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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.

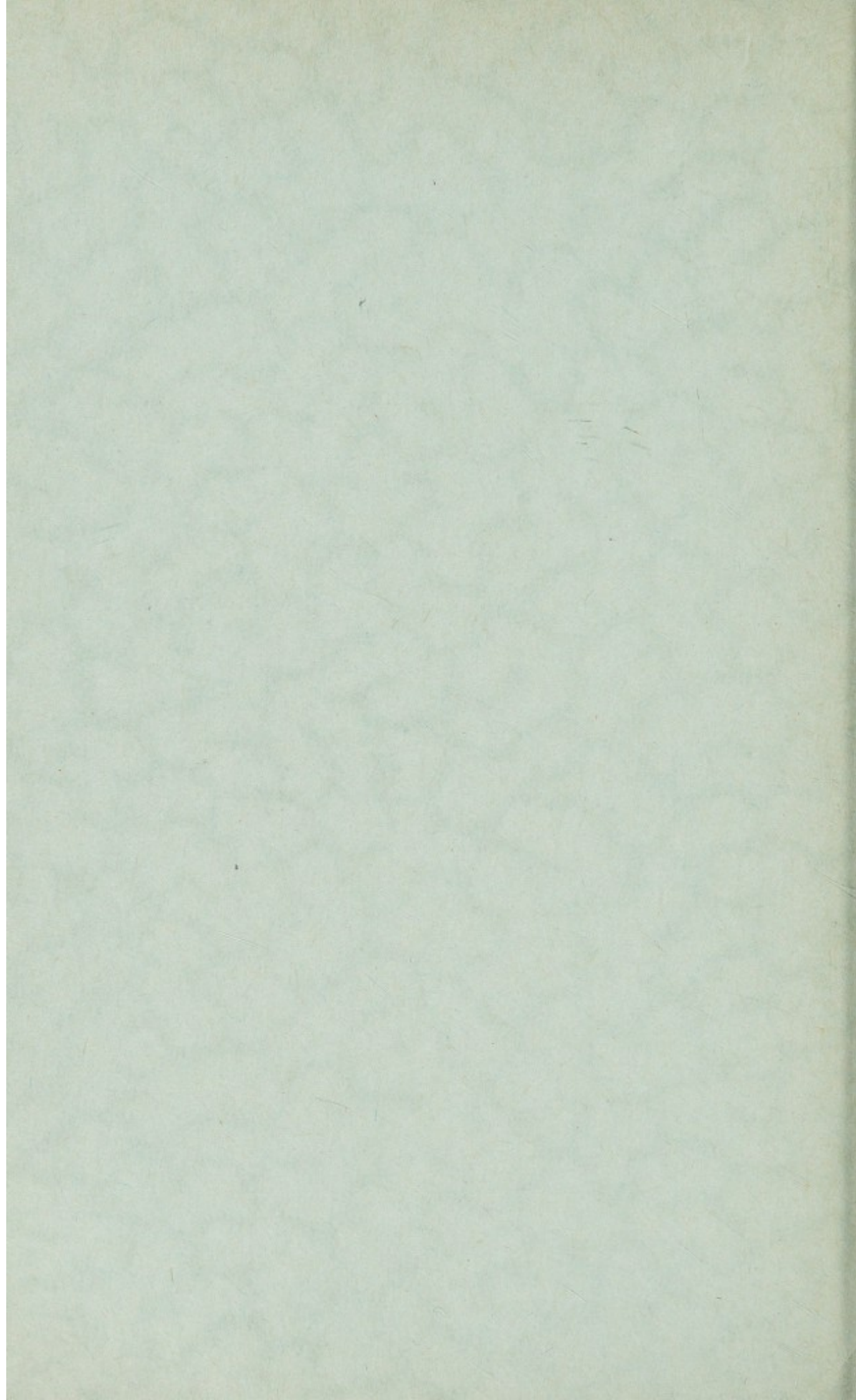
and of

THE CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1965

R. Robson & Sons, Abbey Press, Hexham.



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1965

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.

Duties :

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

—oOo—

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, 1965.

While little change is apparent from year to year, over a longer period the character of the District is seen to be altering as some communities expand and others remain stationary or contract. From Corbridge eastwards there have been large housing developments, both Council and private, and that part of the District is becoming increasingly urban in form and outlook. Further developments are planned, but are in some cases delayed until the Mid-Tyne sewage scheme, still in preparation, can be undertaken, and on a longer basis the limiting factor will be the lack of further suitable housing sites outside the green belt. Elsewhere there has been relatively little change except for the gradual improvement of amenities, including new houses and the modernisation of existing houses. The health of the people has shown a steady improvement over the years, and the figures for 1965 show a very satisfactory state of community health.

The population again shows a slight increase, and there was a small excess of births over deaths. With seven infant deaths the infant mortality rate is well below the national average. The more easily preventable causes of death in infancy have been controlled, and the majority are now due to such conditions as prematurity or congenital malformation, which cannot be considered avoidable in the present state of knowledge. The general death rate was a little above the national figure, but not significantly so, particularly as more than half the deaths occurred in persons over 75. The main causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation. Cancer was the next most frequent cause and accounts for some 50 deaths annually. The death rate per 1,000 from lung

cancer was well below the expected figure, and is consistently lower in the Rural District than in the neighbouring Urban District. The difference is presumably due to less atmospheric pollution, but the association with cigarette smoking is not in doubt and is the most easily controllable contributing cause.

The great majority of notifications of infectious disease were of measles, which has been prevalent for three successive years. A preventive vaccine is now available, but it is likely that it will be used for children at special risk and not for general protection, particularly as the duration of immunity is not known.

Scarlet fever continues to occur in small numbers, and is now a mild disease, but the investigation of cases and control is still required to prevent the spread of infection by food or milk. There were 19 notifications in 1965. There were 37 notifications of dysentery, due to a troublesome outbreak among children attending one school, but the disease was mild. It is of course highly infective, and as it is not easy to bring under control causes considerable loss of schooling. Four cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, but in only one case was there streptococcal infection, and the cases were not connected. The more serious infections call for comment only by their absence, and the interval of years since there was a case of diphtheria, or poliomyelitis is very satisfactory. The high proportion of children in the District protected against these diseases, and whooping cough and tetanus, promises well for the future. The satisfactory situation with regard to tuberculosis is also showing the results of the policy of tubercle-free herds, improved social conditions and the care given to cases and contacts. There was only one notification of tuberculosis during the year, of pulmonary disease in a middle-aged patient, and there were no deaths. Smallpox vaccination is less acceptable than the other protective measures against infectious disease, and many parents tend to leave vaccination until the need arises in the form of an outbreak or of travel abroad, a policy that is not without its risks. During the year one dairy herd was investigated for brucellosis, with negative results.

Relatively few houses were completed during the year, nine bungalows being built by the Council and 36 houses being built privately. Work was ready to begin on a further 12 old people's bungalows at Slaley, and the preliminary

steps were taken to providing bungalows and houses on a number of sites. Improvement grants continue to be encouraged by the Council and to be taken up satisfactorily, and well over 1,000 houses have now been modernised by this means. Further property has been saved by its purchase and reconditioning by the Council, and six houses at Hums-haugh were so modernised during the year and one house in Corbridge was being dealt with. The systematic inspection of villages with unsatisfactory houses is proceeding slowly on account of changes of staff, and formal action will have to be delayed until the survey is complete. The proposed sheltered accommodation for the frail elderly at Corbridge is still delayed by the absence of adequate sewage disposal facilities, as indeed are a number of Council and private schemes elsewhere.

Except for the part of the District from Corbridge eastwards the sewage disposal arrangements are satisfactory. The joint scheme to serve the villages of Acomb, Anick and Oakwood together with the town of Hexham is proceeding, and the Blanchland scheme was brought up to tender stage. The Consulting Engineers are preparing the scheme for works at Broomhaugh to serve Corbridge, Riding Mill and Stocksfield, and it has now been agreed to include the villages of Newton and Bywell in this scheme. Sewage from Ovingham, Ovington, Horsley and Wylam may be treated at the same works, but the plan whereby Prudhoe sewage treatment works will be enlarged to accept the sewage from these villages is being favoured. Much depends on the needs of Prudhoe itself and on the availability of suitable land for extension, but the need is now urgent and it is hoped that a decision will not be long delayed. Until the Mid-Tyne sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is in operation the most populous part of the area must be regarded as inadequately served, and new housing development must be provided with temporary treatment works or held in abeyance.

Small additions to phase 3 of the South-West North-umberland water scheme are still being made, and Ministry approval was given during the year to an extension to serve 20 houses in the Brunton Bank area. The Council will consider further property on the basis that the owner pays the balance of cost beyond £350 per house, and though this grant is generous it does not allow water to be taken to properties far distant from a mains source. There are no proposals at

present to bring mains water to the more isolated communities.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply most of the District with water that is satisfactory in quality and quantity. Regular sampling is carried out both by the Company and the Council, with the interchange of results, and any necessary remedial action is taken by the Company. There is still no satisfactory means of chlorinating the smaller supplies with variable draw-off, and there are sometimes unsatisfactory bacterial results from such samples or complaints of over-chlorination. An appliance that gives a precise dosage whatever the volume and that requires infrequent maintenance would be of great value. The mains supply is satisfactory chemically, and plumbo-solvency is not a problem, but the fluoride content is low. Proposed and private supplies remain the responsibility of the Council, and advice is given where the sample is unsatisfactory. No chemical analysis was carried out during the year. Detailed information about the water supply in parishes is given in the Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

In presenting this Report I should like to thank the Council for their continued interest and support, and to express my appreciation of their progressive approach to the difficult problem of improving amenities in this very large Rural District. I have to acknowledge with gratitude the help and co-operation given by the Clerk and other Officers, and the continued good work done by the Public Health Inspectors and the staff. Mr. W. Forster, one of the Additional Health Inspectors who had been in the Department for many years, left during the year to take up a more senior appointment, and while his knowledge and experience will be missed, these assets together with his courtesy and efficiency will assure him of a successful career in Public Health.

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 1965	20,500

Vital Statistics

Live Births—	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	154	160	314	
Illegitimate	5	8	13	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population.. .. .				17.32
Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 population				18.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.. .. .				3.97
Still Births—	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	2	2	4	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births				13.17
Still-birth rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births				15.7
Total live and still-births				331
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)				7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.. .. .				12.76
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births				19.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births — legitimate				19.36
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births—illegitimate				Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks.. .. . per 1,000 live births)				19.36
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)				19.36
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)				29.91
Deaths from maternal causes.. .. .				Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)				43
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages)				12.38
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.

AGE GROUP	M.	F.
Under 4 weeks	2	5
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	—
1 — 4 years	—	—
5 — 14 years	—	—
15 — 24 years	1	—
25 — 34 years	2	—
35 — 44 years	1	2
45 — 54 years	7	5
55 — 64 years	23	11
65 — 74 years	45	30
75 years and over	65	83
	146	136

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
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
1964	17.84	11.47	8.24
1965	17.32	12.38	12.76

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

11

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- sitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	15	13
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	2	5
16.	Diabetes	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	42
18.	Coronary disease, angina ..	40	28
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
20.	Other heart disease ..	6	4
21.	Other Circulatory disease ..	6	10
22.	Influenza	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	8	6
24.	Bronchitis	7	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duo- denum	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarr- hoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abor- tion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations ..	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	—
34.	All other accidents ..	4	4
35.	Suicide	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
		146	136
TOTAL ..		282	

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1965

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

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Prematurity... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Injury... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accident	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS ..	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1965 :-

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1941-1965.

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.
1941	11	59	13	91	16	3	—	—	1	8	17	—	—	7	—	—
1942	13	1	7	65	11	3	—	—	12	10	13	—	—	—	—	—
1943	23	24	4	114	20	1	—	—	7	15	18	—	—	—	—	—
1944	29	28	3	32	5	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
1945	36	18	8	23	8	—	—	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
1946	21	45	6	81	15	1	3	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
1947	4	33	6	208	8	—	8	—	1	—	6	—	1	—	—	—
1948	29	56	1	81	8	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
1949	18	22	—	146	12	—	4	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
1950	31	99	—	255	26	—	2	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
1951	14	45	—	220	32	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1952	24	71	—	162	18	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1953	30	144	—	172	17	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
1954	17	74	—	45	11	—	—	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	—	1
1955	5	64	—	491	13	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
1956	3	34	—	27	27	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	12	63	—	373	29	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1958	14	30	—	1	26	—	2	—	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1959	11	18	—	420	14	—	1	—	9	—	25	—	—	—	—	—
1960	18	3	—	8	23	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1961	12	1	—	289	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1962	5	—	—	25	23	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1963	4	4	—	470	12	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1964	3	5	—	210	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1965	19	5	—	238	2	—	—	—	37	—	4	—	—	—	—	1

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS YEAR 1965

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO REGISTRAR
GENERAL.

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

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

(1) Hospitals

There are in the district three 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, 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 — 4 p.m.
Allendale ..	Dr. Waring's Surgery.
	Alternate Tuesdays :
	1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Corbridge ..	Parish Hall, St. Helen's Street.
	Alternate Mondays :
	9-30 a.m. — 12 noon.
	1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge..	Church Hall.
	Alternate Mondays :
	9-30 a.m. — 12 noon.
	1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
	Alternate Wednesdays :
	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. Waring's Surgery.
 Alternate Tuesdays :
 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
 Stocksfield .. Red Cross Hut.
 Alternate 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 during 1965 :

Acomb, Oakwood and Anick Sewerage.

Works to be commenced during 1966 :

Blanchland.

Works to be designed and prepared by Consultants :

Mid-Tyne Sewerage and Sewage Disposal comprising the villages on the river — Corbridge to Wylam.

It is now decided that the scheme be designed on the lines :—

- (a) one sewage works to be sited at Broomhaugh, Riding Mill to deal with the western villages of Corbridge, Riding Mill and Stocksfield, together with Bywell and Newton ;
- (b) that consideration be given to the following alternative means of sewage disposal for the eastern villages of Ovington, Ovingham, Horsley and Wylam :—

- (1) to discharge sewage from all four villages to the sewage works at Prudhoe ;
- (2) to construct new works at Wylam for the eastern villages leaving the Prudhoe sewage works for Prudhoe's own requirements.

**Works to be designed and prepared for Completion in
Engineer's Department :**

Fourstones.
Allenheads.
Hardhaugh.
Wall.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965.**

—0—

Water Supplies :

During the year, 68 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 48 from public supplies and 20 from private sources. Frequent sampling of all public supplies is also carried out by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

As will be seen from the table given below, a number of samples taken at Allendale and Haydon Bridge fell below the accepted standard. Both these supplies are permanently chlorinated, but as they are small supplies, and chlorinated manually, it is difficult to strike a balance between over and under-chlorination due to the considerable variation in flow resulting from heavy rainfall.

An extension of water main to serve properties between Brunton Cross Roads and St. Oswalds Hill Head, Wall has been approved by the Ministry.

Including new houses 60 additional properties were connected to public mains during the year.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES
Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples.

	Number Satisfactory	Number Un- satisfactory	Number of Samples Taken
Acomb	1	—	1
Allendale	6	6	12
Allenheads	1	—	1
Barrasford	1	—	1
Catton	—	1	1
Colwell	1	—	1
Corbridge (North)	4	—	4
Corbridge (South)	2	—	2
Fourstones	1	—	1
Gunnerton	1	—	1
Haydon Bridge	4	5	9
Humshaugh	1	1	2
Newbrough	6	—	6
Riding Mill	2	1	3
Slaley	1	1	2
Wall	1	—	1
	33	15	48

Private and Proposed Supplies :

20 samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	Number of Samples taken		Number Satisfactory		Number Un-satisfactory		Total Samples taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Mariners Cottages, Acomb	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Halfway House Farm, Acomb	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Fell Lane, Barrasford	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Newbiggin House Farm, Blanchland ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Styford Quarries, Corbridge	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Howden Dene, Corbridge	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Espershields Farm, Healey	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bates Hill, Ninebanks	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Crowberry Hall/ Newshields, Sinderhope	5	—	3	—	2	—	5
Black Bank, Sinderhope	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Rye Close, Sparty Lea	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
High Hayrake, Sparty Lea	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Swinburn Mill	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Todburn Steel, Slaley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
	20	—	7	—	13	—	20

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

PARISH.	SUPPLIED DIRECT TO HOUSES.		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPE	
	No. of Houses	Popu- lation	No. of Houses	Popu- lation
Acomb.. ..	402	1216	5	22
Allendale	746	1538	35	123
Blanchland	62	175	—	—
Broomhaugh & Riding ..	265	598	2	7
Broomley & Stocksfield ..	680	1669	—	—
Bywell.. ..	40	102	8	27
Chollerton	106	362	—	—
Corbridge	955	2853	—	—
Haydon Bridge	841	2157	—	—
Healey.. ..	16	43	—	—
Hedley	68	184	—	—
Hexhamshire	113	353	—	—
Hexham Low Quarter ..	101	232	—	—
Horsley	105	315	—	—
Humshaugh	209	546	—	—
Newbrough	224	559	4	14
Ovingham	225	641	—	—
Ovington	135	399	—	—
Sandhoe	163	392	—	—
Simonburn	1	3	—	—
Shotley Low Quarter ..	41	119	—	—
Slaley	160	738	—	—
Wall	81	242	—	—
Warden	92	278	—	—
Whittington	65	165	—	—
Wylam	567	1328	—	—
	6463	17207	54	193

HOUSING

Council House Building

9 Old Person's bungalows were completed during the year, 3 at Wylam, 4 at Humshaugh and 2 at Newbrough. At Humshaugh, the re-conditioning of 6 houses at Widdrington Terrace was completed and work on the construction of 12 Old Person's bungalows at Slaley was in progress. A house in Princes Street, Corbridge which was purchased by the Council last year is undergoing modernisation.,

During 1964 the Council gave approval for the erection of houses at Barrasford, Ovingham and Corbridge but due to drainage and sewage difficulties, these proposals have been deferred.

Land has been acquired adjoining the Millersfield estate at Acomb where it is proposed to erect 34 general purpose houses and 13 Old Person's bungalows.

The total number of Council houses is now 950 of which 99 are for old persons.

Garages

The Council has now 56 lock-up garages situated on various estates. There are also 2 pieces of land providing sites for 19 garages erected by tenants.

It is proposed to build a further 8 garages at Wylam and 13 at Acomb.

Houses completed in 1965 :

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. By Local Authority :			
Wylam	3	—	3
Humshaugh ..	4	—	4
Newbrough ..	2	—	2
B. By other Persons or Bodies ..	—	36	36
	9	36	45

Houses under construction at 31/12/65 :

	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. By Local Authority : Slaley	12	—	12
B. By other Persons or Bodies ..	—	75	75
	12	75	87

Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 373 applications for general purpose houses and 252 applications for Old Person's bungalows. This is an increase of 25 for general purpose houses and 44 for Old Person's bungalows.

26 families were housed during the year 10 in new houses and 16 as a result of casual vacancies. By exchanges of tenancies a further 10 families were moved to houses more suitable for their needs.

DETAILS OF COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AT 31/12/65

DISTRICT	Pre-War Houses	Agri-cultural Cottages	Houses acquired for Improvement	Post War Houses		Total
				General Purpose	Old Persons	
Acomb ..	26	—	—	62	9	97
Allendale ..	—	—	1	20	6	27
Barrasford ..	—	—	—	16	3	19
Bingfield ..	—	4	—	—	—	4
Colwell ..	—	—	—	5	—	5
Corbridge ..	26	—	7	181 (inc. 2 shops)	12	226
Fourstones ..	12	—	—	16	—	28
Gunnerton ..	—	—	—	6	—	6
Haydon Bridge	18	—	—	88	8	114
Hedley ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Horsley ..	—	4	20	9	—	33
Humshaugh ..	6	—	6	6	6	24
Juniper ..	—	2	—	—	—	2
Newbrough ..	—	—	—	49	16	65
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	17	93
Riding Mill ..	—	—	—	—	2	2
	132	18	35	668	91	950

Council House Maintenance

Tenders were let for the external painting of 192 houses. With the exception of a part of one estate, all contracts were completed within the period allowed in the specification.

3,497 visits have been made in connection with the general supervision of Council houses. 1,007 items of disrepair were dealt with.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

92 grants were approved during the year, comprising 62 Discretionary grants and 30 Standard grants. This is 11 fewer than the previous year but generally the figure has remained approximately the same for the last few years. The

total number of grants approved since the inception of the scheme in 1951 is 1,160.

The following are the percentages of different types of houses for which grants have been approved.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Tenanted farmhouses, farm and estate cottages. | 44% |
| 2. Owner occupied houses | 35% |
| 3. Rented houses. | 21% |

SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED

Year	No. of houses	Grants Approved
		£
1951	1	287
1952	12	2,305
1953	32	8,135
1954	93	25,367
1955	134	35,740
1956	102	28,528
1957	96	30,790
1958	72	20,999
1959	99	28,703
1960	76	23,261
1961	63	18,093
1962	82	25,571
1963	74	22,975
1964	76	22,184
1965	62	22,126
Totals	1,074	£315,066

Summary of Standard Grants Approved

Year	No. of applications	BASIC AMENITIES PROVIDED					
		Fixed bath or shower	Wash-hand basin	Internal water closet	Hot water system	Food Store	Septic Tank
1960	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1961	5	1	3	4	1	2	—
1962	10	4	5	9	2	1	—
1963	13	5	4	10	4	3	—
1964	27	19	20	27	17	12	1
1965	30	18	18	28	17	11	13
Totals	86	47	50	78	42	29	14

Unfit Houses

Undertakings were received in respect of 4 cottages at the Crown and Anchor Yard, Horsley.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

Privy Conversions

7 grants towards the cost of converting privies to water carriage were made during the year. One Statutory notice was issued.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 9 licensed slaughterhouses in the district, 6 of which are in regular use.

2,875 animals were slaughtered during the year, inspection was carried out in all cases and the carcasses were stamped in compliance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The figures in the accompanying tables give details of meat condemned. No tuberculosis was found in the 647 bovine carcasses and offals inspected.

The 360 lbs. of meat condemned for uraemia was a carcase of a bullock and a sheep which were brought into the slaughterhouse as casualties. The meat was stained and brought into Hexham for disposal.

Assistance was given to Haltwhistle Rural District Council by carrying out meat inspection on occasions when their inspector was on holiday. A weekly visit was made to the slaughterhouse during the period September to December owing to the resignation of their Public Health Inspector.

All condemned meat, before being disposed of, 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.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed Dressed and undressed carcasses.. .. .	640	1	6	2105	123
Number inspected ..	640	1	6	2105	123
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	184	—	—	14	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	28.75	—	—	0.86	0.81
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysterci :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised or totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF CARCASE MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions	TOTAL
Cattle (excluding Cows)	—	2195 lbs	2195 lbs
Cows	—	14 lbs	14 lbs
Other animals ..	—	258 lbs	258 lbs
TOTAL ..	—	2467 lbs	2467 lbs

Disease or Condition	Weight of meat condemned
	lbs.
Abscesses	128
Actinobacillosis	70
Cirrhosis	1580
Cysticercus Bovis	70
Gangrene	28
Injuries and Bruising	3
Improper Bleeding	50
Parasites	69
Peritonitis	25
Oedema and Emaciation	56
Uraemia	360
Telangiectasis	28
	2854

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED

Unsound Food	Surrendered	Seized	Legal proceedings
Tinned Meats	21 lbs	--	—
Other Tinned Foods	353 lbs	--	—

2. Food Inspection

185 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 (General) Regulations, 1960.

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

PARISH	1. Hotels and Inns	2. Social Clubs and Public Halls	3. School Canteens	4. Works Canteens	5. Butchers	6. General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	7. Cafes	8. Fish & Chip Shops.	9. Wet Fish Shops.	10. Bakehouses.	11. Hospitals	Totals
Acomb	3	1	1	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	11
Allendale	14	4	4	—	2	13	1	—	—	—	—	38
Blanchland	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Broomhaugh/Riding	2	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	9
Broomley	1	4	2	1	2	9	—	—	—	2	—	21
Bywell..	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Chollerton	3	4	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	13
Corbridge	8	5	3	1	3	12	2	1	1	1	3	40
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	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ovingham	2	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	9
Ovington	2	3	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	11
Sandhoe	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Shotley Low Quarter	2	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	9
Simonburn	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Slaley	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
Wall ..	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Warden	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	5
West Allen	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whittington	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Wylam	5	4	1	—	1	11	—	—	—	1	—	23
	66	46	34	3	16	106	5	4	1	6	6	293

3. Ice-Cream

There are 83 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, 2 of which were registered during the year.

SAMPLING

Type of Sample	Number taken	Grading			
		1	2	3	4
Pre-packed	25	18	7	—	—
Other	4	1	2	1	—

4. Milk

Routine 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. 141 samples were taken, 25 of which were of milk supplied to schools. 10 samples failed the methylene blue test (keeping quality).

5. The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

6. Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 16)

One application for registration of premises used in connection with the manufacture of preserved food was approved.

7. Infectious Diseases

Of the 216 visits made 176 were in connection with an outbreak of Dysentery mainly among schoolchildren in the Humshaugh area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection by direct labour is carried out by two 14 cubic yards Shelvoke and Drewry rear loading vehicles and three Bedford side loaders. Collection is carried out by contract in the Allendale, Allenheads and West Allen areas.

Extensions to the collection area were made during the year to include a further 38 houses, 24 of which were in the Mohope area of West Allen. These extensions together with

new houses made a total of 215 houses included in the service during the year.

The existing tip at Brunton Bank has been closed as tipping space was exhausted but the Council obtained a lease for the disused part of the adjoining limestone quarry which should provide tipping space for many years. Acomb tip was also closed as a result of notice from the owners. The tip was levelled and covered with approximately 1,000 tons of soil which was fortunately obtained free of charge. The piping-in of the burn running through the 'Y' wood tip at Ovingham was extended to provide a further area for tipping. 14 tips are in regular use.

The bulk of refuse is continually increasing mainly due to packaging and this together with new houses and extensions to the collecting area has necessitated the employment of an additional loader. Undoubtedly when the existing side-loading vehicles are renewed they will have to be replaced by vehicles capable of carrying considerably bigger loads.

Of the 7,389 houses in the District, 6,559 or 88.75% have a refuse collection service, 5,907 being cleared by direct labour and the remaining 652 by contract.

1. By direct labour

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS :

*No. of
premises*

Acomb	337
Blanchland	43
Broomhaugh and Riding Mill	228
Stocksfield	692
Corbridge	987
Haydon	551
Healey	40
Hedley	53
Hexhamshire and Low Quarter	103
Horsley	96
Humshaugh, Walwick and Lincoln Hill	148
Newbrough, Fourstones and Settlingstones	344
Ovingham	276
Ovington	178
Sandhoe, Stagshaw	66
Slaley, Trygill	91
Wall	88
Whittonstall	41
Warden	60
Wylam	565
Anick, Oakwood, The Riding	94
North Tyne Area, Whittington	320
Halton, Shildon, Aydon, Newton Hall, Welton, Stelling, Bywell, Peepy	186

5,587

FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

Langley, Elrington	
Minsteracres, Kiln Pit Hill, Shotley area,	55
Broomley	130
Colwell, Hallington, Bingfield, Fallow- field, St. Oswalds	135

320

2. By Contract

Allendale & Catton	438
Allenheads, Carrshield, Ninebanks	189
West Allen	25

652

6,559

Refuse Collection Statistics

Total Number of occupied houses in district ..	7,389
Total number of houses scavenged	6,559
Total number of houses scavenged by direct labour.. .. .	5,907
Total number of houses scavenged by contract	652
Percentage of houses scavenged.. .. .	88.75%
Total estimated tonnage collected per annum..	6,718

Refuse Disposal

The Council now have 17 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 and West Allen	Smelt Mill Quarry, Ropehaugh. Frolar Meadows, Allendale. Shilburn, Allendale. Harlow Hill, Catton.
Langley and Haydon Bridge	East Mill Hills Quarry, Haydon Bridge.
Wall and Humshaugh	Brunton Bank Quarry.
Simonburn, Gunnerton, Barrasford	Reaverhill, Barrasford.
Swinburn and Colwell	South Farm Quarry, Colwell.
Aydon, Newton and Bywell	Planetrees Quarry, Bywell.
Sandhoe, Corbridge and Dilston	Milkwell Quarry, Corbridge.
Ovington, Ovingham, Wylam and Horsley	' Y ' Wood, Ovingham.
Stocksfield and Hedley	Low Bridges Sand Quarry.
Broomhaugh and Riding Mill	Low Shilford, Stocksfield.
Shotley Low Quarter	Mereburn Wood.
Slaley and Juniper	Holly Hill, Slaley.
Hexhamshire	Mire House Quarry, Whitley Chapel.
Newbrough and Warden	Frankham Fell Quarry, Fourstones.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961**Part I of the Act.****I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health**

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		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	20	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	18	12	—	—
TOTAL	100	32	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

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

Part VII of the Act
OUTWORK

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

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspections

During the year 158 visits were made to registered premises and the contraventions found were mainly in premises which had come for the first time into the ambit of legislation.

The contraventions found were mainly concerned with the provisions of :

1. Lighting to water closets
2. Thermometers
3. Disrepair to premises
4. Washing facilities

Many of the minor contraventions found on the original inspections have been remedied but there are however some still outstanding, these will, no doubt, be rectified in the near future.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises inspected during year
Offices	Nil	18	18
Retail shops	Nil	65	65
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	Nil	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ..	Nil	20	20
Fuel Storage Depots..	Nil	1	1
Totals	Nil	105	105

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed		Total
	Males	Females	
Offices	45	41	86
Retail Shops	47	99	146
Wholesale Departments, warehouses	1	—	1
Catering Establishments .. open to the public, canteens	49	118	167
Fuel Storage Depots.. .. .	2	—	2
	144	258	402

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Sec- tion	No. of Contraventions found	Sec- tion	No. of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 2	13	Sitting facilities 4
5	Overcrowding Nil	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) Nil
6	Temperature 18	15	Eating facilities Nil
7	Ventilation 2	16	Floors, passage and stairs 4
8	Lighting 15	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery Nil
9	Sanitary Conveniences 24	18	Protection of young persons from danger- ous machinery Nil
10	Washing facilities 13	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery Nil
11	Supply of Drinking water 4	23	Prohibition of heavy work Nil
12	Clothing Accommodation.. .. . 1	24	First Aid General provisions 14
			Total 101

Accidents

There was one reported accident during the year from a catering establishment involving a person falling down stairs, an investigation was made and advice was given to prevent the re-occurrence of a similar accident.

There were no prosecutions taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

All tips and sewage disposal works are regularly treated, and are relatively free from rat infestation. Sewers have been test baited and are also free from infestation.

The following tables give details of premises which have been inspected, and/or treated during the year.

1. Agricultural Premises :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 50				No. Clear
	Rats .. 29		Mice .. 21		177
	Major 5	Minor 26	Major 1	Minor 29	
227					

2. Business Premises :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 11				No. Clear
	Rats .. 8		Mice .. 3		75
	Major —	Minor 8	Major —	Minor 3	
86					

3. Dwelling Houses :

No. of premises inspected	No. of premises infested .. 141				No. Clear
	Rats .. 115		Mice .. 26		105
	Major 4	Minor 111	Major —	Minor 26	
246					

4. Refuse Tips :

No. of tips inspected	No. of tips infested .. 12				No. Clear
	Rats .. 12		Mice .. 1		5
	Major —	Minor 12	Major —	Minor —	
17					

5. Sewage Disposal Works :

No. of S.D.W's inspected	No. of S.D.W's infested .. 9				No. Clear
	Rats .. 7		Mice .. 2		23
	Major —	Minor 7	Major —	Minor 2	
52					

Details of premises treated for insect pests :

134 premises were treated for insect pests.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Four applications for renewal of licence to keep a boarding establishment for animals were received. The premises were all satisfactory and licences were issued.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging houses in the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Other than individual sites, there are 6 sites providing accommodation for between 15 and 40 caravans.

The Orchard, Corbridge	(40 caravans)
The Hermitage, Ovingham	(15 caravans)
Lilswood, Hexhamshire	(15 caravans)
Allendale Station	(40 caravans)
East Lands End, Haydon Bridge	(23 caravans)
Town Foot, Slaley.	

The site at Slaley is leased to the Caravan Club and is therefore outside the scope of the above Act.

A Ministry enquiry was held in October in connection with the application to use Fallowfield Dene as a caravan site. The decision of the Minister has not yet been received.

The proposed use of Barrasford Park as a site to accommodate approximately 150 caravans has not yet received Planning approval.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

From 1st January, 1965 to 31st December, 1965.

Council Housing :

Allocation	255
Maintenance and Management	3497

HOUSING :

Improvement Grants	282
Survey for Improvement.. .. .	152
General	120
Privy Conversions.. .. .	14
Housing Survey	91

SUPERVISION OF FOOD :

Meat Inspection	631
Food Inspection	27
Food Premises	183
Ice-Cream premises	13
Ice-Cream sampling	25

Water Supplies (General)	30
Water Supplies (Sampling)	76
Drainage	33
Testing of Drains	93
Factories Act	32
Pest Control	1971
Infectious Diseases	216
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	11
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	33
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.. .. .	158
Nuisances	133
Refuse Collection	365
Clain Air Act	2
Miscellaneous.. .. .	44
TOTALS	8487

