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The Urban District Council of Hexham



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ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1964

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM.

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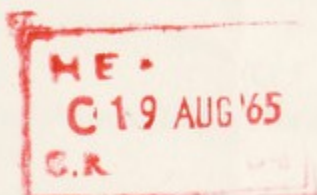
J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TEL. N° HEXHAM 0191 3555.



*Council Offices,
Hexham House,
Hexham,
Northumberland.*

18th August, 1965.



Dear Sir,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for 1964.

I have to inform you that there is an error in the figures given in connection with the housing section of the above report and I shall be glad if you will amend your copies as follows:-

Page 20 - HOUSING :

Tabular Statement for year 1964.

<u>New Houses completed during the year.</u>	<u>With State Assistance.</u>	<u>Unaided.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
(a) By Local Authority	18	2	20

Yours faithfully,

J. M. McEwan *AL*

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
London, S.E.1.



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

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

As an ancient market town serving a large agricultural district and as the administrative and social centre of the area, Hexham is a busy and prosperous town whose circumstances change little from year to year. The population has remained at about 10,000 for very many years, but has been considerably re-distributed by the large number of houses built privately and by the Council, the older houses having in many cases become business premises. The demand for houses continues, but building land is now limited. The development of the town to meet modern requirements is a controversial one and the Council are very conscious of the need to preserve the charm and character of Hexham. There is virtually full employment in a wide range of occupations, and further light industry may be expected in the area scheduled by the Council for industrial development. The health of the community, and the social conditions generally, are satisfactory.

The population rose by 10 only during 1964, and there was a very slight excess of births over deaths. While the birth rate was again below the national average, the general death rate and the infant mortality rate were almost exactly those for England and Wales. Once again the most frequent causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation, but pneumonia caused ten deaths and bronchitis seven. Lung cancer caused nine deaths, and while this is near the expected figure for the population, it is considerably higher than that for the surrounding Rural Districts. While the relation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer is not in doubt, other factors such as air pollution by smoke and exhaust fumes play their part. These figures relating to death from respiratory disease suggest that the implementation of the Clean Air Act would benefit the health of the community, and although the Council have considered the appropriate legislation they have not yet decided to take action in connection with smoke area control chiefly because an adequate supply of smokeless fuel cannot be guaranteed.

Measles accounted for most of the small number of notifications of infectious disease during the year, and scarlet fever for most of the remainder. The cases of scarlet fever were sporadic and mild, and occurred in children. The disease has passed into a milder phase and is amenable to treatment, and its main importance now is when the case or a contact handles food or milk and so may spread infection. Three cases of paratyphoid fever occurred in a local hospital, requiring extensive investigation and measures to limit the risk of spread, including closing of the hospital for a short time. The other infectious diseases that used to cause so much ill-health and so many early deaths were again absent.

Routine sampling showed the presence in unpasteurised milk, produced on a farm in the district, of *Brucella abortus*, which can cause undulant fever in man. A preliminary screening test allowed early steps to be taken to pasteurise milk from a number of suspected cows, but the subsequent investigations were time-consuming and prolonged as 59 cows were involved and a firm diagnosis takes six weeks. Four infected animals were however detected and removed from the herd, and the milk can again be considered safe. Brucellosis is an increasing problem, and the investigation of the milk supply of patients reported as suffering from undulant fever — the disease is not notifiable — and routine milk sampling are bringing infection in dairy cattle to light. Control is not easy, as the animal may be an intermittent excretor, and while vaccination of the calf protects against clinical infection it does not necessarily mean that it will produce safe milk. Pasteurisation of all milk is a simple solution, but many people prefer unpasteurised milk and the elimination of the disease in dairy cattle would be preferable. The whole subject is now under consideration centrally, and the eradication of brucellosis may prove to be as difficult and costly as the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

The housing situation is gradually improving, and though the list of applicants for Council houses remains large the cases are by no means as urgent as they were even some years ago. 62 houses were built during the year, 38 of them privately, and development continues on a number of sites. To assist in meeting the demand the Council have agreed to build 40 houses for sale and these are being well taken up. The next plan is the hostel to provide sheltered accommodation for 28 frail elderly people. These developments should

meet the requirements of further groups desiring housing, and should give a satisfactory range of property.

The new joint sewage disposal scheme with Hexham Rural District to serve Hexham and Acomb, Oakwood and Anick was begun during the year. It will be expensive, but it is required and will remove the treatment works to a more suitable location.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to provide the town with a supply that is satisfactory in quality and quantity. No chemical sample was taken during the year, but it is known that the fluoride content is low and that plumbo-solvency is not a problem. The Company and the Health Department both take regular samples and exchange results, and any necessary remedial action is taken by the Company. The few private supplies remain the responsibility of the Council.

There is now no common lodging house in Hexham.

I have to acknowledge my gratitude to the Public Health Committee, consisting of the whole Council, for their continued interest and support. I have too to thank the Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation. The members of the Health Department have given willing and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,932
Estimated Population.. .. .	9,690

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	80	53	133
Illegitimate	4	3	7

140

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.3
Total Live and Still Births.. .. .	140
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.3
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .	18.4
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births	16.3

DEATHS :

Total Deaths.. .. .	129
Total infant deaths	3
Infant deaths under four weeks	3
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants	3
Illegitimate infants	Nil
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	20.2
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	20.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 live births	20.2
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births	Nil

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	20.2
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births	20.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	20.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..	4.7%
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages)	11.7
Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population (all causes and ages)	11.3

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

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	1	2	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—4	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	1	—	—
25—44	3	3	—	—
45—49	2	1	—	—
50—54	3	3	—	—
55—59	5	2	—	—
60—64	6	7	—	—
65—69	11	9	1	—
70—74	9	7	—	1
75—79	10	11	—	—
80—84	3	10	—	—
85—89	4	6	—	—
90—94	2	6	—	—
95—100	—	—	—	—
	59	68	1	1

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 disease	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—
" " lung, bronchus	7	2
" " breast	—	2
" " uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6
Coronary disease, angina	13	17
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
Other heart disease	3	6
Other circulatory disease	1	5
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	6	4
Bronchitis	3	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	6
Motor vehicle accidents	—	2
All other accidents	1	4
Suicide	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	60	69
TOTAL	129	

INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1964

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth ..	1	1
Other causes ..	2	2
All causes ..	3	3

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
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
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1964.

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 ...	22			5	15		1			1
Whooping Cough ...	1			1						
Diphtheria ...										
Measles ...	22	1	5	9	5	1				1
Pneumonia ...	1						1			
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...										
Acute poliomyelitis ...										
Acute polioencephalitis ...										
Acute Encephalitis ...										
Lethargica ...										
Dysentery ...										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...										
Puerperal Pyrexia ...										
Smallpox ...										
Paratyphoid Fever ...	3						1		2	
Typhoid Fever ...										
Erysipelas ...	1							1		
Food Poisoning ...										
Meningitis ...										
Malaria ...										
TOTALS ...	50	1	5	15	20	1	3	1	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1944-1964.

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 Fever	Enteric Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningitis
1944	18	1	17	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1945	34	—	1	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1946	7	24	1	93	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1947	6	18	1	29	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1948	7	31	—	60	4	4	26	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
1949	12	7	—	8	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1950	14	7	—	298	1	—	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	59	—
1951	9	18	—	10	7	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
1952	5	17	—	143	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	29	51	—	86	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	5	14	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956	1	3	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	8	1	—	102	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	9	39	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	4	—	113	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1960	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961	1	—	—	222	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1962	4	14	—	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1963	6	2	—	131	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
1964	22	1	—	22	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1944-1964

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
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
1958	10	2	—	—
1959	7	2	—	—
1960	3	—	—	—
1961	11	—	1	—
1962	8	3	1	1
1963	3	2	—	—
1964	4	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1964 :—

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—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—

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

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL

1ST QTR. Nil.	2ND QTR. Nil.	3RD QTR. Nil.	4TH QTR. Nil.	TOTAL 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 :—Abbey House, Hexham,
Friday, 9-30 a.m.—12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

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

(MR. H. MITCHELL)

During the year 1964, two new Acts of importance to public health came into force.

1. The Housing Act 1964

An Act to set up a new body to assist housing societies to provide housing accommodation. It confers powers and duties on local authorities to compel the carrying out of works for the improvement of dwellings. It also amends the Clean Air Act 1956 relating to contributions in improving fireplaces in private dwellings, and includes further legislation in connection with houses occupied by more than one family.

2. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

A long awaited Act, which makes fresh provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in office or shop premises and certain railway premises.

At the Council's abattoir in Wanless Lane, the Fatstock Marketing Corporation operate the abattoir under a lease granted by the Council. The Corporation is the sole slaughterer of livestock, and a high proportion of the carcase meat and offal is exported to London, Newcastle and other wholesale centres. The abattoir is recognised as a Deadweight Certification Centre by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and a grading officer is permanently employed.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces	229
Milk and Dairies	64
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions	98
New Constructions	167
Defective	11
Water Supply	41
Food Premises	587
Shops, Offices.. .. .	469
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	701
Moveable Dwellings	78
Clean Air	21
Offensive Trades	12
Visits, Public Health and Housing Acts	853
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	319

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

New drains constructed	38
Alterations/Additions	24
Defective drains repaired	4

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional baths provided	9
Additional sinks provided	10

Testing of Drains

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

Notifiable Diseases

Investigations were carried out in connection with three cases of para-typhoid B and twenty-two cases of scarlatina, together with the contacts of these cases. Precautionary measures were taken when necessary.

Thirty-eight faecal specimens were submitted for laboratory examination and report.

Disinfestation

Approved insecticides are used in all cases for the eradication of vermin and parasites. The common house fly is not now a serious problem, and the average householder is able to purchase many of the aerosols which are so effective in dealing with flying and crawling insects.

Swimming baths

Samples are collected fortnightly when in use. 10 samples were collected, all satisfactory.

Water Supply

Water samples are collected from different points on the town's mains and despatched to the public health laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital within six hours for bacteriological examination and report.

Number of samples collected from public services..	30
Number collected by the Water Company ..	21

The water is supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, the statutory undertakers, and your health department is very appreciative of the co-operation readily given by the company's officials in connection with the purity of the supply.

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at			<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value	..	..	7.0	5.9
Colour..	..	..	3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity	..	..	0	0
Hardness	..	..	64	26
Alkalinity	..	..	32	15
Chloride	..	..	14	9
Sulphate	..	..	30	14
Ammonia	..	..	.06	.02
Iron ..	..	..	.02	.05
Manganese	..	..	< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed	..	..	0.4	0
Fluoride	..	..	0.1 average 0.2 max.	0.1 max.

These figures were provided by kind permission of Dr. A. T. Palin, Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Systematic inspections of food premises and food factories have continued during the year and standards of such premises remain satisfactory.

Food Generally

Within the area are 123 food premises of various kinds, 63 of which are registered. In connection with food hygiene, both management and personnel have co-operated with your inspectorate in the administration of the regulations.

Types of food premises are :—

6	Bakehouses
11	Cafes and Hotels
4	Snack Bars
9	Butchers
18	Grocers
6	Greengrocers
3	Wet fish shops
3	Fried fish shops

Ice-Cream

Three producers are registered in the area, and 48 shops are registered to sell pre-packed ice-cream. In all cases regular visits of inspection are made and the standard of hygiene is satisfactory. The Heat-treatment Regulations are carried out to the satisfaction of your inspectorate.

Number of premises registered during the year .. 2

Number of samples collected for examination .. 9

Results of examination :

Grade	I	..	7
„	II	..	1
„	III	..	1
„	IV	..	—

Milk and Dairies

Routine sampling of milk is systematically carried out during the year, and specific sampling when necessary.

Number collected for report on keeping quality
(Methylene-blue) 86

Number collected for biological report (Tuberculosis) 5

Brucellosis : 118 samples were collected from individual cows, included in which were 118 ring tests, 118 cultures and 55 biological reports.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
				sts. lbs.		
Beef (Home-killed)	..			232	1	—
Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed)	..			172	7	—
Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Pork	..			123	1	—
Game	..			—	—	—
Poultry	..			—	—	—
Veal	..			71	6	—
				lbs. ozs.		
Fish	..			—	—	—
Fruit	..			—	—	—
Canned Goods	..			262	1	—
Bacon	..			—	—	—
Cheese	..			—	—	—
Butter	..			—	—	—
Lard	..			—	—	—
Eggs	..			—	—	—
Other Foods	..			30	—	—
Frozen Foods	..			93	8	—

TOTAL .. 626 st. 8 lbs. 9 oz.

During the month of June, 120 visits and inspections were made to food premises in the town subsequent upon the report of typhoid fever in Aberdeen. Search was made for a particular brand of corned beef in 6 lb. cans. No suspect tins were found in Hexham. The search included all food premises, cafes, hotels, school and works canteens, and every place where food could be purchased or consumed.

Later in the year a second search was made throughout the town at the request of the health authority of Newcastle City Council.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	2,712	85	108	6,142	1,595	10,642
Number inspected ..	2,727	91	109	6,168	1,597	10,692
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	36	45	4	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	56	30	4	107	30	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	2.1	40.6	36.6	2.4	2.1	
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
<i>C. Bovis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
1,027	1,594	91	108	5,962	180	1,496	99

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows	—	9,290	9,290
Other Animals ..	—	8,387	8,387
TOTAL ..	—	17,677	17,677

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

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Whole Carcases condemned	24	16	22	11	6	3	5	3	5	—	1	1	—
Part Carcases or organs affected ...	38	28	112	55	53	21	48	39	33	9	14	7	—
Percentage affected ...	20.2%	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%	12.0%	6.3%	7.8%	11.3%	9.5%	3.1%	5%	6.6%	—

The above table shows the gradual decline in the incidence of tuberculosis found in cows since these figures were first recorded in 1951. It is a pleasure to report that no lesions of tuberculosis were found during the current year of 1964. The figure for 1951 was 26.3%.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter	8
New Licences granted	Nil.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1964

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	24	Nil.	24
(b) By any other Author- ority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil.	38	38

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District	3,286
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,065
Estimated Population	9,690

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, including partial closure	Nil.
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	2

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	44
(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	83
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	36
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	Nil.

4.—Housing Act, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) <i>Discretionary</i> :	
Applications submitted to local authority	16
Applications rejected by local authority	1
Applications approved	15
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	163
(b) <i>Standard</i> :	
Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year	4
Total number to date	28

5.—Families Rehoused during 1964*Under points scheme :*

From private houses	..	..	..	..	..	8
From Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	2

Other cases :

For medical reasons	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Under eviction orders	..	..	..	..	..	3
From unfit houses..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Key workers	..	..	..	..	..	3
For other reasons ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Exchanges from private houses	..	..	..	..	..	2

Decanted from Council houses :

For moral overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	10
For under-occupation	..	..	..	..	..	8
For medical reasons	..	..	..	..	..	5
For other reasons ..	..	..	..	..	..	19

To aged persons' bungalows :

From Council houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
From private houses	..	..	..	..	..	6
From other bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	5

Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :

By other local authorities	..	..	..	..	..	8
Privately ..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Cancelled applications	..	..	..	..	..	3

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957*Certificates of Disrepair :*

Number of applications for certificates	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Number granted ..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Undertakings received	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Repairs completed. Cases terminated	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local authority	Dwelling houses	Business premises	Agricultural
Number of properties inspected	11	48	36	Nil.
Number infested :				
Rats	8	48	32	Nil.
Mice	3	Nil.	4	Nil.
Number of treatments	11	48	36	Nil.
Total number of inspections	29	177	113	Nil.

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

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

No action was necessary during the year in connection with the administration of Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act.

Within the administrative area of the Urban Authority there are thirty-six farms and holdings, none of which is considered large enough to merit the construction of additional wash places and conveniences for the people engaged. In every case the occupier is most willing to allow the existing amenities to be used by the agricultural workers concerned.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963**Table A : Registrations and General Inspections**

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number registered during year	Total number at end of year	Number of general inspections
Offices	79	79	37
Retail shops	225	225	45
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	1	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	27	27	—
Fuel storage depots ..	1	1	—

Table B : Number of visits of all kinds 240**Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed**

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	362
Retail shops	710
Wholesale departments, warehouses ..	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens	168
Fuel storage depots	3
TOTAL :	1252
(Males 501 : Females 751).	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

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	4	17	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	72	176	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	9	36	—	—
TOTAL	85	229	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness ..	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	3	3	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	15	14	—	—	—

1 Registered Outworker.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

<i>Date Operative</i>	<i>Adopting Authority</i>	<i>Subject Matter of Byelaw</i>
7/5/03 ..	North'd County Council ..	Street betting Street obstructions Street music Lights on vehicles
3/11/27 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures
11/2/32 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Slaughterhouses
4/8/32 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisance caused by wireless loud speakers. Gramophones in shops and licensed premises
1/5/39 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	New streets
1/7/39 ..	North'd County Council ..	Litter, etc.
1/12/46 ..	North'd County Council ..	Noisy animals
1/3/47 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisances contrary to public decency
1/12/49 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Markets
1/1/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Bulls
24/4/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Contraceptives in slot machine
17/7/50 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air
12/10/53 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Building Byelaws
1/5/56 ..	North'd and Tyneside River Board	Rubbish, refuse or litter
1/10/56 ..	North'd County Council ..	Employment of children
1/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Discharge of fireworks, etc. in places of public entertainment
29/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Coal
1/8/58 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Building Byelaws — Smoke prevention
1/9/58 ..	North'd County Council ..	Deposit of mud and other material on highways
1/9/58 ..	Newcastle and Gates- Water Company ..	Prevention of waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water
1/8/59 ..	North'd County Council ..	Preservation of road margins laid out for ornamental purposes
1/9/61 ..	North'd County Council ..	Fouling of footpaths by dogs.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Three private holiday sites are operated in the area licensed by the local authority for eight months in each year, opening on 1st March and closing on 31st October.

The sites are well organised and the owners provide all the amenities asked for by the Council.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action has yet been taken in connection with smoke control areas within the administrative district of the Council. The Council's officers however continue to gather information and technical details in order to submit reports and proposals when it is considered by the Council to be opportune.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Number of visits and inspections 15

This is a useful Act which has been informally used to advantage. The occasional mobile vendor transgresses but usually only through ignorance of the regulations, and even these incidents are on the decline.



