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The Urban District Council of Hexham



ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

For the Year 1957.

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

Medical Officer of Health.



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STAFF

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

Medical Officer of Health

H. MITCHELL Senior Public Health Inspector

J. K. PATTERSON Assistant Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS Clerk

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Hexham during 1957.

The circumstances of the district did not change appreciably during the year. Hexham remains what it has been for many years, the market town and the central point for a large agricultural area. It would benefit from further light industry, but none is forthcoming although Hexham appears to have the necessary qualities to attract such industry. In other ways there is little change, the population remaining almost constant having regard to the natural increase.

The birth rate is slightly higher than in 1956, but is still rather below the average for the country. The infant mortality rate is very close to the national figure, which continues to fall slowly. Of four deaths in infancy, three can be considered non-preventable, being due to congenital malformation or prematurity. The general death rate is a little higher than that for the country as a whole, but shows no features of particular interest. Again over half the deaths are due to diseases of the heart or circulation, and almost half the deaths were at ages 70 or over. There were 15 deaths from cancer during 1957 compared with 22 during 1956, and 1 death of lung cancer compared with 3 such deaths in 1956, but no significant conclusions can be based on annual variations.

As the years pass, less and less comment is called for on the incidence of infectious disease. Measles, which was prevalent throughout the country, accounted for most of the notifications during 1957. Scarlet fever continues to occur as isolated cases, and causes little anxiety. Much more anxiety was felt at the approach of an epidemic of influenza, but though there many cases the disease was relatively mild and of short duration. The disease is reflected, however, in the notification of nine cases of pneumonia mostly in elderly people, but the number of deaths from pneumonia is no higher than in previous years. Few cases of tuberculosis were notified, and there was only one death, from non-pulmonary disease.

As the incidence of infectious diseases declines the prevention of those remaining becomes of more importance, and prevention must continue against those already pre-

ventable. Smallpox remains a danger in that only a proportion of children are vaccinated, and with air travel there is a constant risk from persons incubating the disease entering the country. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, if not entirely prevented, is modified. The more wide-spread methods of preventing tuberculosis continue, but progress here will be slower. Poliomyelitis is particularly dreaded on account of the risk of death or permanent paralysis, and immunisation against it has been widely accepted in the district. Those children in the first registration group were given protection with British vaccine during 1957.

Proposals to augment the water supply by bulk purchase of water, which would leave control of the water undertaking with the Council, were not acceptable to the Ministry of Health, and negotiations continued during the year with a view to handing over the supply system to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, which will become the statutory water undertaking for South-West Northumberland. The loss of control of another service by the Council is to be regretted, but the new scheme will provide an abundant supply of pure water to meet all the foreseeable needs of the town. Supplementation by water from the Rowley Burn, drawn on from April to August in 1957, will no longer be required.

Maintenance has continued at the sewage disposal works, but with the building of many new houses and water carriage now general, the works are inadequate. The preliminary steps have been taken towards extension and major improvement of the plant.

Relatively few Council houses were completed during 1957, but many more were building. At the end of the year the Council owned 928 houses, almost one-third of the houses in the town. In spite of this, the waiting list is still considerable and further houses are desirable, particularly for the elderly.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and interest and to acknowledge the co-operation I have received from the officials. I am especially grateful to the Public Health Staff for their efficiency and helpfulness.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,932
Estimated Population.. .. .	9,390

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	76	63	139
Illegitimate	5	3	8

 147

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

 4

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.4

Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.9

Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population 16.1

DEATHS :

Total Deaths 124

Deaths from maternal causes Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate infants 4

Illegitimate infants Nil.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births 27.2

Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births 23.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 15

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages) 12.2

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 and as to their certification :—

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	1	3	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—5	2	—	—	—
5—15	3	2	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—
25—45	2	1	—	—
45—50	—	2	—	—
50—55	4	4	—	—
55—60	5	2	—	—
60—65	5	4	—	—
65—70	12	6	—	—
70—75	5	11	—	—
75—80	10	5	—	—
80—85	12	7	—	3
85—90	3	6	—	—
90—95	—	3	—	—
95—100	1	—	—	—
	65	56	—	3

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of resp. system.. .. .	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—
" " lung, bronchus	1	1
" " breast	—	3
" " uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	13
Coronary disease, angina	11	5
Hypertension with heart disease	—	4
Other heart disease	6	8
Other circulatory disease	4	5
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	7
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	—
All causes	65	59
TOTAL	124	

INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
All causes { (Certified 2 Uncertified —	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	4
GRAND TOTALS	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	4

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
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
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1957.

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 ...	8	1	1	3	5					
Whooping Cough ...	1	1								
Diphtheria ...										
Measles ...	102	1	7	40	54	1		3	4	
Pneumonia ...	9		1							
Cerebro-spinal Fever										
Acute poliomyelitis										
Acute polioencephalitis										
Acute Encephalitis										
Lethargica ...										
Dysentery ...	3				3					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...										
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Smallpox ...										
Paratyphoid Fever										
Typhoid Fever										
Erysipelas ...	1							1		
Food Poisoning										
Meningitis										
Malaria										
TOTALS ...	124	2	8	43	62	1	—	4	4	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1937-1957.

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 Typhoid or Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningitis
1937	10	—	2	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1938	32	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
1939	25	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
1940	11	—	10	212	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
1941	20	—	80	46	14	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1942	12	39	15	6	39	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1943	17	1	3	116	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1944	18	7	17	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1945	34	1	1	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1946	7	—	1	93	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1947	9	18	1	29	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1948	7	31	—	60	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	—
1949	12	7	—	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—
1950	14	7	—	298	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	9	18	—	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1952	5	17	—	143	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1953	29	51	—	86	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1954	5	14	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1956	1	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1957	8	1	—	102	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1937-1957.

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
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	—	—
1956	7	4	1	—
1957	6	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1957:—

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 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	1

		Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward ...	...	2	—
Leazes Ward ...	...	—	—
Priestpoppole Ward ...	...	3	—
Hencotes Ward ...	...	2	1
		7	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.

1. Hospitals

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 : — Abbey House, Hexham,
Friday, 9-30 a.m.—12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m.—4-0 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—Abbey House, Hexham, first three
Wednesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

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 PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(HUGH MITCHELL)

During the year 1957, two important Acts which concern the health department were promulgated, the Rent Act 1957 and the Housing Act 1957.

The Rent Act 1957 received Royal Assent on 6th June, 1957, and came into force on 6th July, 1957. The main object of the Act is to provide for the gradual removal of rent control for certain houses, and the local authority has the important duty of giving a certificate of disrepair in any case where a landlord does not carry out necessary repairs to a house.

The Housing Act 1957 came into force on the 1st September, 1957, and is a consolidating Act, and does not alter the previous law. It is based mainly on the 1936 Housing Act but also on some other fifteen Acts

At the Council's Abattoir in Wanless Lane, work continues to run smoothly, the prime users being the Fatstock Marketing Corporation who have provided refrigeration accommodation of 700 cubic feet capacity. This is a necessary item in any meat undertaking, and has added to the efficiency of the Slaughterhouse, and private butchers using the Abattoir have been offered cold storage facilities by the Corporation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food recognise the Abattoir as a Deadweight Certification Centre (No. 3090), and continue to station a grading officer there.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces	281
Milk and Dairies	81
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions	53
New Constructions	25
Defective	51
Sanitary Conveniences	47
Water Supply	138
Food Premises	675
Shops	136
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	836
Moveable Dwellings	64
Keeping of Animals	49
Smoke Nuisances	37
Offensive Trades	24
Housing Visits, including Public Health and Housing Acts	123
Common Lodging Houses	17
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	330

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

New drains constructed	..	..	..	7
Alterations/Additions	..	..	..	23
Defective drains repaired	..	..	..	17
Septic Tanks—Filters provided (privy conversions)	..	..	..	2

Sanitary Conveniences

Privies abolished	..	..	..	3
Additional baths provided	..	..	..	23
Additional sinks provided	..	..	..	32

Testing of Drains

All sewers and drains are tested by smoke under pressure or by hydraulic test.

Water Supply

Water samples are collected from different parts of the town's services and despatched to the public health laboratory at the Newcastle General Hospital for bacteriological examination and report.

Number of samples collected from public services .. 87

Notifiable Diseases

Terminal disinfection is carried out when necessary at cases of infectious disease investigated on notification. Faecal and other specimens collected are despatched forthwith to the public health laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital.

Number of faecal specimens collected .. 60

Disinfestation

Verminous houses and premises are satisfactorily dealt with by the application of approved insecticides which to-day are most efficient. The incidence of bed bugs in houses within the council's administrative area is very small indeed and when notified, the premises are very easily disinfested.

The common house fly was again little seen but precautionary measures were taken by the spraying of all household and trade refuse bins during the summer.

The ordinary household ant has again been troublesome and very persistent and unless nests are destroyed quickly, several attacks have to be made with insecticides to combat the pest. The liquid insecticide containing pyrethram and malathion has been found to be most effective.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Number of premises registered to sell ice-cream	..	..	43
Number of premises registered during the year	..	..	Nil
Number of ice-cream samples collected	..	..	12

Results of grading of samples :

Grade 1	..	..	10
Grade 2	..	..	2
Grade 3	..	..	—
Grade 4	..	..	—

Number of samples of other foods collected for bacteriological report	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

FOOD

Within the area are 133 food premises of various kinds 61 of which are registered, including 43 retail sellers of ice-cream.

On food hygiene the readily given co-operation of management and personnel in the food handling premises has again been greatly appreciated by your inspectorate.

Included in the types of food premises visited are :-

- 8 Bakehouses
- 13 Cafes and Hotels
- 11 Butchers
- 13 Grocers
- 10 Greengrocers
- 4 Wet fish shops
- 3 Fried fish shops
- 3 Manufacturers of ice-cream

FOOT INSPECTION

	UN SOUND FOOD		Surrendered		Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
			sts.	lbs.		
1	Beef (Home-killed)	..	2296	—	—	—
2	Beef (Imported)	..	—	—	—	—
3	Mutton (Home-killed)	..	189	11	—	—
4	Mutton (Imported)	..	—	—	—	—
5	Pork	..	78	—	—	—
6	Game	..	—	—	—	—
7	Poultry	..	—	—	—	—
			lbs.	ozs.		
8	Fish	..	—	—	—	—
9	Fruit	..	—	—	—	—
10	Canned Goods	..	1357	1	—	—
11	Bacon	..	13	—	—	—
12	Cheese	..	—	—	—	—
13	Butter	..	—	—	—	—
14	Lard	..	—	—	—	—
15	Eggs	..	—	—	—	—
16	Other Foods	..	482	—	—	—
TOTAL ..			2696 st. 1 lb. 1 oz.			

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
2,619	185	6,460	2,355	11,619

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

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,222	397	185	6,460	2,355	Nil
Number inspected	2,228	404	185	6,464	2,358	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	31	8	34	10	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	212	86	7	110	61	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.85	29.7	8.1	2.2	3.01	Nil.
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39	21	Nil	Nil	11	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected tuberculosis	1.9	6.3	Nil	Nil	0.46	Nil
<i>Cystercercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	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	2,275	12,160	14,435
Other Animals ..	6,756	14,305	21,061
TOTAL	9,031	26,465	35,496

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Whole Carcasses condemned ..	28	25	20	24	16	22	11	6	3
Part Carcasses or organs affected	60	57	71	38	28	112	55	53	21
Percentage affected ..	31.7%	26.3%	26.3%	20.2%	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%	12.0%	6.3%

It is again pleasing to see from the above table the continuity of the progressive decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis found in cows slaughtered at the Council's Abattoir. It is hoped soon that "Nil" returns will be shown in the appropriate columns of the table.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS

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

Dealers Licences granted, "Pasteurised" ..	11
Dealers Licences granted, "Tuberculin Tested"	
"Pasteurised"	11
Dealers Licences granted, "Sterilised"	3

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

Dealers Licences granted	13
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MILK SAMPLES

Number collected :

(a) For Methylene Blue Test	121
(b) For Biological Report	9
(c) Phosphatase	6

One sample of milk forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, for biological report was found to have tuberculosis present, and in accordance with normal practice the veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were notified of the farm in question. The Ministry consequently reported that suitable action had been taken.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1957

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	16	Nil.	16
(b) By any other Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	7	7

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) Houses closed	6
(4) Parts of buildings closed	3
(5) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	3

2.—Reconditioning and Repair

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

(1) As a result of informal action	61
(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	123
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	75
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	7

4.—Housing Act, 1949

Improvement Grant :

Applications submitted to local authority	20
Applications rejected by local authority	Nil
Applications approved	20
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	74

5.—Families Rehoused during 1957

Under points scheme :

From private houses (including 8 medical, 2 overcrowded cases, and 2 from unfit houses	21
From Council houses (including 3 medical and 3 overcrowded cases)	12

Decanted from Council houses :

For moral overcrowding	12
For under-occupation	8
For medical reasons	7
For other reasons	15

To aged persons' bungalows :

From Council houses	1
From private houses (including 1 medical case, 1 eviction order, and 1 unfit house)	4

Other cases :

Under eviction orders	4
From unfit houses	3
Key workers	1
Exchanges not included above	5

Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :

By Hexham Rural Council	11
Privately	29
Bought own homes	6

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair :

Number of applications for certificates	1
Number granted	Nil.
Undertakings received	1

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Hexham being a market town and having no major industries does not have the "pollution" problems of many of the larger places and cities. Smoke over Hexham is mainly caused by the domestic chimney, and the two industrial undertakings in the town likely to cause a nuisance are co-operating with the health department in their endeavours to maintain a satisfactory smoke emission.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Number of primary inspections and surveys ..	118
Number of treatments carried out :—	
Dwelling houses	15
Business premises	20
Agricultural (including allotments)	10
Local authority premises and lands (including schools and hospitals)	8
Number of visits and revisits	330

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Local authorities have duties requiring in certain circumstances the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where workers are employed. In Hexham the agricultural units are not large and no action has been found necessary, and although under the Act the employer's private sanitary accommodation should not necessarily be taken into account, friendly arrangements usually obtain.

Responsibility for ensuring the provision of washing facilities lies with the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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 ..	2
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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter	17
New Licences granted	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.
INSPECTIONS (including Inspections made by Public Health 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	41	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	212	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ..	10	28	—	—
TOTAL ..	93	281	—	—

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	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	2	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	1	1	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	6	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	21	19	—	—	—



