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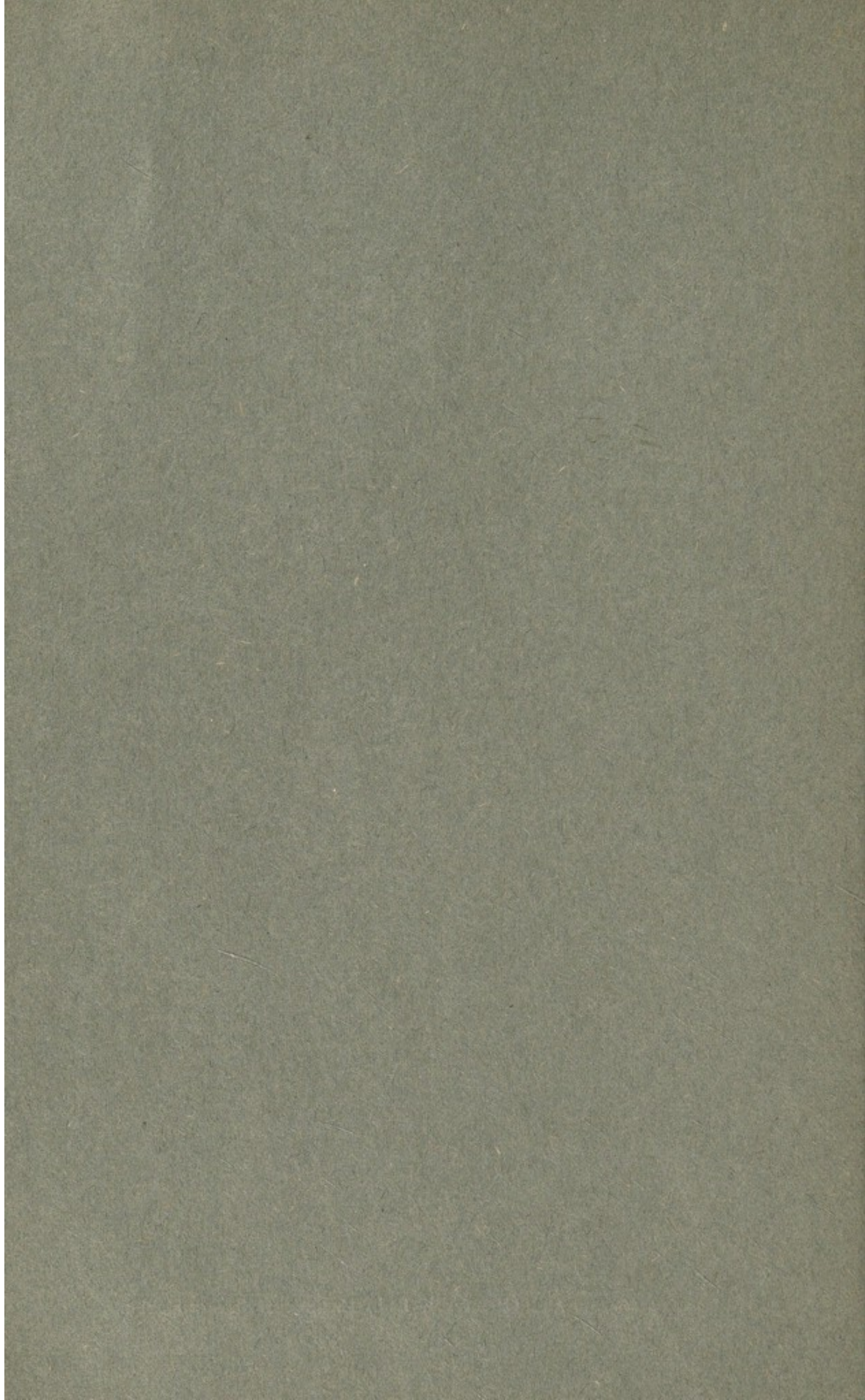


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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
TO THE
Hexham Urban District Council
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.
BY
Dr. G. PATTON.





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HEXHAM.

ton.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hexham Urban
District Council :—*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1937. This report contains the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :—

The Public Health Staff of the Local Authority comprises one whole-time Medical Officer, who holds the Diploma of Public Health, one Sanitary Inspector, who is also Town Surveyor and holds the Diplomas A.M.I.C.E., R.S.I., and one Health Visitor.

In the past days, many owners of business properties lived over their premises. In the course of time, these were found unsuitable for habitation, and, as is often the case, the upper portions have become tenemented. Almost without exception, these places are entirely unsuitable for such purpose. Some possibly could be converted into flats, but this is usually a costly business and at the best a makeshift. It will therefore be necessary to empty them in most cases by means of "Partial Closing Orders" and subsequent re-housal of their tenants.

The survey under the 1935 Housing Act to determine the amount of overcrowding existing was undertaken during the year previous to the one under review. In accordance with the Act, a considerable number of houses will also have to be provided to relieve this evil.

The health of the town calls for no special mention.

The total for all notifiable infectious diseases being 37 against 152 for the previous year. The incidence of Tuberculosis also shows a decrease, the number of deaths from the cause being also reduced. The Infant Mortality Rate shows an increase this year, being 132.2 per thousand births, compared with 59.6 for the previous year.

The standard of nutrition of children of school age is improving, and this I attribute to a large extent to the increasing advantage being taken of cheap milk in the schools. With this as a pointer, I consider it little short of a tragedy that the retail price of milk remains so high. If surplus milk can be sold to manufacturers at a very low figure, it is surely not beyond the ability of the Milk Marketing Board to devise some means of cheapening it to the domestic consumer. In my opinion, the price of domestic milk is at least one-third too high, and until the figure is reduced by this amount, the Board cannot claim to have succeeded.

The incidence of infectious diseases show a great reduction. There were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, compared with 117, and 2 cases of Diphtheria compared with 17 for the previous year.

During the year under review, the County Authority took over the administration of Maternity and Child Welfare Work. Arrangements have been made by them to build a large and modern Welfare Centre at Hexham, which it is hoped may be completed by the end of the year 1938.

There was one Maternal Death during the year under review.

As I stated in my last reports, this Council adopted a scheme for immunisation of all children against Diphtheria. I should like to see more parents take advantage of it (it is entirely without cost to them), but such is unfortunately by no means the case.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. PATTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sec. A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	5,926
Estimated Population, 1937	...	...	...	9,146
Number of Inhabited Houss, end of 1937, according to Rate Book	...	...	...	2,600
Rateable Value and Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (£67,850)	...	...	...	£260

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

No large industries; nothing affecting Public Health.
VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	115	63	52
Illegitimate	6	2	4

STILL BIRTHS.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	—	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population	...	13.2
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	13.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

			Rate per 1,000
		Total (Live and Still)	
		Deaths	Births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
No. 30—Other Puerperal	...	One	4.5
Total	...	One	4.5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	132.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	130.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	166.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	15.8

DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Ward, also Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths.

WARDS.		Gilesgate.	Leazes.	Priestpottle.	Hencotes.	TOTAL.	
AGE GROUPS :—							
0—1	...	4	9	2	1	16	
1—2	...	—	—	—	—	—	
2—5	...	1	—	—	—	1	
5—15	...	—	1	—	—	1	
15—25	...	2	—	—	—	2	
25—45	...	2	2	2	1	7	
45—65	...	9	17	7	8	41	
65—75	...	9	6	7	5	27	
Over 75	...	10	9	14	17	50	
Totals all ages	...	37	44	32	32	145	
Uncert.	M. ...	2	1	2	3	8	
	F. ...	—	1	1	—	2	
Infant	M. ...	2	5	2	1	10	} 145
	F. ...	2	4	—	—	6	
Adult.	M. ...	17	20	16	17	70	} 145
	F. ...	16	15	14	14	59	

The chief causes of death are set out in the following Tables :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gen. Paralysis of Insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12	11
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Circulatory	...	...	...	...	...	9	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Other Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Digestive	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
						80	65
TOTAL ...						145	

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were sixteen deaths of infants under one year of age, as compared with nine in 1936. The Infant Mortality Rate is 132.2 per thousand births compared with 59.6 for 1936.

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

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para-Typhoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58
125 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55
London ...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60
Hexham U.D. ...	13.2	0.32	15.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	0.43	0.1	132

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	10	—	—	2	5	3	—	—	—	7	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	21	3	—	1	2	2	3	3	7	—	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	37	3	—	4	8	5	4	4	9	9	6

GENERAL.—The total of the chief notifiable infectious diseases shows a decrease from the previous year, being 37 against 152.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—The particulars of this disease are given herewith :—

Table showing cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in 1937.

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

(a) Prevention of Blindness.

No special treatment other than the usual Post-Natal treatment.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Cases of Tuberculosis are treated at Wooley Sanatorium and are under the auspices of the Northumberland County Council. A few beds are at their disposal at Dene Street House Hospital, Hexham, when necessary.

Eleven cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year and five deaths occurred.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the diseases are given in the following Form :—

TABLE 9

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1937 :—

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

	Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Gilesgate Ward ...	3	1
Leazes Ward ...	2	—
Priestpottle Ward ...	6	3
Hencotes Ward ...	—	1
	11	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- Laboratory Facilities.—Work of this type is done by the Northumberland County Council, at their Laboratory in Newburn.
- Ambulance Facilities.—One Motor Ambulance is available for Infectious cases. For non-infectious and accident cases, an ambulance is available by arrangement with the Hexham Red Cross Society.
- Nursing in the Home.—A voluntary Association provides district nurses, who also act as Midwives

for the district.

- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.—No such Clinics are provided by the Council. There is an Orthopaedic Clinic at the War Memorial Hospital, for School Children, controlled by the Northumberland County Authorities. There is also a Tuberculosis Dispensary carried on at the War Memorial Hospital, which serves the district for this disease, and is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- (e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.
 - (1) The Isolation Hospital. Final arrangements have been made and a scheme for the provision of a joint Hospital is being arranged.
 - (2) The War Memorial Hospital. This Hospital is supported entirely by public subscription. It has an up-to-date Operating Theatre and X-Ray establishment and receives both Medical and Surgical cases.
 - (3) Dene Street House. Patients are received from the Urban Area. There is accommodation for Maternity cases. Others go to Corbridge Hospital which is about 3 miles away and belongs to the County.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

- (1) Midwifery and Maternity Services.—Two district nurses.
- (2) Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children. For Mothers.—None by the Urban District Council, other than the County Hospital, Dean Street House. For Children.—The Children's Nursery, Hextol Terrace, where they have 35 cots for permanent children.
- (3) Health Visitors.—One Health Visitor who acts as Infant Protection Visitor.

N.B.—This refers only to the first quarter of 1937. These have been delegated to the Northumberland County Council from the 1st April of the year under review.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

GENTLEMEN,—

During the year, 1,090 visits were made to various premises in the district, the outcome of which was the finding of 193 nuisances, all of which were remedied.

Twenty-seven houses have been erected during the year by private enterprise.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply was well maintained during the year, there being an ample supply of water to the whole town.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—This has been well maintained.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—This is done by an efficient staff under an organised system.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. — The necessary particulars are given in the following tables, compiled by the Sanitary Inspector.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Three pail closets were converted to w.c.'s during the year. These were done by private owners.

WORKSHOPS.—There are 71 workshops on the register, and they generally have been found in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.—Thirteen are registered, and the conditions of these houses are good.

ERADICATIONS OF BED BUGS.—During the year, 22 Council Houses and 15 other houses were found to be infested. The method of disinsection being the stripping of all walls of paper, the removal of door frames, skirtings, picture moulds, and in many cases the lifting of wooden floors, after which the houses were fumigated, sprayed and washed with Zaldecide an egg destroying fluid. All defects were made good, timbers thoroughly cleansed and replaced, and the Council houses were painted and distempered ready for occupation. The fifteen other houses were dealt with by various owners.

Before removal to Council houses, the belongings of all proposed tenants were subjected to thorough inspection, and, where vermin has been found, soft goods and bedding have been passed through a steam disin-

factor, and furniture thoroughly cleansed and disinfected during transit.

The work of disinfection has been carried out solely by the Local Authority.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.—Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, regular inspections were carried out during the year, and defects pointed out where necessary.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The Public Slaughter Houses are in good condition, and the killing and preparing are carried out under proper humane and hygienic conditions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. G. LANDALE, A.M.INST., C.E.,
Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	District—Hexham Urban. Inspector—W. G. Landale.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies abolished	...	...	...	...
	" repaired	...	...	...	...
	Privy ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...
	" " roofed or repaired	...	...	...	...
	Pail-closets abolished	...	...	...	...
	Water closets provided	1	2	...	2
	" " repaired	2	...	...	4
Drainage.	Sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	...
	" " renewed	20	...	...	20
	New drains Constructed	...	1	...	1
	Drain repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
	Additional gullies provided	1	...	...	1
	Old gullies replaced	...	3	...	3
	Scullery sinks provided	1	1	...	2
Water Supply	" waste pipes repaired	5	1	...	6
	" " trapped	2	...	...	2
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	1	1	...	2
	Sources closed or discontinued, No. of houses affected, Nil.				
	Nil.				
	New service provided 1	..	..		1
RIVERS POLLUTION :—					
Cases detected:		Particulars			
Remedied, nil.					
S.D. Works provided, nil.					

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

HEXHAM URBAN COUNCIL.

Tabular Statement as required by Article 31, for Year 1937.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

With State Assistance. Unaided. TOTAL.

(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies of Persons	—	27	27
1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:			
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)			300
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			578
(2) a Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925			45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			84
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			10
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation			5
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers			1
3.—ACTION OF STATUTORY POWERS:			
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs			9
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—			
(a) By Owners			Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied			7
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—			
(a) By Owners			7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made			5
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit			Nil
4.—NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE			
			Nil
5.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING:—			
(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year			133
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein			143
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein			612
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year			13
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year			25
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases			144
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			Nil
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report			Nil

W. G. LANDALE, Inspector.

FOOD INSPECTION, 1937.

UNSOUND FOOD.				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
Beef—Home-killed	Stones ...			35		
„ Imported ...	„			...		
Mutton—Home-killed	„			1		
„ Imported	„			...		
Pork ...	„			3		
Bacon ...	Lbs. ...			...		
Fruit ...	Lbs. ...			...		
Other Foods ...	...			...		

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excl'dg Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	602	220	270	2658	1260
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	3	—	1	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ...	—	1·3	—	0·03	0·1

URBAN DISTRICT OF HEXHAM. 1937.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	16	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	100	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	40	...	...
Total	156	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	...	...
Other Nuisances	6	6	...	...
Sanitary accom- insufficient	...	...	...	...
modation unsuitable, defective	6	6	...	...
not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other Offences	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to out- work and offences under the Sec- tions mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	15	15	...	...

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district 27
Approximate number of cows kept 465

