
	12	Barrasford Quarry
	37	Barrasford Village
Corbridge	4	Stagshaw
	30	Dilston Hall
Healey	19	Minsteracres
Hexhamshire	45	Kings Law
Humshaugh	19	Planetrees and Chesters
	20	Teppermoor
	16	Haughton Castle
Newbrough	24	Settlingstones
	15	Carr Edge
	17	Allerwash
Sandhoe	20	Anick
	16	Sandhoe Village
	7	Stagshaw
Simonburn	21	Simonburn Village
	15	Nunwick
	3	Teppermoor
Slaley	11	Trygill
	10	Slaley Hall
Warden	27	Fourstones
	16	East Fourstones
	16	Warden Paper Mill
	12	High Warden
Whittington	12	Halton Shields
Whittonstall	14	Shotley Field
	5	Minsteracres

HOUSING

Building

During the year, 21 Council Houses were completed and a further 111 houses are in the course of construction. The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 597, of which 446 have been built since 1945.

Thirty-nine private houses have been built in the District this year, making a total of 166 completed since 1945.

Council House Applications

There has been a marked increase in the number of applications. At the end of the year, the total number on hand was 712 an increase of over 200 on the previous year. Approximately one third of this increase is for "Old Persons" houses, for which there are now 84 applications.

Of the 712 applications, there are 337 "classified" applications from persons residing within the District, i.e. from persons who, by reason of overcrowding, bad houses, having no home of their own or for health reasons or other similar need, require to be housed. Taking into consideration, the houses at present under construction there will remain approximately 200 outstanding classified applications.

Council House Management

Tenders were let for the external painting of 53 Council houses, all of which were completed by 30th September. The wood work of the 6 pre-war houses at Humshaugh was repainted where defective and given one coat of varnish. The supervision of general repairs has been carried out, all of which were of a minor character. 926 complaints in connection with repairs were dealt with during the year.

Improvement Grants

Applications for grants were approximately the same number as last year. Since the inception of the scheme, grants have been approved for 349 houses.

Slum Clearance

The Council's programme provided for the demolition or closure of 47 houses during the first five years. A start was made with this work in March and at the end of the year, 22 houses had been dealt with. In 13 cases, Demolition Orders were made and in 9 cases undertakings made under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 were accepted.

Houses completed during 1956

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY Newbrough	21	—	21
B. BY OTHER BODIES OR PERSONS	—	39	39
			60

Houses under construction at 31st December, 1956

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY ..	111	—	111
Barrasford 16			
Haydon Bridge 50			
Horsley 5			
Wylam 40			
B. BY OTHER BODIES OR PERSONS—	—	27	27
			138

Summary of Post-War Building

A. BY COUNCIL—

	No. of Houses
Acomb	62
Allendale	20
Corbridge	82
Colwell	5
Fourstones.. .. .	16
Gunnerton	6
Haydon Bridge	46
Horsley	4
Humshaugh	6
Newbrough	49
Ovingham	46
Slaley	12
Stocksfield	48
Wall	8
Wylam	36
	446

B. BY PRIVATE PERSONS	166
	612

Improvement Grants

Dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grants were approved :—

	No. of houses	Total Cost of works	Amount of Grants approved
1951-1953	45	£21,454	£10,727
1954	92	51,842	25,000
1955	110	71,394	29,947
1956	102	65,529	28,528
	349	£210,219	£94,202

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Meat Inspection

There are twelve licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Meat Inspection is carried out by the Council's Public Health Inspectors. The numbers of animals examined is approximately the same as last year. It is noteworthy that the percentage of beef carcasses affected with Tuberculosis shows a marked reduction on the previous year. This is no doubt due to the increasing numbers of attested stock being slaughtered.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the Inspectors is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. Small quantities are taken by the Council's refuse collectors and either burned or buried. Large quantities are disposed of by an approved collector in Hexham.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed Dressed and undressed carcasses.....	664	3	11	1916	229
Number inspected	664	3	11	1916	229
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	98	—	—	17	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	14.76	33.33	—	1.20	1.31
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	25	—	—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.92	—	—	—	3.49

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions	Total
Cows.....	—	304 lb.	304 lb.
Other animals.....	1,877 lb.	2,340 lb.	4,217 lb.
Total	1,877 lb.	2,644 lb.	4,521 lb.

(2) Food Inspection

The Food Hygiene Regulations, made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation on 1st January, 1956. Generally their purpose is to secure the protection of foodstuffs from contamination, the personal cleanliness of those people handling foods and the satisfactory condition and amenities of the premises. There are 264 such premises in the District.

An abstract of the Regulations, together with an explanatory pamphlet issued by the Central Council for Health Education was sent to the owners or occupiers of all food premises in the district. A survey of these premises is being carried out and measures are being taken as required to bring all properties up to the standard demanded in the Regulations.

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

Unsound Food	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Tinned Meats	29 lb.	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	21 lb.	—	—
Cooked Meats.....	16 lb.	—	—

DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT.

	Hotels and Inns.	Social Clubs and Public Halls.	School Canteens.	Works Canteens.	Butchers.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	Cafes.	Fish & Chip Shops.	Bake-houses.
Ovington, Ovingham, Horsley	6	2	1	—	1	9	—	1	—
Slaley, Hexhamshire, Blanchland, Shotley, Whittonstall	7	1	7	—	3	15	1	—	—
Wall, Humshaugh, Whittington, Bingfield	5	—	4	—	2	5	2	—	—
Broomley, Stocksfield, Hedley, Newton	3	—	2	2	4	11	1	—	2
Wylam	6	1	—	—	1	10	—	—	1
Chollerton, Simonburn, Colwell, Barrasford, Gunnerton ..	3	—	2	—	—	6	1	—	—
Corbridge	8	5	—	1	3	13	2	1	1
Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden	3	1	2	—	2	3	—	—	—
Haydon, Langley, Lowgate ..	6	1	3	—	2	13	2	1	1
Allendale, Catton, W. Allen ..	10	—	3	—	2	18	4	1	1
Sandhoe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acomb	3	—	1	—	—	6	—	1	—
Broomhaugh, Healey, Riding Mill	2	—	2	—	1	5	—	—	—
	64	11	27	3	21	114	13	5	6

Premises registered for the manufacture of potted meats—21

(3) Milk

Number of Dairies registered 1

Dealers' licences

Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk 12

Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk 9

Licences to sell Sterilised Milk 7

SAMPLING

Samples taken for	Number taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculosis	38	38	Nil
Methylene Blue	10	6	4

(4) Ice Cream

There are 55 premises registered for the sale and/or manufacture of ice-cream. Only two persons produce, the remainder selling proprietary brands of pre-packed ice-cream.

SAMPLING

Type of Sample	Number taken	Grading			
		1	2	3	4
Pre-packed	10	10	—	—	—

REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC REFUSE

The Direct Labour Scavenging is carried out by 4 Bedford vehicles each of 5 cubic yards capacity. Three wagons are worked with a driver and one loader, but owing to extensions to the service and to longer hauls to the tips at Stocksfield and Wylam, it has been necessary to employ a second loader on the Stocksfield wagon.

The garage under construction on Guessburn housing site for the Stocksfield wagon is now nearing completion.

Extensions to the collection area and the erection of new houses have increased the number of properties scavenged by 101. Over 76% of the houses in the District have now a service.

Tips

During the year, tips at Lincoln Hill, Humshaugh and at Ovington have been closed.

The scavenging service now covers the following areas of the district :—

1.—By Direct Labour Number of

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS : Premises

Corbridge and Dilston	822
Stocksfield	608
Wylam	448
Haydon Bridge	452
Fourstones, Newbrough, Settlingstones	323
Acomb	275
Riding Mill	143
Humshaugh, Walwick, Lincoln Hill ..	132
Wall	85
Slaley, Trygill	84
Sandhoe, Stagshaw	63
Broomhaugh	57
Warden	58
Anick, Oakwood, The Riding	73
Hedley	46

FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

Juniper	52
Blanchland	43
Whittonstall	35

North Tyne, Whittington, Halton, Shildon	
Aydon, Newton Hall, Stelling, Bywell,	
Peepy	480
Minsteracres, Kilnpit Hill, Millshields ..	29
	4308

2.—By Contract

No. of houses
scavenged

Allendale and Catton	354
Allenheads	97
Ovingham	219
Ovington	131
Horsley	90
	891
	5199

Scavenging Statistics

Total number of houses in district (incl. 65 occupied bungalows)	.. .. .	6,782
Total number of houses scavenged	.. .. .	5,199
Percentage of houses scavenged by direct labour		63%
Percentage of houses scavenged by contract		13%
Percentage of houses scavenged	.. .. .	76%
Total estimated tonnage collected per annum		7,226 tons

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost all houses in the following places have water-closets :—

Allendale	Anick	Broomhaugh
Catton	Corbridge	Hedley
Humshaugh	Newbrough	Oakwood
Ovingham	Riding Mill	Settlingstones
Stocksfield	Wall	Wylam
Acomb	Sandhoe	Haydon Bridge
	Whittington	

The greater part of the houses in the following places have water-closets :—

Blanchland	Healey	Newton Hall
Slaley	Juniper	Horsley
Barrasford	Fourstones	Gunnerton

In the following places, the greater part of the houses have privies or pail closets :—

Allenheads	Carrshield	Colwell
Hallington	Newton	Ninebanks
Ovington	Simonburn	Whittonstall

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Summary of Inspections

1.—Agricultural Premises

Number of Inspections	Major Infestations	Minor Infestations	Clear
318	27	87	204

2.—Other Premises. Treated by Council

Type of Premises	Number of treatments	Dead Rats recovered	Dead Mice recovered
Private Houses	286	82	56
Refuse Tips	57	42	—
Sewers and Sewage Works	19	16	—

All tips and sewage works have been regularly treated and the infestations are of a very minor character.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Twenty-one inspections were made. No cases were found which required notices to be served.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, Etc. EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR

IMPROVEMENT CARRIED OUT—

Roofs repaired	21
Renewals of ranges	41
Hot water system installed	70
Bath installed	75
Bathroom provided	75
Lavatory basin provided	76
New sculleries provided	30
New sinks provided	47
Foodstores provided	17
Privies converted to W.C.'s	74
Yard repaved	1
New drainage system provided	61
Drainage system reconstructed	1
Septic tank and filters provided	28
Water laid into house	16
New water supply	6
Additional W.C.'s provided	27
Additional Urinals	1

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS
from 1st Jan., 1956 to 31st Dec., 1956

Water Supplies (general)	18
Water Supplies (sampling)	176
Water Supplies (chlorination)	120
Housing	523
Drainage	105
Testing of Drains	183
Privy Conversions	89
Nuisances	97
Council Houses (allocation)	302
Council Houses (maintenance)	2667
Infectious Diseases	18
Food Premises	170
Food Inspection	14
Meat Inspection	944
Ice-cream premises	36
Ice-cream sampling	19
Milk Sampling	57
Factories	21
Moveable Dwellings	29
Scavenging	395
Sanitary Conveniences at Hotels, etc.	34
Keeping of Animals	2
Food Poisoning	17
Water Supply into Houses	31
Disinfestation	2
Miscellaneous	42
Housing Survey	2098
Total	8209



