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The Rural District Council of Hexham

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

and of

THE CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1963.



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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

# CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

# OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Public Health Department, Prospect House, Hexham, Telephone No.: Hexham 2141.

J. HEWITT, M.A.P.H.I. Chief Public Health Inspector

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Additional Public Health Inspector

D. H. REED, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Additional Public Health Inspector

Duties :

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, 1963.

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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, 1963.

A very large Rural District such as Hexham, with agriculture as its main industry, is unlikely to change greatly in circumstances from year to year. Over a longer period, however, changes are evident. From Corbridge eastwards the villages are becoming increasingly residential because of their nearness to Newcastle, and many new houses have been built and more are planned. This increase in new houses is not reflected in an increased population in the District as a whole, nor have an equivalent number of houses been condemned. There is therefore a movement of population to the larger centres, probably to a greater extent than is realised, but the process is gradual and limited. One would however expect the population of the District to increase over the next few years as the available housing sites within the green belt are filled.

The vital statistics for 1963 present a very satisfactory picture. The birth rate and general death rate are very close to the national average. The infant mortality rate is for the third successive year considerably below the figure for England and Wales, although the rate tends to be higher in the North. The general death rate shows a high proportion of deaths from heart disease and degenerative diseases in the elderly, and almost half the deaths occurred in people over 75.

Apart from measles, which was widespread throughout the country, few cases of infectious disease were notified and these were of little significance. Control by measures to limit the spread of infection has largely been replaced by prevention, with striking success in such diseases as smallpox and diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis. A table elsewhere in the Report illustrates this graphically by summarising notifications over the past 25 years. Tuberculosis is also becoming less common, and there were again no deaths during 1963 from this cause.

Undulant fever, which is the human form of brucellosis, is not notifiable but although it causes few deaths it can cause prolonged ill-health and is often undiagnosed. The source is a cow infected with Brucella abortus, and while undulant fever exists as an occupational hazard among those working with cattle, most cases are infected by milk. As almost all milk in towns is pasteurised undulant fever is more common in rural districts, and in 1963 investigations were carried out on four herds suspected as being sources of infection. The disease in animals cannot be detected clinically, and in the case of two herds a positive milk sample led to investigations, while the other two herds came under suspicion as the source of milk supply of patients suffering from undulant fever. Investigation is time consuming and takes some six weeks. and over 80 cows were involved. In the case of the two herds with a positive milk sample a number of infected cows were found, and arrangements were made for the pasteurisation of their milk, the two herds suspected as sources of undulant fever were in fact all negative on investigation. The control of brucellosis is not entirely satisfactory, and even though a protective vaccine is widely used it does not completely protect the animal. Notification and the payment of compensation for the slaughter of an infected animal have been considered as alternatives to the pasteurisation of all milk.

The number of new houses completed during the year was 50, of which 38 were privately built. Under construction were a further 122 houses, 48 being built privately. The main Council development is at Corbridge, where 68 houses are being built. These are to be made available to applicants from all parts of the District, and the list of applicants is very large. The Council intend to proceed with the provision of sheltered accommodation for the frail elderly in Corbridge, which is considered the natural centre for this development, and the need for compulsory purchase of the site selected has not arisen. These two developments, with a proposed large private development, will undoubtedly alter the character of the village and remove some of its charm, but its attractive situation, with good communications, makes its expansion inevitable.

Housing needs and improvement are being met in a number of ways. The Council's policy is to build in each community both family houses and old people's bungalows as the need is established. The opportunity has been taken at Corbridge, Horsley Wood and Humshaugh to acquire unfit and sub-standard property and modernise it. This has the advantage of retaining in occupation houses in a central position, and in the case of Horsley Wood a whole community has been retained and given modern amenities in old houses. Improvement grants continue to save further old property, and the large numbers of houses brought up to modern standards in this way are of great value in a rural community. Until now the approach has been made by the owner, in some cases on the advice of an official, and there still remains a good deal of unsatisfactory property which should be modernised, and which the owner is not prepared to improve. This situation will be met by the provisions of the proposed Housing Bill if it becomes law, powers being given to the Local Authority to deal with such property through the owner or directly.

All the major pipe lines to supply the area under the South-West Northumberland scheme have now been laid, and it is anticipated that the extra lengths which have been approved for inclusion in Phase 3 will be completed early in 1964. The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company have provided a satisfactory supply both in quality and quantity throughout the year. They undertake the routine sampling of mains water while the Health Department undertake check samples and investigate private and proposed supplies. There is good co-operation with the Company, and the results of sampling are interchanged. Should a sample prove unsatisfactory the necessary action is taken by the responsible authority. Plumbo-solvency is not in general a problem in this area, but is considered before allowing a new supply to be used. The fluoride content of the water is low, being o.1/o.2 parts per million. In the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report will be found particulars of the examination of water samples and details of houses and population provided with a public supply.

The increase in house-building, the improvement of so many older houses and conversion to water carriage as mains water has become available to most of the District under the South-West Northumberland scheme necessitate the provision of sewage disposal schemes where none exist and the improvement of others which are no longer adequate. Except at Ovingham, where a scheme has been prepared, the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal where these exist are reasonably adequate, but the Council propose to undertake much new work in the near future. On account of the urgency and large number of works to be done and the difficulty of obtaining qualified engineering assistants the Council have appointed Consulting Engineers to prepare schemes for Corbridge, Wylam, Stocksfield and Blanchland. The Council's Engineer will prepare the smaller schemes required for Hardhaugh, Fourstones, Newton, Sandhoe, Allenheads, Blackhall Mill and Wall. These extensive schemes will ensure a high standard of sewage disposal in all communities of any size.

The Northumberland and Tyneside River Board during 1963 refused to accept sewage from a new estate of 46 houses at Ovingham, the works there being obsolete, and replacement plans being at the Ministry. The Council appealed against the decision and this was heard by the Ministry's Inspector at the same time as the new scheme was considered. As a result the Minister allowed the Council to continue to use the existing works pending re-development, but asked the Council to consider treatment at the disposal works of Prudhoe Urban District as an alternative.

It is asked that the Annual Report should include information about common lodging houses. There is no common lodging house in the District.

In presenting this Report I should like to record my thanks to the members of the Council for the active interest they continue to take in the work of the Health Department, and to the Clerk and other officials for their courtesy and co-operation. The Public Health Inspectors and staff have worked extremely well.

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 1963 .. .. .. 20,260 Vital Statistics Live Births— Males Females Total Legitimate .. .. 148 171 Illegitimate .. 6 10 16 Live birth rate per 1,000 population.. .. 18.02 Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 18.2 4.78 Still Births— Males Females Total Legitimate ... 2 3 5 Illegitimate ... — — — Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 16.03 Still-birth rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .. .. .. 17.3 Total live and still-births 340 Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)..... 5 Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births. . . . 13.74 Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. .. .. .. 20.9 Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births legitimate .. .. .. .. .. 14.00 Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births - illegitimate Nil Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .. .. .. 10.98 Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under I week per 1,000 live births) .. .. .. 8.33 Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under I week combined per I,000 live and still 21.65 Nil Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Deaths from Cancer (All ages) ... ... ... Nil 41 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages) .. .. .. 12.26 Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (All causes and ages) .. .. .. 12.2

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups.

AGE GRO	OUP		М.	F.
Under 4 weeks			2	2
4 weeks and und	er ı y	ear	_	I
ı — 4 years			-	-
5 — 14 years			-	-
15 — 24 years			3	I
25 — 34 years			2	I
35 — 44 years			I	2
45 — 54 years			4	10
55 — 64 years			27	13
65 — 74 years			46	31
75 years and ove	г		52	72
			137	133

VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1938	14.1	15.3	68.5
1939	10.7	12.4	79.4
1940	12.2	12.9	56.1
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07
1952	15.32	12.75	54.85
1953	14.67	12.01	27.21
1954	14.57	11.39	20.50
1955	14.36	11.67	17.73
1956	16.14	11.97	14.24
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
1961	15.06	12.39	16.14
1962	16.05	12.09	11.15
1963	18.02	12.26	13.74

	Causes of Death.		
		M.	F.
Ι.	Tuberculosis, respiratory		
2.	Tuberculosis, other	_	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	_	
9.	Other infective and para- sitic diseases		
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach		5
II.	Malignant neoplasm, lung,		3
	bronchus	9	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant and		
	lymphatic neoplasms	9	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	_	-
16.	Diabetes	_	-
τ7.	Vascular lesions of nervous	20	
18.	system	20	33
	Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart	50	34
19.	disease	_	1
20.	Other heart disease	5	8
21.	Other Circulatory disease	9	7
22.	Influenza	I	I
23.	Pneumonia	3	6
24.	Bronchitis	6	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory		
	system	I	I
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duo-		
-	denum	3	I
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarr-		0
28.	hoea	1	2 I
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	I	_
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abor-		
30.	tion	_	_
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined		
	diseases	8	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
34.	All other accidents	3	2
35.	Suicide	I	-
36.	Homicide and operations of		
	war		
	- White Land of the Control	137	133
	TOTAL .	. 27	70
-		-	

# Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1963

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

Causes of Death	Under I week.	I-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under r month.	I-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under I year.
Prematurity	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-
Birth Injury		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_
Congenital Malformations .	. 2	-	-	-	2	-	_	-	_	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Atelectasis		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accident		-	-	-	-	-	_	I	-	I
Other Diseases	. I	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS .	. 3	-	I	-	4	_	_	I	_	5

TUBERCULOSIS .- New cases and Mortality during 1963 :-

Age periods		New	Cases.			Deaths Rural D	in Hex istrict.	ham
	Pulm	onary.	Non.	Pulm.	Pulmo	onary.	Non.	Pulm.
	М.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
o—1		_			_	_	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	_	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
15-25	_	I	-	I	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	-	I	_		_		_
35-45	I	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	I	-	-	-	_	_	-	-
5565	I	_	-	I	-		-	-
65 & over Age	1	-	-	-	-	_	_	-
unknown	_							
TOTALS	4	2	I	3	_	_	-	-

вы в	1	1	1
Erysipelas.	, 1		
	1	I	
Enteric or	1	ı	1 1
	1	1	11
	1	1	11
Puerperal Puerperal Puerperal Pyrexia.	ا ب	I	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		1	11
Dysentery.	т н	1	ж ж
Acute Polio-encephalitis.	11	1	11
Acute Polio- myelitis.	11	1	11
	11		11
.sinomusarq	14 22	100	23
Measles. Measles. 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170	420	289	25
		11	11
Whooping Cough.	18	S 1	1 4
H H W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W	11 81	12	50 4
1939 1944 1944 1944 1944 1944 1955 1955 195	1959	1961	1962

# ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR, 1963

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL.

ıst Qtr. Nil	2nd Qtr. Nil	3rd (	Qtr. Î	4th (	Qtr. il	Total Nil
OUTBREAKS DUE	TO IDENTI	FIED A	GENTS			Nil
OUTBREAKS OF	Undiscover	ED CAU	JSE			Nil
SINGLE CASES :-						
Agent identi	ified					Nil
Unknown ca						Nil
	Тотаг					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, Priory Buildings, Hexham.

## (4) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

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

Acomb .. .. Miners' Institute Hall, Acomb.

Alternate Thursdays.

1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Allendale .. Dr. Gray's Surgery.

Second Monday in the month.

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Corbridge .. Parish Hall, Princes Street.

Alternate Mondays:

9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Haydon Bridge.. Church Hall.

Alternate Mondays:

9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

1-30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Humshaugh .. Village Hall.

Every fourth Thursday.

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Newbrough .. Women's Institute.

Alternate Wednesdays:

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Ovington .. Methodist Church Hall, Ovington.

Every fourth Tuesday. 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

Riding Mill Parish Hall.

Every fourth Thursday.

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Stocksfield .. Red Cross Hut.

Alternate Mondays.

9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Wylam .. Methodist Church Hall.

Alternate Tuesdays.

1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :

Allendale .. Dr. Gray's Surgery.
Alternate Tuesday.

1-30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Stocksfield .. Red Cross Hut.

Alternative Tuesdays. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

## (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 SEWERAGE 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 under Construction or Completed during 1963:

Humshaugh Sewage Disposal Works. Corbridge Relief Sewer (2nd Stage). Chesterwood Sewage Disposal Works. Heugh House, Haydon Bridge, Sewage Disposal Works.

# Works to be Commenced during 1964:

Acomb, Oakwood & Anick Sewage Disposal Works.

(Joint scheme with Hexham Urban District Council).

Langley Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works.

Possibly Horsley, Ovington & Ovingham Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

## Works to be designed and prepared for Completion by Consulting Engineers :

Corbridge. Stocksfield. Wylam. Blanchland.

# Works to be Designed and Prepared for Completion in Engineer's Department:

Hardhaugh.
Fourstones.
Newton.
Sandhoe.
Allenheads.
Blackhall Mill.
Wall.

These schemes are not placed in order of priority, but will be prepared as conditions permit.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

\_\_\_\_000-\_\_

## Water Supplies:

During the year, 52 samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

## Public Supplies:

Samples continue to be taken regularly, both by the Council and by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The results of the samples taken by the Council are shown in the accompanying table.

Extensions to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company's mains were laid in the Halton Shields area during the year.

Including new houses, 124 additional properties were given connections to the mains during the year.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples.

		Number Satisfactory	Number Un- satisfactory	Number of Samples Taken
Acomb	 	1	_	I
Allendale	 	9		9
Allenheads	 	I	-	1
Colwell	 	I		1
Corbridge (North)		3	_	3
Corbridge (South)		2	_	2
Haydon Bridge	 	4		4
Humshaugh	 	I	_	1
Newbrough	 	5		5
Riding Mill	 	3	1	4
Sandhoe	 	1	_	1
Slaley	 	2		2
Wall	 	1	-	I
		34	1	35

# Private and Proposed Supplies

17 Samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	of S	amber Samples aken	Satis	mber factory ctory	Un	imber satis- ctory	Total Samples Taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Howden Dene, Corbridge (Borehole) Howden Dene, Corbridge	. 1	_	1	-1	_	_	I
(TO 161)	. 1		I			-	1
	. 1	_	-		I		1
WAL WALLS 122 2 2	. I	_	1		_		1
C 1 D 111 11		-	1	-	-	-	I
Greyside, Newbrough	. I	-	1	_	-	-	I
High Eshells, Hexhamshire	. 2	-	2	-	-	-	2
Newbiggin Hall	. I	-	1	_	-	_	I
	. I	_	-	_	I	-	1
Linnels Farm, Hexhamshire	. 1	-	1	-	_	-	I
	. I	-	I	-	-		1
	I	-	I	_	-		1
	I	-	I	-	-	-	1
	I	-	I	-	-	-	1
	1	-	-	-	I	-	I
The Glebe, Riding Mill	1		1				1
	17		14	_	3	_	17

In addition samples were taken from each of the four troughs in Corbridge Village, all of which were unsatisfactory. Warning notices were attached to each, indicating that the water should not be used for drinking purposes.

# DETAILS OF HOUSES AND POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Parish.	SUPPLIED TO HO	DIRECT DUSES.	SUPPLI	
	No. of Houses	Popu- lation	No. of Houses	Popu- lation
Acomb	396	1198	5	22
Allendale	738	1526	35	123
Blanchland	62	175	_	_
Broomhaugh & Riding	261	586	2	7
Broomley & Stocksfield	679	1666	_	_
Bywell	23	60	10	33
Chollerton	101	345	_	_
Corbridge	870	2564	_	_
Haydon Bridge	818	2090	_	-
Healey	13	35	-	-
Hedley	63	171	_	_
Hexhamshire	109	340	_	_
Hexham Low Quarter	101	232	_	_
Horsley	105	315	_	_
Humshaugh	196	513	_	_
Newbrough	220	550	4	14
Ovingham	193	561	_	-
Ovington	135	399	_	_
Sandhoe	157	377	_	
Shotley Low Quarter	38	112	_	
Slaley	158	733		
Wall	79	235	_	
Warden	88	268	_	
Whittington	65	165		
Wylam	562	1320		
	6230	16536	56	199

#### HOUSING

#### Council House Building

12 new houses were completed during the year, all at Stocksfield. 8 of these were general purpose houses and 4 were old persons' bungalows. At the end of the year there were 74 houses under construction, 68 general purpose houses at Corbridge, and 6 old persons' bungalows at Allendale.

A tender for the erection of 8 old persons' houses at Wylam is awaiting Ministry approval.

During the year the reconditioning of six houses in Corbridge was completed, and all are now occupied. A scheme for the re-conditioning of 20 houses at Horsley Wood was commenced, in many cases the work had to be carried out while tenants were still in the properties. At the end of the year work had been completed on 17 properties.

The Council purchased a block of property in Widdrington Terrace, Humshaugh, and a scheme for re-conditioning has been prepared. When completed six houses will be provided.

For some time the Northumberland County Council had been pressing the Council to vacate the house at Forstersteads, Allendale. In the early part of the year Osborne House, Allendale was acquired, repairs and improvements were carried out and the family occupying Forstersteads was rehoused.

In November of this year the Council leased from the Northumberland County Council, Chapel Cottage, Shotley Field for the purpose of rehousing the occupier of Archway Cottage, Black Hedley which is to be demolished as a dangerous structure.

The total number of Council owned properties is now 861 of which 77 are old persons' bungalows.

#### Houses completed in 1963.

	D. J	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
Α.	By Local Authority Stocksfield	. 12	-	12
В.	By other Persons or Bodies	_	_ 38	38
		12	38	50

# Houses under construction 31/12/63.

В.	Allendale Corbridge By Other Persons or Bodie	s	68	48	68 48
----	---	---	----	----	----------

## Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 314 applications for general purpose housing, of which approximately half are classified. This figure is less than that for the previous year 342, but this is accounted for by the allocation of 58 houses at present under construction at Corbridge.

The number of applicants for old persons' houses continues to increase being 235 compared with 181 for the previous year.

43 families were re-housed during the year 12 in new houses (4 old persons and 8 general purpose), and 22 as a result of casual vacancies. By exchanges of tenancies 6 families were moved into houses more suitable to their requirements. I family moved into a re-conditioned house at Horsley Wood Cottages. Osborne House, Allendale and Chapel Cottage, Shotley Field were occupied and I family was moved into an empty house at Widdrington Terrace, Humshaugh.

25 DETAILS OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AT 31/12/63

				Houses acquired	Post Wa	r Houses	
DISTRICT		Pre-War Houses	Agri- cultural Cottages	for Improve- ment	General Purpose	Old Persons	Total
Acomb		26	_	_	62	9	97
Allendale		_	_	1	20	_	21
Barrasford		_	_	_	16	3	19
Bingfield		_	4	_	-	_	4
Colwell		_	_	_	5	-	5
Corbridge		26	_	6	113	12	157
				(i	nc. 2 shop	s)	
Fourstones		12	_	_	16	_	28
Gunnerton		_	-	-	6	_	6
Haydon Brid	ge	18	-	_	88	8	114
Hedley		_	_	I	_		I
Horsley		-	4	20	9	_	33
Humshaugh		6	_	6	6	2	20
Juniper		_	2	-	_		2
Newbrough		_	-	_	49	14	63
New Ridley		12	_	_	_	-	12
Ovingham		6	-	_	46	_	52
Ovington		18	_	_	12	10	40
Slaley		_	4	-	12	_	16
Stocksfield		-	-	-	56	8	64
Wall		8	-	-	8	-	16
Whittington		_	4	_	_	_	4
Wylam			_	_	76	9	85
Riding Mill		_	_	_	_	2	2
		132	18	34	600	77	861

#### Council House Maintenance

Tenders were let for the external painting of 132 Council houses, 127 of these were completed. Owing to delay in proceeding with the work, the contracts for I house at Hedley-on-the-Hill and for 4 houses at Khartoum, Newbrough were cancelled. In addition, work was carried out on the contract for 18 houses at St. Helen's Lane, Corbridge, which had been held over from the previous year.

3,042 visits have been made in connection with the general supervision of Council houses, 1,816 items of disrepair were dealt with, the majority of which were of a minor nature. In the main the larger items were the replacement of ranges of which 37 were carried out. 27 of these

were worn out ranges, the other 10 were unsatisfactory back to back ranges. Alternative means of cooking were provided in 15 cases.

In June of this year the Council decided that certain items of disrepair, previously carried out by the Council would with effect from the 1st August be repaired or renewed by the tenant at his own expense. This ruling was not to apply to Aged Persons.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

## 1. Discretionary Grants

There was a slight decrease in the number of applications for discretionary grants during the year, 74 being approved, compared with 82 for the previous year. Since the inception of the scheme in 1951, grants amounting to £270,754 have been approved in respect of 936 properties.

The following are the percentages of different types of houses for which discretionary grants have been made. It will be observed that the number of rented houses, other than estate and farm cottages, for which grant has been applied is still less than one fifth of the total.

I.	Farmhouses, farm and	estate	cottage	es.	468	50%
2.	Owner occupied				305	32%
3.	Rented houses				163	18%
					936	100%

# 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	93	52,558	25,367
1955	134	85,463	35,740
1956	102	65,529	28,528
1957	96	76,465	30,790
1958	72	54,827	20,999
1959	99	66,257	28,703
1960	76	61,909	23,261
1961	63	52,635	18,093
1962	82	84,906	25,571
1963	74	78,592	22,975
Totals	936	£700,595	£270,754

#### 2. Standard Grants

13 applications for standard grant were received during the year, making a total of 29 since the introduction of this form of grant in 1959.

## Summary of Standard Grants Approved

		Basic amenities provided											
Year	No. of applic- ations	Fixed bath or shower	Wash- hand basin	Internal water closet	Hot water system	Food Store							
1960	I				I	_							
1961	5	I	3	4	I	2							
1962	10	4	5	9	2	I							
1963	13	5	4	10	4	3							
Total	29	10	12	23	8	6							

#### Unfit Houses

During the year 3 properties were demolished, two voluntarily by the owners, and one which was the subject of a previous undertaking.

Undertakings were accepted in respect of four properties. Saw Mill Cottages, Langley.

Middle Street, Corbridge.

Bank Top Cottage, Sparty Lea. Archway Cottage, Black Hedley.

A demolition order was made in respect of "Dale View", Horsley Road, Ovingham.

## Rent Act, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

## Privy Conversions

7 grants towards the cost of converting privies were approved.

#### Privies at Schools

During the year the privies at Simonburn School were converted to water closets, and work was in progress on a scheme which included the conversion of privies at Newbrough School. There are now in the district six village schools where privies are still in use, these are as follows:—

Allenheads.

St. Peter's School, Sparty Lea.

Bingfield.

Chollerton, Barrasford.

Carrshield.

Grindon, Haydon Bridge.

#### SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## 1. Meat Inspection

There are 9 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, all of which are in regular use.

3,004 animals were slaughtered during the year, and inspection was carried out in all cases.

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

As in previous years cirrhosis of the liver was the most common cause for condemnation. Of the 145 animals, which were found to have some part or organ affected, 109 had cirrhotic livers and accounted for 83% of the total weight of meat condemned.

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 private slaughterhouse at Ivy Cottage, Whittonstall, formerly occupied by T. W. & R. Jewitt was leased to Stocksfield Butchers Ltd., New Ridley Road, Stocksfield. At no time was there any break in slaughtering at the premises and the licence was transferred from Messrs. Jewitt to the Stocksfield Butchers.

# The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

These new regulations which came into force on 1st October, 1963 were intended mainly to ensure that all home killed meat was inspected before leaving the slaughterhouse.

To this effect, the regulations provide that:

- (a) All meat at a slaughterhouse must be inspected before removal except that during a period expiring on 30th September, 1965 carcases may be removed 6 hours after slaughter, if they have not then been inspected.
- (b) The period of notice of slaughter is extended from 3 hours to 24 hours.
- (c) All meat inspected and passed for human consumption must be marked by the inspector with the Local Authority's stamp.
- (d) A Local Authority is empowered to make charges for meat inspection.

As all meat was already inspected in the district, and in the main was all sold for consumption within the area, the Council decided not to impose any charge for meat inspection.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed Dressed and undressed	670	1	5	2199	129
carcases	-	-	-	-	_
Number inspected	670	I	5	2199	129
All diseases except tuber- culosis: Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some		07 OF	_	2	
part or organ was con- demned	120	_	1	15	7
disease other than tuber- culosis	17.91	_	20	0.97	5.43
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some	Name of Street	_	-	_	-
part or organ was con- condemned Percentage of the number	_	_	11-12	-	1
inspected affected with tuberculosis	_	_	-	_	0.78

#### SUMMARY OF CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions	TOTAL
Cattle (excluding Cows) Cows		2050 lbs — 152 lbs	2050 lbs 165 lbs
TOTAL	13lbs	2202 lbs	2215 lbs

DISEASE OR COND	ITION	Weight of meat condemned
		lbs.
Tuberculosis		 13
Cirrhosis		 1828
Abscesses		 109
Cysticercus Bovis		 39
Actinobacillosis		 14
Arthritis		 9
Blood Splashing		 6
Bone Taint		 92
Injuries and Bruising		 153
Peritonitis		 16
Parasites		 25
Pneumoñia		 5
Pleurisy		 6
		2215

#### SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

Unsound Food	Surrendered	Seized	Legal proceedings
Tinned Meats	 120 lbs		_
Other Tinned Foods	 156 lbs		_

## 2. Food Inspection

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

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

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

			_	_																								
Totals	12	38	2	6	21	4	13	40	34	3	3	7	3	7	IO	5	6	II	9	6	2	00	9	5	4	2	23	362
II. Hospitals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	Н	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I	1	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	9
Bakehouses.	1	1	1	1	63	1	1	Н	67	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	н	9
Wet Fish Shops.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I
Fish & Chip Shops.	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	I	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Н	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
7. SafeS	1	Н	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	61	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
6. General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	5	13	24	4	6	I	5	12	15	1	I	I	1	3	3	I	8	10	I	3	I	I	2	33	10	I	11	To1
5. Butchers	1	23	1	I	2	1	1	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	I	1	I	1	1	I	1	I	1	1	1	H	I	91
Works Canteens	1	1	1	1	I	1	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	П	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
School School Canteens	I	4	н	I	2	I	I	3	5	I	1	1	I	I	I	23	I	1	I	I	I	Н	I	1	I	2	I	35
Social Clubs and Public Halls	2	4	п	I	4	I	4	5	3	I	н	1	I	I	н	I	73	3	н	I	1	2	61	1	I	1	4	47
Hotels and Inns	1 8	14	1	2	I	I	3	000	9	1	I	I	I	2	2	I	2	2	2	2	1	64	I	2	1	I	5	99
	:	:	:	5.0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	ter	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	er	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	:			/Riding		:		:	:	:		Quar					:			Quarter	:	:		:			:	
Parish	Acomb .	Allendale .	Blanchland .	ugh	Broomley .	Bywell	Chollerton .	Corbridge .	Haydon .	Healey .	Hedley .	Hexham Low Quarter	Hexhamshire	Horsley .	Humshaugh	Newbrough .	Ovingham .	Ovington .	Sandhoe .	M	Simonburn .	Slaley .	Wall	Warden .	West Allen .	Whittington .	Wylam .	

#### 3. Ice-Cream

There are 78 premises registered for the sale of icecream. No new premises were registered during the year.

#### SAMPLING

Type of Sample	Number	Grading								
Type of Sample	taken	1	_ 2	3	4					
Pre-packed	15	14	_	I	_					

#### 4. Milk

Samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools.

135 samples were taken, of which 28 were of milk supplied to schools, all were satisfactory.

## 5. Game Act, 1851

Two applications were received during the year for renewals of a Dealer's licence to buy and sell game. Both were approved.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection by direct labour is now carried out by two 14 cubic yards Shelvoke and Drewry rear loading vehicles and three Bedford side-loaders, one of 10 cubic yards, one of 7 cubic yards and one of 5 cubic yards capacity. The vehicle serving the Stocksfield and Wylam areas has a driver and two loaders and the remaining four vehicles are worked with a driver and one loader. In order to cover absences due to holidays and sickness, two additional men are employed. When not engaged on refuse collection, these men work under the Engineer and Surveyor. Refuse collection in the Allendale, Allenheads and West Allen districts continues to be carried out by contract.

The purchase of an additional vehicle during the year enabled further improvements to be made to the Refuse Collection service. The Ovingham, Ovington and Horsley areas which had previously been let to contract were taken over. 531 properties, mainly in the North Tyne and Hexhamshire areas, formerly cleared fortnightly were given a weekly service. Extensions were also made to include further properties in the Healey, Langley, Haydon, Hexhamshire and North Tyne areas. These together with new houses added a further 219 properties to the number of properties served.

Of the 7,196 houses in the District, 6,338 or 88% have a Refuse collection service, 5,717 being cleared by the Council and the remaining 621 by contract. 5,857 houses have a weekly collection, 313 houses have a fortnightly service and 168 houses, mainly farms have a monthly collection, principally intended for the collection of bottles, tins etc.

1. By direct labour	0.110					No. of
WEEKLY COLLECTION	ONS					premises
Acomb						332
Blanchland						43
Broomhaugh and	Rid	ing Mill				224
Stocksfield						684
Corbridge						915
Haydon						541
Healey						40
Hedley						50
Hexhamshire and						96
						96
Humshaugh, Wal	wick	and Lin	coln	Hill		-
Newbrough, Four						147
0 ' 1				gstones		343
						244
Ovington						160
Sandhoe, Stagsha						64
Slaley, Trygill			• •			88
Wall						87
Whittonstall						41
Warden						58
Wylam						560
Anick, Oakwood,						94
North Tyne Area	, Wh	ittingtor	1			311
Halton, Shildon,					on,	
Stelling, Bywel				• • •		186
						5,404

For	RTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :		
	Langley, Elrington	55	
	Millshields, Broomley	124	
	field, St. Oswalds	134	
			313
2.	By Contract	-	
	Allendale & Catton Allenheads, Carrshield, Ninebanks	43 <sup>2</sup> 189	621
			6,338
Re	fuse Collection Statistics		
	Total number of occupied houses in distri Total number of houses scavenged Percentage of houses scavenged by direct l	abour	79%
	Percentage of houses scavenged by contra Percentage of houses scavenged	.ct	9% 88%
	Total estimated tonnage collected per ann	um	7,200

# Refuse Disposal

The Council now have 18 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:

The areas served by	· ·
Allendale, Catton and West Allen	Smelt Mill Quarry, Ropehaugh. Frolar Meadows, Allendale. Shilburn, Allendale.
Langley and Haydon Bridge	Harlow Hill, Catton. East Mill Hills Quarry, Haydon Bridge.
Acomb Wall and Humshaugh.	Charehead, Acomb. Brunton Bank Quarry.
Simonburn, Gunnerton,	Reaverhill, Barrasford.
Barrasford Swinburn and Colwell Aydon, Newton and Bywell	South Farm Quarry, Colwell. Planetrees Quarry, Bywell.

Sandhoe, Corbridge and Dilston Ovington, Ovingham, Wylam and Horsley Stocksfield and Hedley Broomhaugh and Riding Mill Shotley Low Quarter Slaley and Juniper Hexhamshire

Newbrough and Warden

Milkwell Quarry, Corbridge.

"Y" Wood, Ovingham. Low Bridges Sand Quarry.

Low Shilford, Stocksfield.
Mereburn Wood.
Holly Hill, Slaley
Mire House Quarry,
Whitley Chapel.
Frankham Fell Quarry,
Fourstones.

# PRESCRIPED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959. Part I of the Act.

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

PREMICES	Number	Number of				
PREMISES (1)	Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	_	-		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	77	85	_	_		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	11	_	_		
TOTAL	93	101	-	_		

# II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

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

# 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 disposal works are regularly treated and are practically free from rat infestation. Sewers have been test baited and are also free.

#### 1. Agricultural Premises.

Number of	Major	Minor	Clear
Inspections	Infestations	Infestations	
257	18	48	191

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

Type of Premises	Number of treatments	Dead Rats recovered	Dead Mice recovered
Private Houses	114	6	44
Refuse Tips	83	3	13
Sewage Disposal Works	25	2	_

In addition 39 houses were treated for insect pests.

# Clean Air Act, 1956.

Following a report from the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, a Certificate of Prior Approval has been issued under Section 6 of the above Act, in respect of the proposed installation of Oil Fired Driers at Airscrew-Weyroc Ltd., Factory at Anick Grange.

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

## Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act which comes into operation on 1st January, 1964 provides a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment for animals at which a business of providing accommodation for cats or dogs is carried out.

Under the Act no person may keep a boarding establishment for animals unless he obtains a licence from the local authority on payment of a fee not exceeding ten shillings. The licence to be renewable annually.

There are four such establishments in the district, the owners of which have made application for licence.

Mrs. A. M. Triffitt, Raw Green Stables, Steel, Hexham. G. R. & E. Benson, Daletyne Kennels, Gunnerton. Mrs. V. Bradley, Bridge End Kennels, Hexham. Miss L. B. Lewis, Hillcrest, Meadowfield Road, Stocksfield.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

# Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Works required to conform with the model standards have been completed in respect of the following sites, all of which accommodate from 15—40 caravans.

The Orchard, Corbridge. (40 caravans)
The Hermitage, Ovingham. (15 caravans)
Lilswood, Hexhamshire. (15 caravans)

Work is in progress at :-

Allendale Station. (40 caravans)

East Land Ends, Haydon Bridge. (20 caravans) Town Foot, Slaley.

The owner of this latter site was unwilling to incur the expense necessary to comply with the model standards of amenity required, and as the Caravan Club was anxious that the site should be retained, they now intend to become the occupiers of the site, and being an exempted organisation they do not require a site licence and do not have to comply with amenity standards which are imposed on other occupiers. The Club did however agree to accept the Council's requirements for water supply, refuse disposal, fire fighting equipment and disposal point for elsan closets, and to provide adequate sanitary accommodation.

During the year a site for 18 caravans at Pigg's Field, Ovington was discontinued, as was a site for 18 caravans at East Crook Hill, this site having been issued with a temporary licence until 31st March, 1964.

Planning permission was received in respect of a site at The Riding, Allendale (8) caravans, and the owner was advised of the conditions required by the Council before a licence could be issued.

An application for planning approval for the site at Barrasford Park which will accommodate approximately 150 caravans can not be considered until additional information is supplied by the applicant.

During the year several applications for site licences in respect of small sites (I to 4 caravans) were approved. I4 sites accommodating I9 caravans were dealt with.

The County Planning Authority when dealing with site licence applications referred to them, considered that sites at certain locations were too prominent and their continued use was detrimental to the area. The County Planning Committee decided to take the necessary action under Section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 to clear the sites, but no action will be taken at the present time, such action will be taken when all the caravan site applications have been determined. To regularise the position site licences had to be issued for the following (I caravan being involved in each case).

Brides Hill, Allendale.
The Folly, Catton.
Crawley Cottage, Folly Lane, Catton.
Sawmill Cottage, Gunnerton.
Bishopfield, Allendale.

# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS From 1st January, 1963, to 31st December, 1963.

Council Housing (Al	locati	on)			 	781
Council Housing (Re	epairs	& Man	ageme	ent)	 	3042
Housing					 	1035
Housing Survey					 	
Meat Inspection					 	772
Food Inspection					 · .	30
Food Premises					 	232
Milk Sampling					 	106
Ice-Cream Premises					 	16
Ice-Cream Sampling					 	15
Drainage					 	55
Testing of Drains					 	135
Disinfestation					 	8
Factories					 	101
Infectious Diseases					 	39
Keeping of Animals					 	6
Caravan Sites					 	56
Nuisances					 	58
Rodent Control					 	- 20
Privy Conversions					 	9
Refuse Collection					 	188
Water Supplies (Gen	eral)				 	13
Water Supplies (San	pling	)			 	47
Miscellaneous					 	20
	7	OTAL				6784
	,	UIAL			 	0/04



