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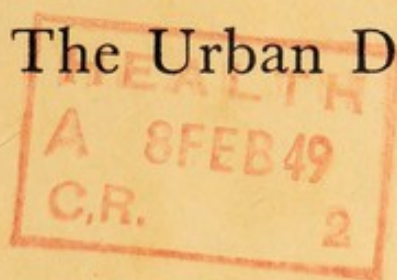
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

J. H. MAUGHAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Urban District Council of Hexham.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947. In so doing, I beg to remind you that the work of which the report gives an account was carried out during the term of office of the late Dr. C. McCulloch and after his death by Drs. J. Hurley and R. Scott. I can claim neither personal knowledge nor any credit for it.

The birth rate is 18.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. While the rate is below the average of 20.5 for England and Wales it has reached the highest figure since 1926.

The death rate is 14.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This figure has again increased and is also higher than the average of 12.0 for England and Wales.

During the year there were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, 7 of which were neonatal death. The infant mortality rate is thus 54.9 per 1,000 live births and compares with 41.0 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

Infectious diseases notified show a decrease over last year, *viz.*, 90 cases against 135. Outstanding among them were 26 cases of acute poliomyelitis and 1 case of acute poliomyelitis with 3 deaths.

There were 6 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, a decrease of 1 from 1946.

The water supply for the area was direct from springs except for the late summer and autumn months when water was supplied from the storage reservoir after sand filtration and chlorination. Regular samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination throughout the year show that the water is of excellent quality in both respects.

Sewage disposal continued as in previous years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. MAUGHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,926
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	9,830

Social Conditions including Industries carried on in the Area.

HOUSING.

Of the applications received to the end of the year for Council Houses, 252 were from persons without separate homes of their own. Of these approximately 20 per cent. were also living under conditions of overcrowding.

INDUSTRIES.

There are no large industries in the district.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.			M.		F.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	...	...	98	...	79	... 177
Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	3	... 5
						182

STILL BIRTHS			M.		F.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	...	...	—	...	4	... 4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	... —
						4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	18.5
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	18.9

DEATHS.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puer. and post-abortion sepsis	...	...	...	Nil.
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	54.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	50.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	200.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and all ages)	...	...	...	14.3

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

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1 ...	6	4	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—5 ...	1	—	—	—
5—15...	1	2	—	—
15—25...	1	1	—	—
25—45...	8	2	—	—
45—65...	15	5	1	2
65—75...	16	17	2	2
Over 75	23	28	2	2
	71	59	5	6

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tub. of resp. system	3	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Measles	—	—
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph	—	3
Ac. inf. enceph	—	—
Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	—	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
Cancer of breast	—	2
Cancer of all other sites	6	2
Diabetes	—	—
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	13	10
Heart diseases	29	22
Other dis. of circ. system	2	2
Bronchitis	—	2
Pneumonia	2	—
Other resp. dis.	1	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive dis.	—	1
Nephritis	2	2
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	2	2
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	2	2
Suicide	—	—
Road Traffic Accident	2	1
Other violent causes	3	—
All other causes	5	10
	76	65
TOTAL	141	

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1947.

	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 & Paratyphoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	20.5	0.50	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.09	5.8	41
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	23.3	0.62	13.0	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.09	8.0	47
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	22.2	0.54	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	3.7	36
London Adm. County	22.7	0.49	12.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	4.8	37
Hexham U.D. ...	18.5	0.41	14.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.5	54.9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	5	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	13	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	29	1	3	10	13	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	2	1	2	13	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Polio-myelitis ...	26	—	—	2	14	3	5	1	1
Polio-encephalitis... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	90	3	4	16	44	6	11	4	2

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1947 :—

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	2	—	—	3	—	—	1

		Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward ...	...	3	1
Leazes Ward ...	...	—	2
Priestpottle Ward ...	...	3	—
Hencotes Ward ...	...	—	1
		6	4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1947.

No of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during year ended 31st December, 1947.			Total No. of children who were given a secondary injection.
Age at date of final injection.		Total	During year ended 31st December, 1947.
Under 5	5—14		
102	8	110	309

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

No. of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.								
Age at 31/12/47, i.e., Born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5—9 1938-1942	10—14 1933-1937	Total Under 15
Number immunised ...	8	123	170	139	129	659	499	1727
Estimated mid-year child population 1947 ...	692					1235		
Percentage of child population immunised ...	82%					94%		

REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

(Hugh Mitchell).

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Factories, Inspections and Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ (Bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	...	26
Farms, Dairies, Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	115
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Disinfestation of Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	381
Drainage, Choked	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ New Works	...	...	...	...	...	40
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	29
Houses Inspected (Including Public Health)	...	...	...	...	...	139
„ „ (Revisits)	...	...	...	...	...	179
„ Filthy	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Verminous and Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	11
House to House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	80
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	367
Shops, Foodstores	...	...	...	...	...	197
Markets and Marts	...	...	...	...	...	57
Infectious Diseases Visits and Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	33
Other Public Health Visits and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	121
TOTAL						1,894

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	Hexham Urban District.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total	
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished... ..	2	—	—	2	
	„ repaired	—	—	—	—	
	Privy ashpits abolished	—	—	—	—	
	„ „ roofed or repaired	—	—	—	—	
	Pail-closets abolished	6	—	—	6	
	Water closets provided	14	2	—	16	
	„ „ repaired	7	8	—	15	
Drainage	Sanitary bins provided	83	12	—	95	
	„ „ renewed	—	—	—	—	
	New drains constructed	40	—	—	40	
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	9	15	—	24	
	Additional gullies provided	42	—	—	42	
	Old gullies replaced	13	—	—	13	
	Scullery sinks provided	5	7	—	12	
Water supply	„ waste pipes repaired	6	—	—	6	
	„ „ trapped	—	—	—	—	
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	—	1	—	1	
	Sources closed or discontinued	2	No. of houses affected			5
	New service provided	8	„	„	„	8

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD					Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
					sts. lbs.		
1.	Beef (Home-killed)...	...	...	sts.	3,838 6	Nil	Nil
2.	" (Imported) ...	...	...	"	292 3	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-killed)	...	...	"	283 2	—	—
4.	" (Imported)	...	...	"	Nil	—	—
5.	Pork	...	...	"	26 10	—	—
6.	Game...	...	...	lbs.	Nil	—	—
7.	Poultry	...	...	"	Nil	—	—
8.	Fish ...	...	...	"	151	—	—
9.	Fruit ...	...	...	"	495	—	—
					lbs. ozs.		
10.	Canned goods	...	...	...	1,569 9	—	—
11.	Bacon	...	...	lbs.	1 5	—	—
12.	Cheese	...	...	"	9 0	—	—
13.	Butter	...	...	"	Nil	—	—
14.	Lard	...	...	"	Nil	—	—
15.	Eggs	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
16.	Other foods	...	...	...	388 8	—	—
TOTAL ... 4,627 st. 3 lbs. 6 ozs.							

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows ...	12,727	13,150	25,877
Other Animals...	11,644	24,645	36,289
TOTAL ...	24,371	37,795	62,166

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR.

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1,614	84	4,219	57	5,974

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**INSPECTIONS (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	36	42	2	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	47	33	3	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	83	75	5	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Pro- secutions.
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Homework)	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	14	—	—	—

HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	—	1	1
1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :			
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)			139
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation			Nil
(3) 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 ...			52
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			29
3.—Action under Statutory Powers :			
(A) <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring repairs ...			Nil
(2) No. 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) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>			
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied			1
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	—		Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...			Nil
(C) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			Nil
(D) <i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:</i>			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made			Nil
(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			
			1

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	...	26
Approximate number of cows kept	... ..	570

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS,
1936 and 1946.

Supplementary Licences Granted (" Pasteurised ")	...	3
Dealer's Licences Granted (" Tuberculin Tested ")	...	1

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Renewals of Licence to Slaughter	... ..	12
New Licences Granted	... ..	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Administered by the Urban District Council of Hexham (with their consent) under delegated powers by resolution of the County Council of Northumberland.

Number of Rats killed	... ..	9,290
Number of Mice killed	... ..	1,652
TOTAL	... ..	<u>10,942</u>

DISINFECTION.

Premises after cases of Scarlet Fever	... ..	3
" " " " Tuberculosis	... ..	4
" " " " Diphtheria	... ..	1
" " " " Erysipelas	... ..	1
" " " " Carcinoma	... ..	1
" " " " Poliomyelitis	... ..	11
School Rooms and Outbuildings	... ..	7
Bedding, etc., Lots	... ..	18
Bedding Destroyed (Lots)	... ..	3



