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**The Rural District Council of Hexham**

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# **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, 1960**





The Rural District Council of Hexham

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# Rural District Council of Hexham

## ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1960

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*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, 1960.**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Hexham. :

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

Hexham Rural District covers a large area, predominantly agricultural, with the people dispersed in many villages of distinctive charm. The population has remained about the figure of 20,000 for many years, but the trend in population has been affected by the fact that the Rural District lost some 8,000 people in 1910 when part of the area was formed into the Prudhoe Urban District. Much of the District lies in the green belt round Newcastle, and little expansion of existing villages is to be permitted — in most cases they will merely be rounded off. Apart therefore from the slow rate of change to be expected in a rural district, the development plan will tend to produce a population stationary in number and distribution. The more remote villages, with poor communications, will probably in future contain only the minimum population required for agriculture, but such villages are few and in general the centres of population should maintain their present population.

The Rural District is a prosperous one and is administered by a progressive and active Council. Much has been done, especially of recent years, to improve living conditions, and much more is planned. Housing may be taken as one aspect of the progress made. The Council now own some 800 houses, of which over 600 have been built since the war. The needs of old people are being met by the provision of bungalows, generally built in small numbers in many villages, and year by year the number is increasing. The Council plan to build sheltered accommodation for frail elderly people in Corbridge, where the old people will have their own houses and such additional amenities as central heating, a warden, and some communal facilities. In addition to providing new houses the Council have encouraged the modernisation of older property



by the generous use of improvement grants, and almost 700 houses have been so improved. There seems to be no doubt of the wisdom of this policy on economic and other grounds.

Annual Reports have become less interesting as they become less concerned with drawing the attention of a reluctant Council to major health needs and more taken up with reporting steady progress in health and environment. The Health Department is no longer so largely concerned with grossly inadequate water supplies and sanitation and widespread epidemic disease, but the local health authority has still an important part to play in maintaining and improving the health of the people, and does so by ensuring high standards of purity of water and milk, meat and other foods, and the control of infectious disease, as well as improving housing and sanitation.

The vital statistics for 1960 are all close to the national average and present no feature of special importance. The infant mortality rate is slightly above the figure for England and Wales, as it has been for a year or two, but all nine infants died in the first four weeks of life and seven of them in the first week. These neonatal deaths, caused by factors present in pregnancy or labour such as prematurity, birth injuries or congenital malformation, present a difficult problem in prevention, and while adequate ante-natal care is of the first importance further knowledge of causes is required. The general death rate is similar to that of the country, and the effect of an increasing number of old people in the community is shown by the high average age at death and by the large number of deaths from cardio-vascular disease.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1960 was much below the number notified in 1959, due largely to the virtual absence of measles. Scarlet fever provided 18 notifications, but it is mild in character and affects individuals. It is of little significance unless the patient or his contacts are concerned with the handling of milk or food. Pneumonia accounted for 23 notifications and 9 deaths, and the notifications coincided with a return of influenza, although it was not unusually severe or widespread. Although 11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, it is encouraging to note that there were no deaths and that, with tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk being used, non-pulmonary tuberculosis has ceased to be a common or crippling



ling disease. The age incidence of the cases of tuberculosis is altering, and the acute disease of young people is being replaced by the more chronic disease of middle-age. The absence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis reflects the results of immunisation, but, as in environmental health generally, proved means of prevention must not be neglected and it is essential that children should be protected if these diseases are to remain under control.

During the year phase I of the South-west Northumberland water scheme was completed and phase II was begun. New proposals are constantly being put forward for further extensions, and the Council have agreed to accept any proposal up to a cost of £.350 per house. Other properties can be brought in where the owner is prepared to meet the cost above this figure, and piped water will in fact be led to the great majority of properties in the District. It is inevitable, however, that some properties must continue to depend on private supplies where their remoteness would not justify the cost entailed in providing a mains supply.

Special information is required in this Report about the water supply available, and the distribution to houses in parishes is summarised in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report. The quantity available was adequate except in Whitley Chapel, Newton and Humshaugh, where water had to be carted for a short time : this shortage will cease once the new scheme is in operation. The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company are now the statutory water undertakers, and they and the health department take regular samples, the results of which are summarised later in the Report. It

will be noted that a number of supplies were unsatisfactory, due in part to disturbance of the supply by works in connection with the new scheme and partly by early difficulties experienced by the new water undertakers in adjusting the chlorination. Where the sample was unsatisfactory additional chlorination provided a satisfactory result. Chemical analysis is limited to new supplies which it is proposed to bring into use, and plumbo solvency is considered in the analysis. In fact no chemical analysis was carried out during 1960.

No new sewage scheme was completed during 1960 but preparations for schemes at Humshaugh and Chesterwood reached the stage where work can commence in 1961. Other schemes planned are shown in a later table, but the order

shown is not necessarily the order in which the schemes will be carried out — it may be possible, for example, to take the sewage from the villages of Acomb, Oakwood and Sandhoe into the new works proposed by the Urban District Council of Hexham.

The new Act of 1960 will assist in the control of caravan sites, and it is intended to require that high standards be applied to the sites which receive planning approval. The situation that has arisen at Ovington and Ovingham through the uncontrolled development of temporary dwellings is an indication of what can happen if such standards are not applied and maintained.

There were some changes in the Department during the year, I record with personal regret the retirement of Mr. C. Barras, as Chief Public Health Inspector after 25 years of loyal and efficient service, while at the same time I welcome his promoted Deputy, Mr. J. Hewitt, in whose capabilities every confidence can be placed. The Council are due my thanks for their interest and support, and the Clerk and other officials for their help and courtesy.

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 1960 .. .. . | 20,050  |

### Vital Statistics

| Live Births—                                                                                                    | Males | Females | Total |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Legitimate .. .. .                                                                                              | 153   | 147     | 300   |       |
| Illegitimate .. .. .                                                                                            | 6     | 2       | 8     |       |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. .                                                                    |       |         |       | 15.52 |
| Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 population .. .. .                                                 |       |         |       | 17.1  |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births                                                          |       |         |       | 2.66  |
| Still Births                                                                                                    | Males | Females | Total |       |
| Legitimate .. .. .                                                                                              | 1     | 1       | 2     |       |
| Illegitimate .. .. .                                                                                            | —     | —       | —     |       |
| Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .                                                        |       |         |       | 6.34  |
| Still-birth rate, England Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .                                        |       |         |       | 19.7  |
| Total live and still-births .. .. .                                                                             |       |         |       | 310   |
| Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) .. .. .                                                                     |       |         |       | 9     |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .                                                             |       |         |       | 26.87 |
| Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. .                                         |       |         |       | 21.7  |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births — legitimate .. .. .                                                |       |         |       | 27.60 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births — illegitimate .. .. .                                                   |       |         |       | Nil.  |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .. .. .                                   |       |         |       | 26.87 |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) .. .. .                              |       |         |       | 24.45 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) .. .. . |       |         |       | 29.68 |
| Deaths from maternal causes .. .. .                                                                             |       |         |       | Nil.  |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .                                                 |       |         |       | Nil.  |
| Deaths from Cancer (All ages) .. .. .                                                                           |       |         |       | 44    |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages) .. .. .                                  |       |         |       | 11.70 |
| Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (All causes and ages) .. .. .                               |       |         |       | 11.5  |

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups and also as to their certification :—

| AGE GROUP  | Certified |     | Un-certified |    | TOTALS |     |
|------------|-----------|-----|--------------|----|--------|-----|
|            | M.        | F.  | M.           | F. | M.     | F.  |
| 0—1 ..     | 6         | 3   | —            | —  | 6      | 3   |
| 1—2 ..     | —         | —   | —            | —  | —      | —   |
| 2—5 ..     | —         | —   | —            | —  | —      | —   |
| 5—15 ..    | 1         | 1   | —            | —  | 1      | 1   |
| 15—25 ..   | 2         | 1   | —            | —  | 2      | 1   |
| 25—45 ..   | 3         | 6   | —            | —  | 3      | 6   |
| 45—50 ..   | 3         | 2   | 1            | —  | 4      | 2   |
| 50—55 ..   | 4         | 5   | 1            | —  | 5      | 5   |
| 55—60 ..   | 7         | 5   | —            | —  | 7      | 5   |
| 60—65 ..   | 14        | 9   | —            | 1  | 14     | 10  |
| 65—70 ..   | 14        | 10  | 4            | 1  | 18     | 11  |
| 70—75 ..   | 17        | 16  | —            | —  | 17     | 16  |
| 75—80 ..   | 22        | 23  | 1            | 1  | 23     | 24  |
| 80—85 ..   | 14        | 21  | —            | 1  | 14     | 22  |
| 85—90 ..   | 11        | 12  | 1            | —  | 12     | 12  |
| 90—95 ..   | 3         | 4   | —            | —  | 3      | 4   |
| 95—100 ..  | 2         | 1   | —            | —  | 2      | 1   |
| 100—105 .. | 1         | —   | —            | —  | 1      | —   |
|            | 124       | 119 | 8            | 4  | 132    | 123 |



## VITAL &amp; MORTALITY STATISTICS.

| Year. | Birth Rate<br>per 1,000 living | General Death<br>Rate per 1,000<br>living | Infant Mortality<br>Rate per 1,000<br>living |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 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                                      | 63.5                                         |
| 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                                        |
| 1957  | 16.17                          | 11.76                                     | 25.31                                        |
| 1958  | 16.14                          | 12.79                                     | 16.76                                        |
| 1959  | 14.78                          | 11.80                                     | 21.98                                        |
| 1960  | 15.52                          | 11.70                                     | 26.87                                        |

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

II

| CAUSES OF DEATH. |                                                   | M.  | F.  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1.               | Tuberculosis, respiratory ..                      | —   | —   |
| 2.               | Tuberculosis, other ..                            | —   | —   |
| 3.               | Syphilitic disease .. ..                          | —   | —   |
| 4.               | Diphtheria .. ..                                  | —   | —   |
| 5.               | Whooping Cough .. ..                              | —   | —   |
| 6.               | Meningococcal infections ..                       | —   | —   |
| 7.               | Acute poliomyelitis .. ..                         | —   | —   |
| 8.               | Measles .. ..                                     | —   | —   |
| 9.               | Other infective and para-<br>sitic diseases .. .. | 1   | —   |
| 10.              | Malignant neoplasm, stomach                       | 5   | 4   |
| 11.              | Malignant neoplasm, lung,<br>bronchus .. ..       | 8   | 2   |
| 12.              | Malignant neoplasm, breast                        | —   | 3   |
| 13.              | Malignant neoplasm, uterus..                      | —   | 3   |
| 14.              | Other malignant and<br>lymphatic neoplasms ..     | 7   | 12  |
| 15.              | Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..                          | 3   | 3   |
| 16.              | Diabetes .. ..                                    | 1   | —   |
| 17.              | Vascular lesions of nervous<br>system .. ..       | 19  | 27  |
| 18.              | Coronary disease, angina ..                       | 28  | 22  |
| 19.              | Hypertension with heart<br>disease .. ..          | 1   | 1   |
| 20.              | Other heart disease .. ..                         | 12  | 11  |
| 21.              | Other Circulatory disease ..                      | 9   | 12  |
| 22.              | Influenza .. ..                                   | —   | —   |
| 23.              | Pneumonia .. ..                                   | 4   | 5   |
| 24.              | Bronchitis .. ..                                  | 5   | 1   |
| 25.              | Other diseases of respiratory<br>system .. ..     | —   | —   |
| 26.              | Ulcer of stomach and duo-<br>denum .. ..          | 2   | 1   |
| 27.              | Gastritis, enteritis and diarr-<br>hoea .. ..     | —   | —   |
| 28.              | Nephritis and Nephrosis ..                        | 3   | —   |
| 29.              | Hyperplasia of prostate ..                        | 6   | —   |
| 30.              | Pregnancy, childbirth, abor-<br>tion .. ..        | —   | —   |
| 31.              | Congenital malformations ..                       | 1   | 1   |
| 32.              | Other defined and ill-defined<br>diseases .. ..   | 9   | 11  |
| 33.              | Motor vehicle accidents ..                        | 2   | 1   |
| 34.              | All other accidents .. ..                         | 7   | 3   |
| 35.              | Suicide .. ..                                     | —   | —   |
| 36.              | Homicide and operations of<br>war .. ..           | —   | —   |
|                  |                                                   | 132 | 123 |
| TOTAL ..         |                                                   | 255 |     |



# **Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1960**

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<br>1 month. | 1-3 months. | 3-6 months. | 6-9 months. | 9-12 months. | Total deaths<br>under 1 year. |
|--------------------------|----|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Prematurity..            | .. | ..          | 2             | —          | —          | —          | 2                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 2                             |
| Birth Injury..           | .. | ..          | 1             | —          | —          | —          | 1                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 1                             |
| Congenital Malformations | .. | ..          | 1             | 1          | —          | —          | 2                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 2                             |
| Pneumonia (all forms)    | .. | ..          | 2             | —          | 1          | —          | 3                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 3                             |
| Atelectasis              | .. | ..          | 1             | —          | —          | —          | 1                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 1                             |
| Accident                 | .. | ..          | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | —                             |
| Other Diseases           | .. | ..          | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | —                             |
| All causes               | {  | Certified.  | 7             | 1          | 1          | —          | 9                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 9                             |
|                          |    | Uncertified | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | —                             |
| GRAND TOTALS ..          |    |             | 7             | 1          | 1          | —          | 9                       | —           | —           | —           | —            | 9                             |

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1960

13

| Notifiable Disease.          | Cases Notified in Whole District |         |     |     |     |     |      |       |       |       |       |       |             |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
|                              | At all Ages                      | Under 1 | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | 65 and over |
| Scarlet Fever ..             | 18                               | —       | —   | 2   | —   | —   | 12   | 4     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Whooping Cough ..            | 3                                | —       | 1   | 1   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Diphtheria ..                | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Measles ..                   | 8                                | —       | —   | 4   | 1   | —   | 1    | 2     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Pneumonia ..                 | 23                               | 2       | —   | —   | —   | 1   | 3    | —     | —     | 2     | 1     | 6     | —           |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ..       | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Dysentery ..                 | 1                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | 1     | —     | —     | —           |
| Opthalmia Neonatorum ..      | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..         | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Smallpox ..                  | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Paratyphoid Fever ..         | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Enteric Fever ..             | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Erysipelas ..                | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| Food Poisoning ..            | —                                | —       | —   | —   | —   | —   | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —           |
| TOTALS ..                    | 53                               | 2       | 1   | 7   | 2   | 1   | 16   | 6     | —     | 3     | 1     | 6     | 2           |



**TUBERCULOSIS.**—New cases and Mortality during 1960 :-

| 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  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 1—5         | —          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 5—15        | —          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 15—25       | 1          | 1  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 25—35       | —          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 35—45       | —          | 2  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 45—55       | 3          | 1  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 55—65       | 2          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| 65 & over   | —          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| Age unknown | —          | —  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |
| TOTALS      | 6          | 5  | —          | —  | —                                     | —  | —          | —  |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1936-1960.

| Year. | Scarlet Fever. | Whooping Cough. | Diphtheria | Measles. | Pneumonia. | Cerebrospinal Fever. | Acute Polio-myelitis. | Acute Polio-encephalitis. | Dysentery. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | Puerperal Pyrexia. | Smallpox. | Paratyphoid Fevers. | Enteric or Typhoid | Erysipelas. | Food Poisoning. |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1936  | 107            | —               | 48         | —        | 26         | 1                    | —                     | —                         | —          | 2                      | 2                  | —         | —                   | 2                  | 4           | —               |
| 1937  | 32             | —               | 4          | —        | 33         | —                    | —                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 5                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 4           | —               |
| 1938  | 53             | —               | 13         | —        | 26         | —                    | —                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 3                  | —         | —                   | 1                  | 4           | —               |
| 1939  | 62             | —               | 28         | —        | 15         | —                    | —                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 2                  | —         | —                   | 2                  | 8           | —               |
| 1940  | 17             | 7               | 16         | 7        | 14         | 8                    | 1                     | —                         | —          | 8                      | 11                 | —         | —                   | 1                  | 2           | —               |
| 1941  | 11             | 11              | 13         | 170      | 16         | 3                    | —                     | —                         | 1          | 9                      | 17                 | —         | —                   | 7                  | 7           | —               |
| 1942  | 13             | 59              | 7          | 91       | 11         | 3                    | —                     | —                         | 12         | 8                      | 13                 | —         | —                   | —                  | 3           | —               |
| 1943  | 23             | 1               | 4          | 65       | 20         | 1                    | —                     | —                         | 7          | 10                     | 18                 | —         | —                   | —                  | 0           | —               |
| 1944  | 29             | 24              | 3          | 114      | 5          | —                    | —                     | —                         | 5          | 15                     | 17                 | —         | —                   | —                  | 5           | —               |
| 1945  | 36             | 28              | 8          | 32       | 8          | —                    | —                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 8                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 5           | —               |
| 1946  | 21             | 45              | 9          | 81       | 15         | 1                    | 3                     | —                         | 1          | —                      | 9                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | —               |
| 1947  | 4              | 33              | 6          | 208      | 8          | —                    | 8                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 6                  | —         | —                   | —                  | —           | —               |
| 1948  | 29             | 56              | 1          | 81       | 8          | —                    | —                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 6                  | —         | 1                   | —                  | 4           | —               |
| 1949  | 18             | 22              | —          | 146      | 12         | —                    | 4                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 9                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 6           | 10              |
| 1950  | 31             | 99              | —          | 255      | 26         | —                    | 2                     | —                         | 1          | —                      | 10                 | —         | —                   | —                  | 0           | 1               |
| 1951  | 14             | 45              | —          | 220      | 32         | 3                    | —                     | —                         | 2          | —                      | 1                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | —               |
| 1952  | 24             | 71              | —          | 162      | 18         | —                    | 1                     | 1                         | 1          | —                      | 2                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 5           | 1               |
| 1953  | 30             | 144             | —          | 112      | 17         | —                    | 3                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 2                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 5           | 2               |
| 1954  | 17             | 74              | —          | 45       | 11         | —                    | —                     | —                         | 4          | —                      | 14                 | —         | —                   | —                  | —           | 1               |
| 1955  | 5              | 64              | —          | 491      | 13         | —                    | 2                     | 7                         | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | 5               |
| 1956  | 3              | 34              | —          | 27       | 27         | —                    | 4                     | —                         | —          | —                      | 3                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 4           | —               |
| 1957  | 12             | 63              | —          | 373      | 29         | —                    | 2                     | —                         | 7          | —                      | 2                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | —               |
| 1958  | 14             | 30              | —          | 1        | 26         | —                    | 1                     | —                         | 6          | —                      | 25                 | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | —               |
| 1959  | 11             | 18              | —          | 420      | 14         | —                    | —                     | —                         | 1          | —                      | 3                  | —         | —                   | —                  | 2           | —               |
| 1960  | 18             | 3               | —          | 8        | 23         | —                    | —                     | —                         | 1          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                   | —                  | —           | —               |



## ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR, 1960.

### 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 four 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 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 Society, 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. Patients requiring transport, but not an ambulance, are brought in by car. In an extensive area with poor communications this is a very valuable service. Some of the cars are provided by the British Red Cross Society, others by agents in the various villages.

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



**ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :**

|             |    |                                                                        |
|-------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allendale   | .. | Dr. Clayburn's Surgery<br>Alternate Tuesdays :<br>1-30—4 p.m.          |
| Stocksfield | .. | Red Cross Hut<br>Every fourth Wednesday,<br>1-30—4 p.m.                |
| Corbridge   | .. | Parish Hall, Princes Street<br>Alternate Tuesdays :<br>10 a.m.—12 noon |

**(5) Midwifery and Home Nursing Service**

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

**WATER AND SEWAGE SCHEMES**

I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Outhwaite, the Engineer and Surveyor, for giving the following tables of construction works proposed or in hand.

**Works to be commenced during 1961 :**

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Humshaugh   | Sewage Disposal Works. |
| Chesterwood | Sewage Disposal Works. |
| Corbridge   | Relief Sewer.          |

**Works in course of design and preparation :**

|                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|
| Horsley sewage disposal works.               |
| Ovington sewerage and sewage disposal works. |
| Ovingham sewage disposal works.              |

**Other works to be designed and prepared for completion :**

- |         |    |                                   |
|---------|----|-----------------------------------|
| List A. | 1. | Hardhaugh sewage disposal works.  |
|         | 2. | Fourstones sewage disposal works. |
|         | 3. | Broomley sewage disposal works.   |
|         | 4. | Newton sewage disposal works.     |
|         | 5. | Sandhoe sewage disposal works.    |
| List B. | 1. | Allenheads sewage disposal works. |
|         | 2. | Wall sewage disposal works.       |
|         | 3. | Corbridge sewage disposal works.  |
|         | 4. | Blanchland sewage disposal works. |

This list is an indication of the urgency of each scheme at the present time, and is not 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.

## **Comprehensive Water Scheme for South-West Northumberland.**

The scheme proposes that the work will fall into 3 phases. It is proposed to undertake the following improvements in each phase of development.

### **Phase 1.**

Gunnerton.  
Barrasford.  
Humshaugh.  
Wall.  
Acomb.  
Fourstones.  
Haydon Bridge and district.  
Whitley Chapel.

### **Phase 2.**

Military Road Area.  
Corbridge.  
Simonburn.  
Riding Mill.  
Healey

### **Phase 3.**

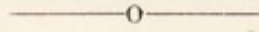
Newton Village and district.  
Fawcett Hill.  
Gallowhill.  
Allenheads.  
Allendale.  
Langley.  
Warden.  
Hallington.  
Welton.  
Aydon.

Phase I is nearing completion and a start has been made with the work of Phase II.



# Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

J. HEWITT, M.A.P.H.I.



## **Water Supplies :**

During the year 126 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 66 from public supplies and 60 from private and proposed supplies.

### **Public Supplies.**

Sampling continues to be carried out in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Generally the reports have been satisfactory, with the exception of Gunnerton, where there was intermittent contamination from the low springs. The unsatisfactory samples from Acomb were taken during a period when it was necessary to bring in the old supply from Silverhill.

## SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

## 1. Public Supplies.

|                  | No. of samples |       | Number Satisfactory |       | Number Unsatisf't'y |       | Total Samples taken |
|------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
|                  | Bact.          | Chem. | Bact.               | Chem. | Bact.               | Chem. |                     |
| Sandhoe/Anick .. | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Oakwood/Acomb .. | 6              | —     | 3                   | —     | 3                   | —     | 6                   |
| Allendale .. ..  | 5              | —     | 5                   | —     | —                   | —     | 5                   |
| Broomhaugh ..    | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Riding Mill ..   | 2              | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   | —     | 2                   |
| Colwell .. ..    | 7              | —     | 7                   | —     | —                   | —     | 7                   |
| Gunnerton .. ..  | 9              | —     | 4                   | —     | 5                   | —     | 9                   |
| Haydon Bridge .. | 5              | —     | 5                   | —     | —                   | —     | 5                   |
| Corbridge .. ..  | 11             | —     | 11                  | —     | —                   | —     | 11                  |
| Humshaugh ..     | 3              | —     | 3                   | —     | —                   | —     | 3                   |
| Newbrough ..     | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Slaley .. ..     | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Military ..      | 5              | —     | 3                   | —     | 2                   | —     | 5                   |
| Wall Village ..  | 3              | —     | 3                   | —     | —                   | —     | 3                   |
| Bingfield .. ..  | 4              | —     | 2                   | —     | 2                   | —     | 4                   |
| Horsley .. ..    | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
|                  | 66             | —     | 52                  | —     | 14                  | —     | 66                  |



## Private Supplies.

### Styford High Barns.

Due to the water shortage at the farm an additional source of supply was brought into use. After a number of unsatisfactory samples had been obtained, it was decided to discontinue the existing supplies and a new source was obtained. After the springing point had been protected from surface contamination, satisfactory samples were obtained.

### 2. Private and Proposed Supplies.

|                            | No. of samples |       | Number Satisfactory |       | Number Unsatisf't'y |       | Total Samples taken |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
|                            | Bact.          | Chem. | Bact.               | Chem. | Bact.               | Chem. |                     |
| Fern Hill, Sandhoe ..      | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Allenheads Park ..         | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Allenheads Hotel ..        | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Hindley Hill, Allendale .. | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Middle Hayleazes ..        | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Hayleazes ..               | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Styford High Barns ..      | 19             | —     | 7                   | —     | 12                  | —     | 19                  |
| Broomley Village ..        | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Chollerton Farm ..         | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Barrasford Village ..      | 3              | —     | 3                   | —     | —                   | —     | 3                   |
| N.C.C. Small Holdings ..   | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Blackhall Mill ..          | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Lilswood ..                | 2              | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 2                   |
| Embley ..                  | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Slate House, Welton ..     | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Sharpley Slack (Low) ..    | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Sharpley Slack (High) ..   | 1              | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   |
| Well Heads, W. Allen ..    | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Wall (Village Green) ..    | 2              | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 2                   |
| Moss Cottages, Warden ..   | 1              | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   |
| Kiln Pit Hill ..           | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Quarry House, S. Bridge .. | 2              | —     | 2                   | —     | —                   | —     | 2                   |
| Morrowfield ..             | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Swinhope Shield ..         | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| High Broadwood Hall ..     | 1              | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   |
| Toll Bar Cott. Styford ..  | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Newton Village ..          | 2              | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 2                   |
| West Deanraw ..            | 2              | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 2                   |
| Lipwood Well ..            | 1              | —     | 1                   | —     | —                   | —     | 1                   |
| Espershields ..            | 2              | —     | 1                   | —     | 1                   | —     | 2                   |
|                            | 60             | —     | 40                  | —     | 20                  | —     | 60                  |

**DETAILS OF HOUSES AND POPULATION  
SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES**

| PARISH.                   | SUPPLIED DIRECT<br>TO HOUSES. |                 | SUPPLIED BY<br>STANDPIPE |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
|                           | No. of<br>Houses              | Popu-<br>lation | No. of<br>Houses         | Popu-<br>lation |
| Acomb .. .. .             | 365                           | 1108            | 5                        | 22              |
| Allendale .. .. .         | 736                           | 1520            | 35                       | 123             |
| Blanchland .. .. .        | 62                            | 175             | —                        | —               |
| Broomhaugh & Riding ..    | 257                           | 575             | 2                        | 7               |
| Broomley & Stocksfield .. | 649                           | 1580            | —                        | —               |
| Chollerton .. .. .        | 78                            | 273             | 10                       | 33              |
| Corbridge .. .. .         | 820                           | 2460            | —                        | —               |
| Haydon Bridge .. .. .     | 797                           | 2024            | —                        | —               |
| Hedley .. .. .            | 59                            | 161             | —                        | —               |
| Hexhamshire .. .. .       | 101                           | 310             | —                        | —               |
| Hexham Low Quarter ..     | 101                           | 232             | —                        | —               |
| Horsley .. .. .           | 100                           | 300             | —                        | —               |
| Humshaugh .. .. .         | 186                           | 485             | —                        | —               |
| Newbrough .. .. .         | 216                           | 536             | 4                        | 14              |
| Ovingham .. .. .          | 179                           | 519             | —                        | —               |
| Ovington .. .. .          | 124                           | 372             | —                        | —               |
| Sandhoe .. .. .           | 150                           | 357             | —                        | —               |
| Shotley Low Quarter ..    | 37                            | 111             | —                        | —               |
| Slaley .. .. .            | 156                           | 728             | —                        | —               |
| Wall .. .. .              | 75                            | 225             | —                        | —               |
| Warden .. .. .            | 84                            | 256             | —                        | —               |
| Whittington .. .. .       | 51                            | 127             | —                        | —               |
| Wylam .. .. .             | 529                           | 1216            | —                        | —               |
|                           | 5912                          | 15650           | 56                       | 199             |



## HOUSING

### Council House Building.

The majority of the houses completed this year were for occupation by old persons, but as a result of transfers, from existing houses, the Council was able to provide accommodation for a number of families requiring general purpose houses.

As shown in the following table, a total of 34 houses were completed and occupied, of which 22 were Old Persons' type. All houses under construction at the end of the year were also for Old Persons.

The total number of Council houses is 788 of which 45 are Old Persons' type.

### Private Building.

89 private houses were completed during the year. Most of these were built on the Florist Hall Estate, Wylam and the Painshawfield Road Estate, Stocksfield.

### Houses completed in 1960.

|                                  | <i>With<br/>State<br/>Assistance</i> | <i>Unaided</i> | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY            |                                      |                |       |
| Acomb .. .. .                    | 9                                    | —              | —     |
| Newbrough .. .. .                | 10                                   | —              | —     |
| Ovington .. .. .                 | 15                                   | —              | 34    |
| B. BY OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES .. |                                      | 89             | 89    |
|                                  | 34                                   | 89             | 123   |

### Houses under construction 31/12/60.

|                               |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|
| A. BY LOCAL AUTHORITY         |    |    |    |
| Corbridge .. .. .             | 12 | —  | —  |
| Ovington .. .. .              | 7  | —  | —  |
| Humshaugh .. .. .             | 2  | —  | —  |
| Barrasford .. .. .            | 3  | —  | —  |
| B. BY OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES |    | 39 |    |
|                               | 24 | 39 | 63 |

### Council House Applications.

The number of applications for general purpose houses is now reduced to 273 of which it is considered that approximately half have grounds for re-housing. Corbridge is still the area where there is greatest need. Applications for Old Persons' houses on the other hand are steadily increasing and will probably continue to do so. The number of applications at the end of the year was 151. More than a third of these were for the Corbridge area.

Sixty families were housed during the year, 34 in new houses and 26 as a result of casual vacancies. 8 tenants were transferred to houses more suitable to their needs and there were 3 exchanges of houses between tenants in this District and tenants from Council houses in other Authorities' areas. The high figure for casual vacancies was in the main due to the closure of Morwood pit.

#### DETAILS OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AT 31/12/60

| DISTRICT          | Pre-War Houses | Agri-cultural Cottages | Post-War General Purpose | Houses Old Persons | Total |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Acomb .. ..       | 26             | —                      | 62                       | 9                  | 97    |
| Allendale .. ..   | —              | —                      | 20                       | —                  | 20    |
| Barrasford .. ..  | —              | —                      | 16                       | —                  | 16    |
| Bingfield .. ..   | —              | 4                      | —                        | —                  | 4     |
| Colwell .. ..     | —              | —                      | 5                        | —                  | 5     |
| Corbridge .. ..   | 26             | —                      | 113<br>(in. 2 shops)     | —                  | 139   |
| Fourstones .. ..  | 12             | —                      | 16                       | —                  | 28    |
| Gunnerton .. ..   | —              | —                      | 6                        | —                  | 6     |
| Haydon Bridge ..  | 18             | —                      | 88                       | 8                  | 114   |
| Hedley .. ..      | 1              | —                      | —                        | —                  | 1     |
| Horsley .. ..     | —              | 4                      | 9                        | —                  | 13    |
| Humshaugh .. ..   | 6              | —                      | 6                        | —                  | 12    |
| Juniper .. ..     | —              | 2                      | —                        | —                  | 2     |
| Newbrough .. ..   | —              | —                      | 49                       | 14                 | 63    |
| New Ridley .. ..  | 12             | —                      | —                        | —                  | 12    |
| Ovingham .. ..    | 6              | —                      | 46                       | —                  | 52    |
| Ovington .. ..    | 18             | —                      | 12                       | 3                  | 33    |
| Slaley .. ..      | —              | 4                      | 12                       | —                  | 16    |
| Stocksfield .. .. | —              | —                      | 48                       | —                  | 48    |
| Wall .. ..        | 8              | —                      | 8                        | —                  | 16    |
| Whittington .. .. | —              | 4                      | —                        | —                  | 4     |
| Wylam .. ..       | —              | —                      | 76                       | 9                  | 85    |
| Riding Mill .. .. | —              | —                      | —                        | 2                  | 2     |
|                   | 133            | 18                     | 592                      | 45                 | 788   |



### Council House Maintenance.

Tenders were let for the external painting of 187 Council houses, 102 of these were completed. Owing to delay in proceeding with work on the sites at Allendale, Colwell Hostel, Synclen Estate, Corbridge, Newbrough and Haydon Bridge, these contracts were held over until the following year.

The general supervision of Council houses has been carried out, 2,734 visits were made for this purpose and 1,070 items of disrepair were dealt with, the majority of which were of a minor character. In the main the larger items were the re-placement of ranges of which 36 were carried out. 20 of these were worn out ranges from pre-war houses and the other 16 were unsatisfactory back to back ranges. Alternative means of cooking were provided in 6 cases. Among the larger repairs were the relaying of concrete floors in 3 houses at Newbrough.

Wash hand basins were provided in the bathrooms of 8 pre-war houses in Leazes Terrace, Corbridge.

### Improvement Grants.

There was a slight falling off in the number of applications for Improvement Grants during the year, 75 grants being approved, compared with 99 for the previous year.

There has been a small increase in the proportion of owner/occupiers who have made application for grant but none in the case of rented houses.

One application for grant was refused because work had been commenced before the formal application was submitted.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1951, grants have been given in respect of 690 houses.

### Standard Grants.

One application for a Standard Grant was received during the year, and a grant of £53 8s. 6d. was approved for the installation of a hot water supply.

The following are the approximate proportions of different types of houses for which grants have been made :

|    |                          |       |     |
|----|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1. | Farm and Estate Cottages | ..    | 40% |
| 2. | Owner occupied houses    | ..    | 29% |
| 3. | Rented houses            | .. .. | 22% |
| 4. | Farm houses              | .. .. | 9%  |

## SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED

| Year   | No. of houses | Total Cost of works | Grants Approved |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1951   | 1             | £ 574               | £ 287           |
| 1952   | 12            | 4,610               | 2,305           |
| 1953   | 32            | 16,270              | 8,135           |
| 1954   | 92            | 51,842              | 25,000          |
| 1955   | 110           | 71,394              | 29,947          |
| 1956   | 102           | 65,529              | 28,528          |
| 1957   | 95            | 75,761              | 30,438          |
| 1958   | 72            | 54,827              | 20,999          |
| 1959   | 99            | 66,257              | 28,703          |
| 1960   | 75            | 60,799              | 27,761          |
| Totals | 690           | £467,863            | £202,103        |

**Unfit Houses.**

The majority of the houses included in the Council's slum clearance programme have now been dealt with.

During the year 5 Demolition Orders were made and 11 Undertakings were accepted.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year.

| Year   | Under-takings accepted | Demolit'n Orders made | Closing Orders made | Houses demolish-ed | Houses dealt with informally | Houses repaired or re-condition'd |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1955   | —                      | 1                     | —                   | 2                  | 4                            | 2                                 |
| 1956   | 3                      | 14                    | —                   | 1                  | 1                            | —                                 |
| 1957   | 23                     | 6                     | —                   | 9                  | 2                            | 4                                 |
| 1958   | 3                      | 4                     | —                   | 9                  | 2                            | 3                                 |
| 1959   | 9                      | 9                     | 2                   | 5                  | —                            | 2                                 |
| 1960   | 11                     | 5                     | —                   | 6                  | —                            | —                                 |
| Totals | 49                     | 39                    | 2                   | 32                 | 9                            | 11                                |

**Rent Act, 1957.**

Only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was made, and in this instance the landlord gave an undertaking to carry out the repairs.

**Privy Conversions.**

22 Grants towards the cost of converting privies were approved.



## SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, Etc. EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR

### IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT—

|                                  |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Renewal of ranges..              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Hot water system installed       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Bath installed                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Bathroom provided                | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Lavatory basin provided          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 55 |
| New sculleries provided          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 36 |
| New sinks provided               | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| Foodstores provided              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| Fuelstores provided              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9  |
| Privies converted to W.C.'s      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 49 |
| New drainage system provided     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Septic tank and filters provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 |
| Water laid into house            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4  |
| Additional W.C.'s provided       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### 1. Meat Inspection.

There are 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, 9 of which are used regularly.

2,868 animals were slaughtered during the year and inspection was carried out in all cases. This is a decrease of approximately 500 on the previous year, due to the fact that restrictions on slaughtering were imposed during the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

The figures in the accompanying tables give details of meat condemned, it is worthy of note that there was no tuberculosis found in the bovine carcasses and offals inspected.

All diseased meat is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. Small quantities are taken by the Council's Refuse Collectors and buried in tips. Larger amounts are accepted at the Hexham abattoir and disposed of with condemned meat from Hexham.

### Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

The Council's report on slaughterhouse facilities in the area was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in June. This was accepted by the Ministry and the 1st July 1961, being the date recommended in the report, was appointed as the day from which all slaughterhouses in the district must comply fully with the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

Of the 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the area, the occupiers of 9 have stated that they are prepared to carry out the works required to bring their premises up the standard required by the regulations, and work is proceeding in most cases. The other is only a tenant of the slaughterhouse and is not prepared to incur the necessary expenditure. He hopes to obtain suitable premises in the future and will then make application for a new licence.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

|                                                                                                   | Cattle<br>excl'd'g<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>lambs | Pigs |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number of animals killed<br>Dressed and undressed<br>carcases.. ..                                | 698                        | —    | 12     | 2011                  | 147  |
| Number inspected ..                                                                               | 698                        | —    | 12     | 2011                  | 147  |
| <i>All diseases except tuber-<br/>culosis :</i>                                                   |                            |      |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcases condemned                                                                          | —                          | —    | —      | 1                     | 1    |
| Carcases of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned .. ..                                  | 138                        | —    | —      | 14                    | 3    |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than tuber-<br>culosis .. .. | 19.77                      | —    | —      | .74                   | 2.04 |
| <i>Tuberculosis only :</i>                                                                        |                            |      |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcases condemned                                                                          | —                          | —    | —      | —                     | —    |
| Carcases of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned .. ..                                  | —                          | —    | —      | —                     | 4    |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>tuberculosis .. ..                         | —                          | —    | —      | —                     | 2.79 |

#### SUMMARY OF CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED

|                  | Tuberculosis | Other diseases<br>and conditions | TOTAL    |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Cows .. ..       | —            | —                                | —        |
| Other animals .. | 42 lbs       | 2147 lbs                         | 2189 lbs |
| TOTAL ..         | 42 lbs       | 2147 lbs                         | 2189 lbs |



| DISEASE OR CONDITION       | Weight of<br>meat condemned |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                            | lbs.                        |
| Cirrhosis .. ..            | 1579                        |
| Actinobacillosis .. ..     | 44                          |
| Injuries or bruising .. .. | 128                         |
| Abscesses .. ..            | 208                         |
| Cysticercus Bovis .. ..    | 112                         |
| Pleurisy .. ..             | 13                          |
| Nephritis .. ..            | 16                          |
| Milk Spot .. ..            | 12                          |
| Oedema .. ..               | 5                           |
| Arthritis .. ..            | 4                           |
| Parasites .. ..            | 13                          |
| Bone Taint .. ..           | 13                          |
| Tuberculosis .. ..         | 42                          |
| Total ..                   | 2189                        |

#### SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

| Unsound Food             | Surrendered | Seized | Legal<br>proceedings |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|
| Tinned Meats .. ..       | 30 lbs      | —      | —                    |
| Other Tinned Foods .. .. | 154 lbs     | —      | —                    |
| Other Foods .. ..        | —           | —      | —                    |
| Imported Meat .. ..      | 23 lbs      | —      | —                    |

## 2. Food Inspection.

294 visits were made to food premises during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

During the year sanitary accommodation and washing arrangements for staff have been provided in a shop where there were no facilities previously, and one additional W.C. and wash-hand basin for the use of female patrons has been provided at an hotel.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the table.

| PARISH              | 1.<br>Hotels and<br>Inns | 2.<br>Social Clubs and<br>Public Halls | 3.<br>School<br>Canteens | 4.<br>Works<br>Canteens | 5.<br>Butchers | 6.<br>General Dealers,<br>Grocers and<br>Confectioners. | 7.<br>Cafes | 8.<br>Fish & Chip<br>Shops. | 9.<br>Wet Fish Shops. | 10.<br>Bakehouses. | 11.<br>Hospitals | Totals |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Acomb               | 3                        | 2                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 5                                                       | —           | 1                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 12     |
| Allendale           | 14                       | 5                                      | 4                        | —                       | 2              | 14                                                      | 1           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 40     |
| Blanchland          | 1                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 2                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 5      |
| Broomhaugh/Riding   | 2                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | 1              | 4                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | 2                  | —                | 9      |
| Broomley            | 1                        | 3                                      | 3                        | 1                       | 2              | 8                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 20     |
| Bywell..            | 1                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 4      |
| Chollerton          | 3                        | 4                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 6                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 14     |
| Corbridge           | 8                        | 5                                      | 3                        | 1                       | 3              | 14                                                      | 2           | 1                           | 1                     | 1                  | 3                | 42     |
| Haydon              | 6                        | 3                                      | 5                        | —                       | 2              | 15                                                      | —           | 1                           | —                     | 2                  | —                | 34     |
| Healey              | —                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | —                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | 1                | 3      |
| Hedley              | 1                        | 1                                      | —                        | —                       | —              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 3      |
| Hexham Low Quarter  | 1                        | —                                      | —                        | —                       | —              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 2      |
| Hexhamshire         | 1                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 3      |
| Horsley             | 2                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | —                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 7      |
| Humshaugh           | 2                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | 1              | 3                                                       | 2           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 10     |
| Newbrough           | 1                        | 1                                      | 2                        | —                       | 1              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 6      |
| Ovingham            | 2                        | 2                                      | 1                        | —                       | 1              | 3                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 9      |
| Ovington            | 2                        | 3                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 5                                                       | —           | 1                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 12     |
| Sandhoe             | 2                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | —                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | 1                | 5      |
| Shotley Low Quarter | 2                        | 1                                      | 2                        | 1                       | 1              | 2                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 9      |
| Simonburn           | —                        | —                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | 1                | 2      |
| Slaley              | 2                        | 2                                      | 1                        | —                       | 1              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 8      |
| Wall ..             | 1                        | 2                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 2                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 6      |
| Warden              | 2                        | —                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 3                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 6      |
| West Allen          | —                        | 1                                      | 1                        | —                       | —              | 2                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 4      |
| Whittington         | 1                        | —                                      | 2                        | —                       | 1              | 1                                                       | —           | —                           | —                     | —                  | —                | 5      |
| Wylam               | 5                        | 4                                      | 1                        | —                       | 1              | 11                                                      | —           | —                           | —                     | 1                  | —                | 23     |
|                     | 66                       | 47                                     | 39                       | 3                       | 17             | 109                                                     | 5           | 4                           | 1                     | 6                  | 6                | 303    |



### 3. Milk.

#### The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

The above regulations which came into operation on the 1st October, 1960 provide that the duty of issuing licences to dealers in designated milks will be transferred from the local authority to the food and drugs authority, which in the case of the Hexham Rural District is the Northumberland County Council.

### 4. Ice-Cream.

There are 78 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream 5 of which were registered during the year.

#### SAMPLING

| Type of Sample   | Number taken | Grading |   |   |   |
|------------------|--------------|---------|---|---|---|
|                  |              | 1       | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Pre-packed .. .. | 33           | 33      | — | — | — |

#### REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC REFUSE

The direct labour scavenging is carried out by four Bedford vehicles, 3 of 5 cubic yards and 1 of 10 cubic yards capacity. The vehicle serving the Stocksfield and Wylam areas has a driver and two loaders, the others are worked with a driver and one loader.

Further extensions to the scavenging areas have been made during the year. In the Allendale and Allenheads areas 113 properties have been added. 12 houses in Broomley Village and 6 houses at Thornbrough have also been included. These together with new building and other small extensions make a total of 270 additional properties included in the service during the year.

During the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, drivers of all scavenging vehicles were instructed not to call at farms, or cross any fields with cattle in them. At the end of each working day the wheels of all Council vehicles were hosed down, and sprayed with disinfectant.

The service now covers 84% of the houses in the District, details of which are given below.

## 1. By direct labour.

*No. of premises.*

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS :

|                                          |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Corbridge and Dilston .. .. .            | 872 |
| Stocksfield .. .. .                      | 654 |
| Wylam .. .. .                            | 525 |
| Haydon Bridge and Brokenheugh.. ..       | 526 |
| Fourstones, Newbrough, Settlingstones .. | 343 |
| Acomb .. .. .                            | 299 |
| Riding Mill .. .. .                      | 160 |
| Humshaugh, Walwick, Lincoln Hill ..      | 139 |
| Wall .. .. .                             | 85  |
| Slaley, Trygill .. .. .                  | 85  |
| Sandhoe, Stagshaw .. .. .                | 64  |
| Broomhaugh .. .. .                       | 57  |
| Warden .. .. .                           | 58  |
| Anick, Oakwood, The Riding .. ..         | 94  |
| Hedley .. .. .                           | 46  |
| Hexhamshire.. .. .                       | 38  |

## FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

|                                                                                                    |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Juniper .. .. .                                                                                    | 52         |
| Blanchland .. .. .                                                                                 | 43         |
| Whittonstall .. .. .                                                                               | 36         |
| North Tyne, Whittington, Halton, Shildon<br>Aydon, Newton Hall, Stelling, Bywell,<br>Peepy .. .. . | 539        |
| Minsteracres, Kilnpit Hill, Millshields,<br>Broomley .. .. .                                       | 121        |
|                                                                                                    | <hr/> 4836 |

## 2. By Contract.

*No. of houses  
scavenged*

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Allendale and Catton .. .. .         | 412        |
| Allenheads, Carrshield, Ninebanks .. | 189        |
| Ovingham .. .. .                     | 231        |
| Ovington .. .. .                     | 146        |
| Horsley .. .. .                      | 95         |
|                                      | <hr/> 1073 |
|                                      | <hr/> 5909 |



**Scavenging Statistics.**

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Total number of occupied houses in district             | 7028 |
| Total number of houses scavenged .. ..                  | 5909 |
| Percentage of houses scavenged by direct labour .. .. . | 69%  |
| Percentage of houses scavenged by contract              | 15%  |
| Percentage of houses scavenged .. ..                    | 84%  |
| Total estimated tonnage collected per annum             | 7749 |

**REFUSE DISPOSAL.**

The Council have 23 tips in use in various parts of the District, one of which, Frankham Fell, is used jointly with Hexham U.D.C.

The areas served by these tips are as follows :

|                                      |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allendale & Catton                   | Smelt Mill Quarry, Ropehaugh.<br>Frolar Meadows, Allendale.<br>Shilburn, Allendale.<br>Harlow Hill, Catton. |
| West Allen                           | Barney Crag Mine.                                                                                           |
| Langley & Haydon<br>Bridge.          | East Mill Hills Quarry, Haydon<br>Bridge.                                                                   |
| Acomb.                               | Charehead, Acomb.                                                                                           |
| Wall & Humshaugh.                    | Brunton Bank, Quarry.                                                                                       |
| Simonburn, Gunnerton,<br>Barrasford. | Reaverhill, Barrasford.                                                                                     |
| Swinburne & Colwell.                 | South Farm Quarry, Colwell.                                                                                 |
| Whittington.                         | Quarry House, Whittington.                                                                                  |
| Aydon, Newton &<br>Bywell.           | Planetrees Quarry, Bywell.                                                                                  |
| Sandhoe, Corbridge<br>& Dilston.     | Milkwell Quarry, Corbridge.                                                                                 |
| Ovington, Ovingham<br>& Wylam.       | " Y " Wood, Ovingham.                                                                                       |
| Horsley.                             | Horsley Wood, Horsley.                                                                                      |
| Stocksfield & Hedley.                | Low Bridges Sand Quarry.                                                                                    |
| Broomhaugh &<br>Riding Mill.         | Low Shilford, Stocksfield.                                                                                  |
| Whittonstall.                        | Pasture House Quarry, Whittonstall.                                                                         |
| Shotley Low Quarter.                 | Mereburn Wood.                                                                                              |
| Slaley and Juniper                   | Holly Hill, Slaley.                                                                                         |
| Hexhamshire.                         | Mire House Quarry, Whitley Chapel.                                                                          |
| Blanchland.                          | Shildon Wood, Blanchland.                                                                                   |
| Newbrough & Warden.                  | Frankham Fell Quarry, Fourstones.                                                                           |

**PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.**

**Part I of the Act.**

**I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health**

| PREMISES<br>(1)                                                                                                  | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(2) | Number of          |                           |                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                  |                                 | Inspections<br>(3) | Written<br>notices<br>(4) | Occupiers<br>prosecuted<br>(5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...                     | 5                               | 10                 | —                         | —                              |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...                         | 76                              | 116                | —                         | —                              |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... | 7                               | 14                 | —                         | —                              |
| <b>TOTAL ...</b>                                                                                                 | <b>88</b>                       | <b>140</b>         | <b>—</b>                  | <b>—</b>                       |

**II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found**

| PARTICULARS<br>(1)                                                               | Number of cases in which defects were found |                 |                             |                             | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted<br>(6) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                  | Found<br>(2)                                | Remedied<br>(3) | To H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(4) | By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(5) |                                                              |
| Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...                                                  | 6                                           | 6               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) ...                                                          | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)                                                  | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)                                                    | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)                                            | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)                                                     |                                             |                 |                             |                             |                                                              |
| (a) Insufficient ...                                                             | 1                                           | 1               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective                                                      | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ...                                                   | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... | —                                           | —               | —                           | —                           | —                                                            |
| <b>TOTAL ...</b>                                                                 | <b>7</b>                                    | <b>7</b>        | <b>—</b>                    | <b>—</b>                    | <b>—</b>                                                     |



## Part VIII of the Act OUTWORK

There are no persons residing in the Hexham Rural District employed as outworkers.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

All tips and sewage works were regularly inspected and treated and were practically free from rat infestation. Sewers have been test baited and were also free.

#### 1. Agricultural Premises.

| Number of Inspections | Major Infestations | Minor Infestations | Clear |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 536                   | 66                 | 191                | 279   |

#### 2. Other Premises. Treated by Council.

| Type of Premises         | Number of treatments | Dead Rats recovered | Dead Mice recovered |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Private Houses .....     | 195                  | 38                  | 75                  |
| Refuse Tips .....        | 59                   | 50                  | —                   |
| Sewers & Sewage Works .. | 6                    | —                   | —                   |

In addition 28 business premises were inspected during the year, all were found to be free from infestation and 105 private houses were treated for insect pests.

### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

A few complaints, all of a minor nature were dealt with during the year, no prosecutions were instituted.

### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

This Act came into operation on 27th November, 1960. Nuisance from noise becomes a statutory nuisance which can be dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. Noise due to aircraft or caused by statutory undertakers is excluded and in the case of persons carrying on a trade or business it is a defence to show that reasonable means are being used to minimise noise. The Act also deals with the use of loud speakers in streets.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The above Act which came into force on 29th August, 1960, provides that the occupier of any land on which a caravan is stationed must have the approval of the Planning Authority and also hold a licence from the Council which specifies certain standards of amenity which must be provided and maintained.

A survey of all caravan sites in the area is being carried out and consultation will take place between the Council and the Planning Authority. As yet no licences have been issued.

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS.

From 1st January, 1960, to 31st December, 1960.

|                                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Council Housing (Allocation) .. .. .            | 549         |
| Council Housing (Repairs & Managements) .. .. . | 2734        |
| Housing .. .. .                                 | 467         |
| Housing Survey .. .. .                          | 21          |
| Meat Inspection .. .. .                         | 826         |
| Food Inspection .. .. .                         | 13          |
| Food Premises .. .. .                           | 294         |
| Milk Sampling .. .. .                           | 5           |
| Ice-Cream Premises .. .. .                      | 64          |
| Ice-Cream Sampling .. .. .                      | 40          |
| Drainage .. .. .                                | 64          |
| Testing of Drains .. .. .                       | 197         |
| Disinfestation .. .. .                          | 5           |
| Factories .. .. .                               | 140         |
| Infectious Diseases .. .. .                     | 21          |
| Keeping of Animals .. .. .                      | 1           |
| Moveable Dwellings .. .. .                      | 26          |
| Nuisances .. .. .                               | 53          |
| Rodent Control .. .. .                          | 3           |
| Privy Conversions .. .. .                       | 125         |
| Scavenging .. .. .                              | 430         |
| Water Supplies (General) .. .. .                | 26          |
| Water Supplies (Sampling) .. .. .               | 173         |
| Miscellaneous .. .. .                           | 128         |
| TOTAL .. .. .                                   | <u>6405</u> |





