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The Urban District Council of Hexham



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

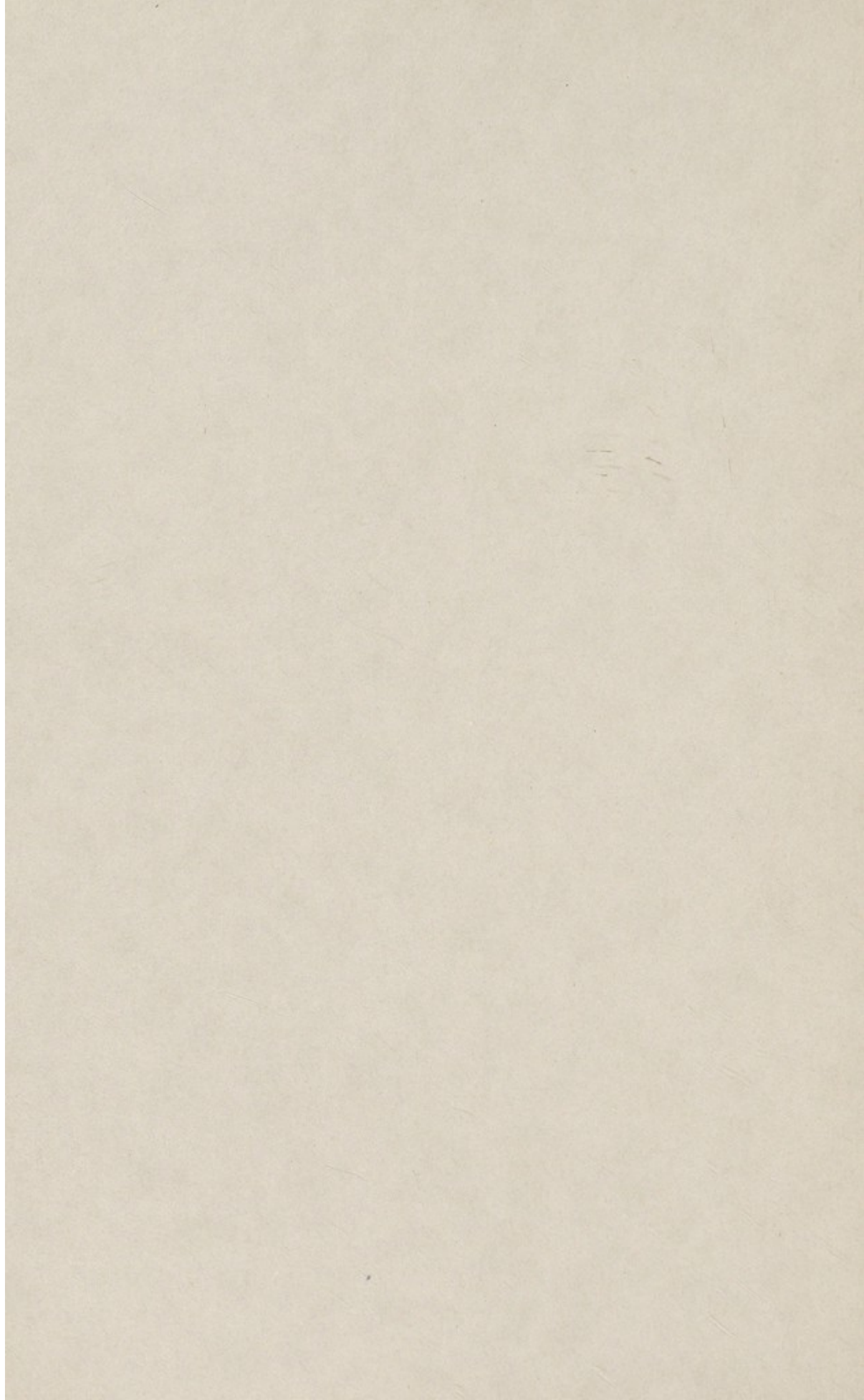
THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

For the Year 1951.

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

Medical Officer of Health.



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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

During the year, 131 live births and 126 deaths, including 5 deaths of infants under one year of age, occurred in the district. These figures give a live birth rate of 14.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a general death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population and an infant mortality rate of 38.2 per 1,000 live births.

Compared with last year, these figures show that there has been a drop in the birth rate, a very slight drop in the general death rate and also a drop in the infant mortality rate. In considering the infant mortality rate, it must be borne in mind that this rate is based on small numbers and in consequence can be misleading.

It is of interest to note that of the 126 deaths, more than half were of persons over 70 years of age and two-thirds of the deaths were due to malignant neoplasms and diseases of the circulatory system. Of the 5 deaths of infants under one year of age, 1 was due to a chest condition and 3 were due to the hazards of birth.

During the year, 54 cases of notifiable diseases were notified. This figure includes 5 cases of tuberculosis which compare with 12 cases notified last year.

It will be observed that during the last four years no cases of diphtheria have been notified as having occurred in the district. This is undoubtedly due to the success of the immunisation of children against diphtheria, but it must never be forgotten that the absence of the disease does not

mean its absolute elimination. Freedom from diphtheria is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtherial outbreaks, of the possibility of which there was a sharp reminder on Tyneside towards the end of the year.

During the months of August, September and October, in order to maintain the supply, water was pumped from the Rowley Burn into the Wydon Burn Reservoir. The only restrictions required during this time in the use of water were on the watering of gardens and the washing of cars by hose and on the swilling of yards.

Sewage disposal facilities are unchanged and sewage from the town continues to be treated by three sewage works. Repairs and modifications continue to be carried out to improve the efficiency of the works.

During the year 39 houses were completed by the Council and 21 cases of over-crowding were abated.

In concluding this report, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the interest they have shown in the work of my department and for their unfailing support during the year.

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	..	..	..	..	..	9,264

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.		M.		F.		TOTAL.
Legitimate	..	64	..	66	..	130
Illegitimate	..	—	..	1	..	1
						131

STILL BIRTHS.		M.		F.		TOTAL.
Legitimate	..	1	..	2	..	3
Illegitimate	..	—	..	—	..	—
						3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	14.1
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	14.5

DEATHS.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

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

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Legitimate infants	..	..	..	..	4
Illegitimate Infants	..	..	..	..	1
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	38.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and all ages)	..	..	..	..	13.6

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

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	1	4	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—
25—45	5	3	—	—
45—50	1	1	—	—
50—55	5	—	—	—
55—60	3	2	—	—
60—65	5	2	1	—
65—70	6	6	1	1
70—75	8	9	1	—
75—80	14	9	2	—
80—85	10	13	—	1
85—90	5	6	—	—
90—95	—	—	—	—
95—100	—	—	—	—
Over 100	—	—	—	—
	64	55	5	2

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of resp. system	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
" " lung, bronchus	2	1
" " breast	—	—
" " uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	13	3
Hypertension with heart disease	9	2
Other heart disease	12	10
Other circulatory disease	2	2
Influenza	4	2
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	12
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	4	1
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	69	57
Total	126	

INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1951.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
All causes { Certified ...	3	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2
{ Uncertified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS ...	3	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1931	17.7	13.7	44.8
1932	14.9	13.1	112.8
1933	12.4	14.4	62.5
1934	13.9	12.5	88.7
1935	13.7	12.3	80.6
1936	16.6	13.4	59.6
1937	13.2	15.8	132.2
1938	14.0	13.5	47.2
1939	12.1	15.6	36.6
1940	12.8	13.4	43.4
1941	12.6	13.3	93.9
1942	11.9	12.9	64.5
1943	13.2	12.8	50.7
1944	14.0	13.6	37.5
1945	13.2	11.8	15.4
1946	16.6	12.4	18.5
1947	18.5	14.3	54.9
1948	17.7	12.2	12.4
1949	13.9	17.3	39.4
1950	16.0	13.7	53.0
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1951.

	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 and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Smallpox	Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	Pneumonia	Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.36	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.61	1.4	29.6
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	17.3	0.45	13.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.01	0.65	1.6	33.9
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	16.7	0.38	12.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.31	0.38	0.00	0.01	0.63	1.0	27.6
London Adm. County	17.8	0.37	13.1	—	0.01	0.00	0.38	0.23	—	0.00	0.61	0.7	26.4
Hexham Urban Dist.	14.1	0.32	13.6	—	—	—	0.11	0.64	—	—	0.22	—	38.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1951.

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
Scarlet Fever ...	6	—	—	2	7	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	—	3	10	4	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	10	1	2	4	2	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	49	1	5	16	15	2	6	3	1

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1951 :—

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	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—

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

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL.

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total cases—Nil. Total deaths—Nil.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE.

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total cases—Nil. Total deaths—Nil.

SINGLE CASES.

Agent identified—Nil. Unknown cause—Nil. Total—Nil.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

1. Hospitals.

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2. Ambulance Service.

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

3. Home Help Service.

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders 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.

4. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held in the district :—

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC :—Central Methodist Church Hall, Friday, 9-30 a.m.—12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m.—4-0 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—Hexham General Hospital, first three Wednesdays in every month, 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 district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

(HUGH MITCHELL)

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Factories and Workplaces	149
Milk and Dairies	64
Drainage Works : Choked	5
Reconstructed	33
New	31
Sanitary Conveniences	46
Water Supply	103
Food Premises	238
Shops	67
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	462
Moveable Dwellings	24
Keeping of Animals	32
Smoke Nuisances	29
Offensive Trades	12
Offensive Accumulations	18
Markets and Marts	24
Housing Visits, including Public Health and Housing Acts ..	176
Common Lodging Houses	12
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	421
TOTAL ..	1,946

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	Hexham Urban District.	By Informal Action	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies and Privy ashpits abolished	4	—	4
	„ repaired	—	—	—
	Pail-closets abolished	—	—	—
	Water closets provided	18	—	18
	Sanitary bins provided	54	—	54
	„ „ renewed	21	—	21
Drainage	New drains constructed	31	—	31
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	38	—	38
	Additional gullies provided	27	—	27
	Old gullies replaced	19	—	19
	Scullery sinks provided	3	—	3
	„ waste pipes repaired	2	—	2
	„ „ trapped	—	—	—
Water supply	Yards repaired or reconstructed	4	—	4
	Number of Samples collected 88			
	Sources closed or discontinued Nil. No. of houses affected, Nil			
	New Service provided :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	45	No. of houses	45
	(b) By Private Owner	9	No. of houses	9
	Number of Dwelling Houses supplied by :—			
	(a) Internal Tap or	...	...	54
	(b) Standpipe	...	...	Nil

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD					Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
					sts.	lbs.	
1.	Beef (Home-killed)...	...	...	...	5,072	8	Nil
2.	" (Imported) ...	...	...	...	Nil		—
3.	Mutton (Home-killed)	...	...	...	277	3	—
4.	" (Imported)	...	...	...	Nil		—
5.	Pork	...	...	...	130	3	—
6.	Game...	...	...	...	Nil		—
7.	Poultry	...	...	...	Nil		—
					lbs.	ozs.	
8.	Fish ...	...	...	...	286	0	—
9.	Fruit ...	...	...	...	Nil		—
10.	Canned goods	...	...	...	1402	10	—
11.	Bacon	...	...	...	79	2	—
12.	Cheese	...	...	...	39	9	—
13.	Butter	...	...	...	Nil		—
14.	Lard	...	...	...	Nil		—
15.	Eggs	...	...	...	Nil		—
16.	Other foods	...	...	...	320	4	—
TOTAL ...					5,631 st.	13 lbs. 9 ozs.	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR.

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1,944	84	4,293	409	6,730

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows ...	15,151	26,857	42,008
Other Animals...	11,407	23,305	34,712
TOTAL ...	26,558	50,162	76,720

PERCENTAGE OF UNSOUND MEAT—2.78%

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excl'dg. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed	1604	340	84	4293	409
Dressed and Undressed Carcases	5	20	4	73	8
Number inspected ..	1609	360	88	4366	417
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	15	26	19	50	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	341	176	10	172	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercul- osis	22.1	56.1	32.9	5.1	7.9
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	12	20	2	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	133	75	1	—	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	9.0	26.3	3.4	—	3.8

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS.

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Whole Carcasses condemned	23	28	25	20
Part Carcasses or Organs affected	85	60	57	75
Percentage affected ..	35.7%	31.7%	26.3%	26.3%

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

INSPECTIONS (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

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... ..	12	26	2	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	69	107	3	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	9	16	—	—
TOTAL ...	90	149	5	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Pro- secutions instituted.
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	1	—	—	1	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	7	9	—	4	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	1	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	17	—	9	—

HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority	39	—	39
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ...	6	9	15

1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	57
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(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 ...	27

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	18
--	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers :

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(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) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(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) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :*

(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) *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	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	...	...	...	...	...	1
4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20).

(a) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	...	...	2
(b) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	...	...	Nil

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Number of premises inspected	..	..	125
Number of surface infestations treated..	..	80	
Number of visits and revisits	..	..	421
Estimated number of rodents destroyed	..	1,757	

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers Licences granted, Pasteurised	..	..	3
Dealers Licences granted, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	..	..	3

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers Licences granted..	..	..	3
Supplementary Licences granted	..	..	1

MILK SAMPLES.

Number collected :—

(a) For Methylene Blue Test	..	..	138
(b) For Biological Report	..	..	25
(c) Phosphatase	..	..	3

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Renewals of Licence to Slaughter	..	..	17
New Licences Granted	..	..	Nil

DISINFECTION.

Scarlet Fever (Premises)	..	..	8
Bedding Steam Disinfected	..	..	Lots 3



