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ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1965

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

R. Robson & Sons, Abbey Press, Hexham.

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 my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

The Annual Report on a town such as Hexham is apt to be repetitive, as little changes from year to year and the local health administration has become largely routine. Hexham would appear to give the typical picture of a settled and balanced community with an historic background and adapting slowly to change. It is the market town and shopping centre for a large rural area, and is the social and cultural centre for many activities. It offers virtually full employment in hotels and restaurants, shops and offices, as well as in a variety of industries. Opportunities exist for further light industries and employment could be provided for more young people especially from the surrounding district. Some small expansion of industry and population will be of advantage, but the charm and character of the town depend so much on its past and its continuity of slow growth that much would be lost by extensive development. The town has expanded in that many new houses have been built both by the Council and privately, but the population has not increased, and while local redistribution of population accounts for part of this, the rest must be due to people leaving the town.

The population remains stationary at 9,690 and the deaths slightly exceeded the births. The birth rate was once again below the national average, and the general death rate and infant mortality rate were a little higher. The differences are so slight, however, as to be of no great significance. Of the four deaths in infancy three were due to prematurity or congenital malformations, and can therefore be called unavoidable. The most frequent causes of death continue to be diseases of the heart and circulation. Lung cancer caused five deaths, pneumonia twelve and bronchitis four, figures which might well be associated with air pollution. Related to these deaths from respiratory causes is of course a considerable but unknown amount of illness which might also be avoided by the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Apart from a few sporadic cases of scarlet fever the notifications of infectious disease were almost entirely of measles, which was again widespread. While it is less serious than the childhood infections of diphtheria and poliomyelitis brought under control by immunisation, measles can cause a great deal of chronic ill-health. It can now be prevented by vaccination but the vaccine has not been widely adopted in this country, and it will probably be reserved for special cases. Five cases of tuberculosis were notified, four of pulmonary disease. They were all in adults and had no apparent connection with one another. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

Reference was made in the Annual Report of 1964 to an investigation into brucellosis in a dairy herd which constituted a public health risk as the milk was unpasteurised. It was thought that the removal of four infected animals after extensive investigation had cleared the herd, but during 1965 undulant fever was reported in a patient using this milk supply. Again the whole herd was investigated by milk sampling, while the veterinary surgeon undertook individual blood sampling. Although *B. abortus* was not isolated from any specimen, one cow, dry at the time of the previous investigation, and therefore not investigated then, gave a positive milk ring test on two occasions and was destroyed. The management of this herd is of the highest standard, and the incident shows how complex is the control of brucellosis under present legislation.

In spite of a considerable programme of Council house building in recent years the list of applicants remains large, though the urgency of need for re-housing is less. The forty houses built by the Council for sale were mostly completed during the year, and all were taken up. Private building continued on a number of sites, and 52 houses were completed during the year. The building of the proposed hostel to provide sheltered accommodation for the frail elderly is still under consideration, and the need for it is becoming increasingly obvious. Once it is built it is considered that the Council will have provided an adequate number and range of houses.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the new joint sewage scheme with Hexham Rural District, and it is hoped that it will be in use by the end of 1966. The removal of the treatment works from the vicinity of the pleasure grounds at Tyne Green to an isolated site across the

river and modern treatment of the sewage from Hexham and the three neighbouring villages will justify the very considerable cost.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, provide almost all the area with a supply that is satisfactory in quality and quantity. The Company sample the supply very frequently, and undertake any necessary remedial action, and the results of sampling are available to the Health Department. Plumbosolvency is not a problem but the fluoride content is below the optimum at 0.1 — 0.2 parts per million. Typical analyses of water are given in the Public Health Inspector's section of the report. The Council remain responsible for the few private supplies. These are sampled regularly, and advice and help are given where required.

There is no common lodging house in Hexham.

I have to thank the Public Health Committee, which consists of the whole Council, for their interest and support during the year. I have to acknowledge too the co-operation and assistance of the Clerk and other Officers. The members of the Health Department continue to give 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.. .. .	61	63	124
Illegitimate	4	4	8
			132

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			4

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.4
Total Live and Still Births.. .. .	136
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.8
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	29.4
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population	18.1
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live.. and still-births	15.7

DEATHS :

Total Deaths.. .. .	134
Total infant deaths	4
Infant deaths under four weeks	3
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants	3
Illegitimate infants	1
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	28.5
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	19.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 live births	21.4
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births	7.1

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	21.4
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births	21.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	48.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..	5.7
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages)	12.1
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	3	1	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—4	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	1	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—
25—44	3	2	—	—
45—49	—	—	—	—
50—54	—	5	—	—
55—59	5	3	1	—
60—64	6	9	—	—
65—69	11	9	—	1
70—74	9	3	1	1
75—79	6	12	1	—
80—84	5	9	—	1
85—89	6	13	—	—
90—94	1	3	—	—
95—100	—	2	—	—
	56	72	3	3

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	1	—
Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
" " lung, bronchus	4	1
" " breast	—	4
" " uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	16
Coronary disease, angina	17	20
Hypertension with heart disease	—	1
Other heart disease	2	5
Other circulatory disease	3	—
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	4	8
Bronchitis	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	9
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	—	2
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	59	75
TOTAL	134	

INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1965

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth ..	2	2
Other causes ..	1	2
All causes ..	3	4

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
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	22.2
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2
1965	14.4	11.5	21.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1965.

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 ...	13			5	7					1
Whooping Cough ...	3			2	1					
Diphtheria ...										
Measles ...	164	5	15	71	73					
Pneumonia ...										
Cerebro-spinal Fever										
Acute poliomyelitis										
Acute polioencephalitis										
Acute Encephalitis										
Lethargica ...										
Dysentery ...	1	1								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...										
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Smallpox ...										
Paratyphoid Fever										
Typhoid Fever										
Erysipelas ...										
Food Poisoning	1							1		
Meningitis										
Malaria										
TOTALS ...	182	6	15	78	81			1		1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1945-1965.

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
1945	34	—	1	8	7	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	59	—
1950	14	7	—	298	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—
1951	9	18	—	10	7	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	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	—	—	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1956	1	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1957	8	1	—	102	9	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	9	39	—	1	10	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	4	—	113	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1960	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1961	1	—	—	222	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1962	4	14	—	3	7	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
1963	6	2	—	131	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
1964	22	1	—	22	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
1965	13	3	—	164	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1945-1965

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
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	—	—
1965	4	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1965 :—

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 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward ..	2	—
Leazes Ward ..	—	—
Priestpottle Ward ..	2	—
Hencotes Ward ..	1	—
	5	—

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. Local Authority Clinics

The following 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.,
second, third and fourth Wednesdays in every month,
1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Women's Advisory Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

First Wednesday in each month, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are 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)

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces	210
Milk and Dairies	68
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions	48
New Constructions	229
Defective	9
Water Supply	44
Food Premises	403
Shops, Offices	231
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	108
Caravan Control	80
Clean Air	25
Offensive Trades	14
Visits, Public Health and Housing Acts	918
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	229

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

New drains constructed	76
Alterations/Additions	47
Defective drains repaired	5

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional baths provided	8
Additional sinks provided	9

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 two cases of salmonella typhimurium, one case of para-typhoid B and thirteen cases of scarlatina together with the contacts of these cases. Precautionary measures were taken when necessary.

Twenty-four 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. 7 samples were collected, all satisfactory.

Water Supply

The town's water supply has been very satisfactory during the year, and the officials of the water company have been most co-operative at all times when situations arose in which your health department was concerned.

Regular sampling of water from the Gunnerton and Ladle Wells mains was carried out, and all samples despatched to the public health laboratory service, Newcastle General Hospital, for bacteriological examination and report.

Number of samples collected from public services	26
Number of samples collected by the Water Company	26

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at			<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value			7.0	7.4
Colour			3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity			0	0
Hardness			64	26
Alkalinity			32	45
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, Chief 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 121 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 :—

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

Ice-Cream

Three producers are registered in the area, and 49 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 .. 4

Results of examination :

Grade	I	..	2
„	II	..	1
„	III	..	—
„	IV	..	1

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) 79

Number collected for biological report (Tuberculosis) 5

Brucellosis : 19 samples were collected from individual cows, included in which were 19 ring tests, 19 cultures and 12 biological reports.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
				sts.	lbs.	
Beef (Home-killed)	..			395	9	—
Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed)	..			84	1	—
Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Pork	..	..		116	8	—
Game	..	..	..	—	—	—
Poultry	..	..	..	—	—	—
Veal	..	..	..	68	4	—
				lbs.	ozs.	
Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—
Fruit	..	..	..	—	—	—
Canned Goods	..	..		220	15	—
Bacon	..	..	..	25	—	—
Cheese	..	..	..	—	—	—
Butter	..	..	..	—	—	—
Lard	..	..	..	—	—	—
Eggs	..	..	..	—	—	—
Other Foods	..	..		76	—	—
Frozen Foods	..	..		—	—	—
TOTAL ..				687 st. 7 lbs. 15 oz.		

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1,480	66	72	4,642	2,035	8,295
Number inspected ..	1,480	66	72	4,642	2,035	8,295
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	9	14	49	7	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	5	—	96	28	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	1.6	21.2	19.4	3.1	1.7	
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	2	Nil.	Nil.	2	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	.20	3.0	Nil.	Nil.	.09	
<i>C. Bovis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	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
293	1,187	66	72	4,473	169	1,973	98

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows	34	4,616	4,650
Other Animals ..	47	9,826	9,873
TOTAL ..	81	14,442	14,523

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

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Whole Carcases condemned	16	22	11	6	3	5	3	5	—	1	1	—	—
Part Carcases or organs affected ...	28	112	55	53	21	48	39	33	9	14	7	—	2
Percentage affected ...	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%	12.0%	6.3%	7.8%	11.3%	9.5%	3.1%	5%	6.6%	—	3.0%

The above table shows the gradual decline in the incidence of tuberculosis found in cows since these figures were first recorded in 1951.

The figure for 1951 was 26.3% and for 1952, 20.2%

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter	6
New Licences granted	1

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1965

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	8	17	25
(b) By any other Author- ority	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	52	52

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District	3,354
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,082
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 confined Clearance Areas)	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	3
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure	5
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	1

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	32
(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	62
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	22
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	4

4.—Housing Act, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) <i>Discretionary</i> :	
Applications submitted to local authority	14
Applications rejected by local authority	Nil
Applications approved	14
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	175
(b) <i>Standard</i> :	
Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year	11
Total number to date	32

5.—Families Rehoused during 1965

Under points scheme :

From private houses	19
From Council houses	4

Other cases :

For medical reasons	1
Under eviction orders	Nil
From unfit houses	6
Key workers	4
For other reasons	7
Exchanges from private houses	4

Decanted from Council houses :

For moral overcrowding	10
For under-occupation	18
For medical reasons	13
For other reasons	39

To aged persons' bungalows :

From Council houses	7
From private houses	1
From other bungalows	1

Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :

By other local authorities	Nil
Privately	6
Cancelled applications	4

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	18	102	41	6
Number infested :				
Rats	5	26	19	Nil.
Mice	—	3	1	Nil.
Number of treatments	5	30	20	Nil.
Total number of inspections	22	104	47	6

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.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act came into force on 1st April, 1965, from which date all the principal provisions of the existing law relating to old metal dealers and marine store dealers were repealed and replaced by new statutory provisions for registration and control.

The Act is administered by the police, but registration is controlled by the local authority.

Number of dealers registered during the year. . . 9

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	1	79	57
Retail shops	2	223	43
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	27	9
Fuel storage depots ..	—	1	—

Table B : Number of visits of all kinds 231

Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	368
Retail shops	704
Wholesale departments, warehouses ..	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens	168
Fuel storage depots	2
TOTAL :	1251
(Males 504 : Females 747).	

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	15	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	70	172	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	8	23	—	—
TOTAL	82	210	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	4	4	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	11	10	—	—	—

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 Gateshead 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 17

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.



