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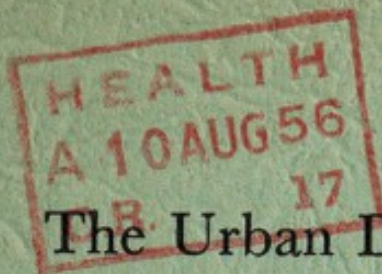
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The Urban District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

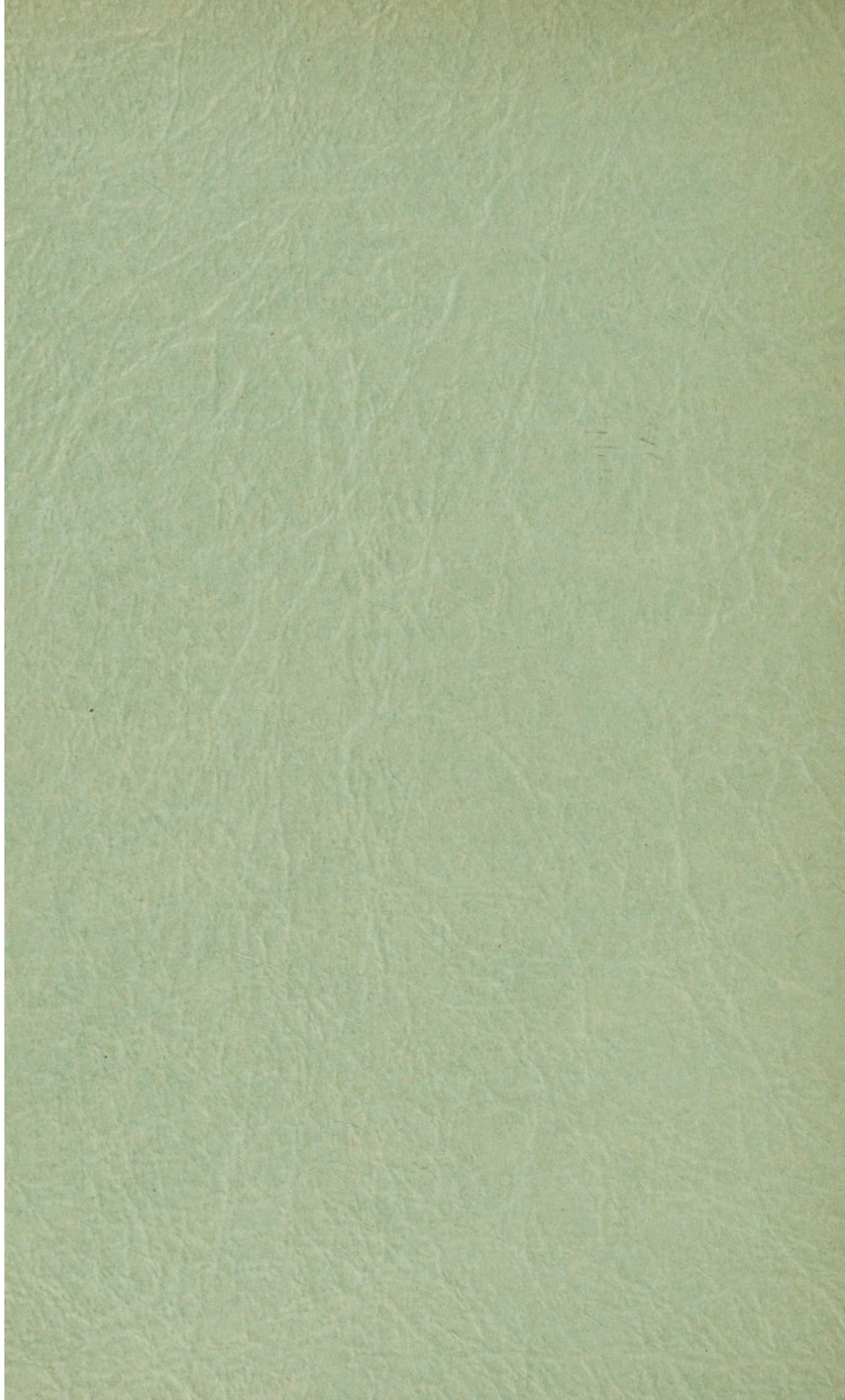
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1955

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

Medical Officer of Health





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Medical Officer of Health

STAFF

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

Medical Officer of Health

H. MITCHELL

Senior Sanitary Inspector

J. K. PATTERSON

Assistant Sanitary Inspector

A. SUMMERS Clerk

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Hexham Urban District during 1955.

There has been no change requiring mention in the circumstances of the area during the year. The population remains almost stationary, an increase of 10 giving an estimated mid-year population of 9,390.

The birth rate of 14.4 per 1,000 population compares with 15.00 per 1,000 for England and Wales, but the general death rate also is lower, being 10.7 per 1,000 population for the district and 11.7 per 1,000 for England and Wales. There were three deaths under the age of one year, one of these being below the age of one month. The infant mortality rate of 22.3 per 1,000 total births compares satisfactorily with the national rate of 24.9 per 1,000. As usual, the commonest cause of death was heart disease, which in one form or another caused almost half the deaths. Cancer accounted for 16 deaths, including one death from cancer of the lung. There were again no deaths from tuberculosis.

The main infectious diseases notified were measles and whooping cough, which were prevalent throughout the country. There were a number of cases of dysentery occurring in epidemic form in a private school; the ordinary methods of infectious disease control brought this outbreak to an end. One case only of poliomyelitis was notified, a mild infection in an adult early in the year. There was a marked increase in the notification of tuberculosis, but this need not cause concern. As the prospects of treatment improve, early diagnosis becomes of increasing importance, and the more hopeful outlook means that there is less reluctance to attend early in the disease. Public X-ray sessions at the Chest Clinic at Hexham General Hospital were opened in May, 1955. By the end of the year some 500 people had attended from Hexham, and four cases of tuberculosis were found by this means. B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible school children was also begun during 1955, and these measures, together with the investigation of all contacts, should help to bring the disease under control.

On January 11th the river Tyne rose and flooded six houses. Steps were taken to deal with possible infection, and no ill-effects on health resulted.

The very dry summer of 1955 led to difficulty in maintaining the water supply to Hexham, as it did to many other places. Wydon Burn Reservoir had to meet a deficiency in the incoming supply from the end of February until the middle of December and the level of the water in it reached the lowest ever recorded. Pumping from Rowley Burn had to be carried on from June until December, which is two months longer than would normally be expected. Regular samples showed that the water supply throughout the year was of satisfactory quality.

Improvements to the sewage disposal works at Tyne Green were continued but the Council decided that in order to expedite the work done here and at Peth Head it would be necessary to apply for a loan. Plans were therefore prepared by the Surveyor for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of both works.

In presenting this report I should like to record my appreciation of the interest taken in the work of my department by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and the support they have given me. Dr. J. J. Hurley continues to act in my absence, and his experience and knowledge of the district are valuable assets. The section of the report dealing with water supply and sewage disposal has been supplied by Mr. Hancocks, the Engineer and Surveyor. I am grateful for the help I have received from him and from the other officials. I would again record the efficiency of the Sanitary Inspectors and the smooth working of the Health Department.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,926
Estimated Population	9,390

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	TOTAL
Legitimate	66	65	131
Illegitimate	1	2	3
			134

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

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ..	14.2
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.4

DEATHS :

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
Puer. and post-abort.-sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes (Haemorrhage)	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age—

Legitimate infants	3
Illegitimate Infants	Nil
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births..	22.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
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)	10.7

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

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	2	1	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—
25—45	3	1	—	—
45—50	—	2	—	—
50—55	3	4	—	—
55—60	4	1	—	—
60—65	3	8	1	—
65—70	9	4	—	—
70—75	11	15	—	—
75—80	8	10	—	1
80—85	6	6	—	—
85—90	4	4	—	1
90—95	2	2	—	—
95—100	—	1	—	—
	55	59	1	2

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of resp. system.. .. .	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
" " lung, bronchus	1	—
" " breast	—	3
" " uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	8
Coronary disease, angina	12	12
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart disease	8	12
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	3
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	56	61
TOTAL	117	

INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

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.
I	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 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marasmus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All causes { Certified ..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3
{ Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTALS ..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
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
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1955.

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	Age not known
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	18	1	—	5	11	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	103	—	7	37	55	—	—	—	4	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	15	—	—	1	11	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	147	1	8	44	78	3	3	—	4	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1935-1955.

Year	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Ac. Pneumonia	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis	Acute Polio-encephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Smallpox	Paratyphoid Fevers	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningitis
1935	57	—	20	—	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	11	—	—
1936	117	—	17	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
1937	10	—	2	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1938	32	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
1939	25	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
1940	11	—	10	212	10	12	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—
1941	20	39	80	46	14	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1942	12	1	15	6	39	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1943	17	7	3	116	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1944	18	1	17	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
1945	34	—	1	8	7	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1946	7	24	1	93	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1947	6	18	1	29	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
1948	7	31	1	60	4	4	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	—
1949	12	7	—	8	10	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—
1950	14	7	—	298	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1951	9	18	—	10	7	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1952	5	17	—	143	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1953	29	51	—	86	7	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
1954	5	14	—	6	5	—	3	—	—	24	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1935-1955.

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
1935	14	6	5	5
1936	8	5	7	2
1937	8	3	4	1
1938	9	5	2	1
1939	10	4	6	1
1940	6	2	6	—
1941	11	1	3	—
1942	6	2	6	—
1943	15	2	4	—
1944	10	1	4	—
1945	8	2	5	—
1946	6	1	4	1
1947	6	—	3	1
1948	7	4	6	1
1949	6	6	1	—
1950	7	5	2	—
1951	3	2	1	—
1952	4	2	—	—
1953	5	8	1	—
1954	4	1	—	—
1955	14	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1955:—

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 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	8	6	1	1	—	—	—	—

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward ...	1	—
Leazes Ward ...	3	—
Priestpottle Ward ...	9	—
Hencotes Ward ...	3	—
	16	—

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL

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

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

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

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons ..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(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:—Community Centre, Haugh Lane, 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	330
Milk and Dairies	77
Drainage Works: Alterations/Additions	65
New Construction	78
Defective	32
Sanitary Conveniences	68
Water Supply	92
Food Premises	411
Shops	140
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	763
Moveable Dwellings	73
Keeping of Animals	41
Smoke Nuisances	54
Offensive Trades	48
Housing Visits, including Public Health and Housing Acts ..	331
Common Lodging Houses.. .. .	19
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	412
TOTAL	3,034

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances**Drainage Works**

New drains constructed	39
Alterations/Additions	38
Defective drains repaired	5
Septic tanks/Filters provided (privy conversions)	2

Sanitary Conveniences

Privies abolished	3
Additional baths provided	20
Additional sinks provided	26

Drain Testing

All sewers and drains are tested by smoke machine or rocket and by hydraulic test.

Water Supply

Number of samples collected from public services	69
Number of samples collected from private supplies	4

All samples are despatched within six hours of collection to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, for bacteriological report.

Notifiable Diseases

A number of infectious diseases were investigated during the year, and terminal disinfection was carried out when necessary. Eighty-nine faecal specimens were collected and reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Disinfestation and Disinfection

Verminous houses and premises are dealt with satisfactorily by the application of proprietary insecticides.

A plague of ants was investigated at the General Hospital and after lengthy treatments was successfully eradicated.

The common house fly did not appear to be as prolific as in previous years, although the year 1955 was considered to be a hot and dry one. Precautionary measures were taken as usual however, and household and trade refuse bins were sprayed with insecticides during the early part of the summer.

Flood Relief

The high level of the waters of the river Tyne on January 11th caused serious flooding in a number of houses and premises in the district, including six houses within the administrative area of the Urban Council. Assistance in flood relief was given by the Council and by voluntary organisations.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Number of premises registered to sell ice-cream	40
Number of premises registered during the year	4
Number of ice-cream samples collected	46

Results of grading of samples:

Grade 1	31
Grade 2	8
Grade 3	4
Grade 4	3

Number of samples of other foods collected for bacteriological report	11
---	----

FOOD INSPECTION

	UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
		sts. lb.		
1	Beef (Home-killed)	2666	—	Nil
2	Beef (Imported)	—	—	—
3	Mutton (Home-killed)	158	—	—
4	Mutton (Imported)	—	—	—
5	Pork	81	—	—
6	Game	—	—	—
7	Poultry	—	—	—
		lb. ozs.		
8	Fish	—	—	—
9	Fruit	—	—	—
10	Canned Goods	1076	6	—
11	Bacon	182	—	—
12	Cheese	—	—	—
13	Butter	—	—	—
14	Lard	—	—	—
15	Eggs	—	—	—
16	Other Foods	29	—	—

TOTAL .. 2925 st. 13 lb. 6 ozs.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
2,398	218	5,339	2,872	10,821

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART**

	Cattle excl'dg Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number killed	1,950	443	218	5,339	2,872	Nil
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	1,956	450	218	5,368	2,875	Nil
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	35	14	21	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	165	119	11	104	86	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.8	34.2	11.4	2.3	3.02	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	11	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	72	55	Nil	Nil	25	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected tuberculosis	3.7	14.6	Nil	Nil	.94	Nil
<i>Cystercercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cows	7,417	15,318	22,735
Other Animals	3,153	14,788	17,941
TOTAL ..	10,570	30,106	40,676

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Whole Carcases condemned	23	28	25	20	24	16	22	11
Part Carcases or organs affected	85	60	57	75	38	28	112	55
Percentage affected ..	35.7%	31.7%	26.3%	26.3%	20.2%	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%

Slaughterhouse

The Fatstock Marketing Corporation Ltd., continue to use the slaughterhouse for the slaughter of livestock, and a high proportion of their carcase meat and offal is sent to Newcastle to their own wholesale depots. Local butchers and other private interests also carry out slaughtering to their requirements.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS

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

Dealers Licences granted, "Pasteurised"	4
Dealers Licences granted, "Tuberculin Tested" "Pasteurised"	4
Dealers Licences granted, "Sterilised"	3

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

Dealers Licences granted	3
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MILK SAMPLES

Number collected :

(a) For Methylene Blue Test	130
(b) For Biological Report	40
(c) Phosphatase	23

The pasteurisation plant is working satisfactorily and all samples of milk collected have been reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service as having passed the phosphatase test. The process carried out is the "flash" method of pasteurisation, a method in which the milk is raised to a relatively high temperature for a short time only. The milk, under this method, is retained at a temperature of not less than 162°F. for at least 15 seconds and then immediately cooled.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1955

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	47	Nil	47
(b) By any other Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	24	24

1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Schemes	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas)	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
(3) Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners	5
(4) Parts of buildings closed	6
(5) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings	3

2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing of Public Health Acts:

(1) As a result of informal action	39
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners	Nil

3.—Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	181
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be unfit for human habitation	69
(3) Number of houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation	47

4.—Housing Act, 1949*Improvement Grant:*

Applications submitted to local authority	..	..	19
Applications rejected by local authority	..	..	3
Applications approved	..	..	14
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	..	..	33

5.—Families Rehoused during 1955*Under points scheme:*

From Private houses: Ordinary	..	..	23
Overcrowding	..	..	7
From Council houses: Ordinary	..	..	6
Overcrowding	..	..	6

Decanted from Council houses:

For statutory overcrowding	..	..	8
For moral overcrowding	..	..	7
For under-occupation	..	..	5
For ordinary reasons	..	..	25
For medical reasons	..	..	1
As special cases	..	..	1
Aged Persons' Bungalows	..	..	3

From Private houses:

Closing orders and undertakings	..	..	7
For medical reasons	..	..	3
Eviction orders	..	..	3
Special cases	..	..	2

Aged Persons:

From private houses	..	..	1
From Council houses	..	..	3

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954*Certificates of Disrepair:*

Number of applications for certificates	..	..	2
Number granted	..	..	2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Number of primary inspections and surveys	116
Number of treatments carried out: ..	
Dwelling houses	26
Business premises	19
Agricultural (including allotments)	8
Local authority premises and lands (including schools and hospitals)	10
Number of visits and revisits	296

With the exception of the post-war development at Priestlands, the entire sewerage system of the town was examined and all manholes were baited and treated accordingly where necessary.

The new development was given a 10 per cent. test baiting in accordance with the wishes of the rodent infestation division of the Ministry.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted 3

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-1954

Renewals of Licence to Slaughter	12
New Licences granted	1

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.. .. .	11	49	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	241	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ..	17	69	—	—
TOTAL	100	359	—	—

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	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature..	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	6	6	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	2	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	6	5	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	7	7	—	—	—
TOTAL	35	31	—	—	—



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